

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Vital Signs Monitoring Design and Protocol Development
Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 3/1/2005 - 6/30/2009
Funding Amount: \$229,217

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

NPS Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network (ROMN) is developing a long-term ecological monitoring program to document status and trends in "Vital Signs" of park ecosystem health for 6 national park units in Colorado and Montana (including Rocky Mountain and Glacier NPs, Great Sand Dunes NP and Pr, Florissant Fossil Beds and Little Bighorn Battlefield NMs, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS). ROMN is working cooperatively with many scientific, technical and park management partners to plan a scientifically credible program to inform park protection and management efforts. ROMN, through this Task Agreement seeks to work cooperatively in this effort with Colorado State University because of a long record of high quality natural resource research by CSU scientists in these parks.

This project will include working with a research associate and student hourly workers at Colorado State to: (1) develop monitoring designs and protocols for vegetation composition, structure and soils; invasive exotic plants; landscape composition and dynamics, (2) write monitoring design and protocols in consultation with academic and agency partners and referring to published literature and unpublished protocols (e.g. from other NPS monitoring networks). Work may also include assisting ROMN staff on ad hoc tasks during development of ROMN VS Monitoring Plan. Students will work with network staff to: gather, organize, scan, file, and archive important documents for developing the ROMN VS Monitoring Program. Work may also include assisting ROMN staff on ad hoc tasks during development of ROMN VS Monitoring Plan. Student hourly GIS Technicians will assist in development of GIS products for ROMN inventory and monitoring efforts.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Protocols for long-term ecological monitoring (including: vegetation and soils monitoring; invasive exotic plants monitoring; and landscape composition and dynamics monitoring) to be included in the Rocky Mountain Network Vital Signs Monitoring Plan and GIS and data management products for monitoring planning.[Due by June 30, 2009]

Keywords: Vital Signs Monitoring, protocols, Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network, Rocky Mountain National Park, Glacier NP, Little Bighorn Battlefield NB, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado State University

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Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: