

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Development of Natural Resource Education and Outreach Programs and Techniques
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 6/1/2005 - 6/30/2012
Funding Amount: \$319,560

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Mike Whatley, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525, (970) 225-3541, Mike_Whatley@nps.gov

Investigator: Jim Loftis, Colorado State University, Department of Civil Engineering, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1480, (970) 491-2667, loftis@engr.colostate.edu

Project Abstract:

Colorado State University will provide support to the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) information infrastructure by evaluating the current developments in the academic and private educational communities concerning natural resource education programs and communications activities. It will make recommendations and provide support that will allow NRPC to remain on the cutting edge of natural resource education and communications, and facilitate their ability to provide educational products and services to others at the national, state and local level.

CSU will assist NRPC staff with development of communications plans, presenting natural resource educational workshops and seminars, developing text and/or scripts for various natural resource topics, providing support for NRPC oversight of Research Learning Center programs, evaluating existing NPS environmental education and outreach programs, review of national and regional educational organizations (and the possible establishment of networking and potential partnership opportunities), review of national and state curriculum standards (and their application of natural resource education), and development of activities and educational materials for NPS Internet and Intranet sites and other forms of mass media, including Views of the National Parks modules. In addition, based on current literature and product and service information, CSU staff may recommend programs and techniques necessary to maintain state-of-the-art educational programs and activities, and when necessary make recommendations for additional technical expertise.

CSU's support to the NRPC will include assisting NRPC staff develop and administer various Servicewide natural resource communications initiatives for more than 265 units of the National Park System, including evaluation of existing programs and services. Support will also include assisting NRPC staff develop internal natural resource communications plans for individual park units, and will also involve assistance with developing servicewide natural resource training courses and development of communications products.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Publications, reports, communications plans, training packages, electronic educational media (due 06/30/2012).

Keywords: education, outreach, Colorado State University, NPS-Natural Resource Program Center, web products, workshops, Research Learning Centers

For Administrative Use Only:

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