

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Desired Condition Statement & Assessment Handbook
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 6/28/2005 - 9/30/2009
Funding Amount: \$65,423

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The National Park Service, Biological Resource Management Division will produce a handbook on developing and using Desired Future Condition (DFC) Statements for Natural Resources supporting Director's Order 2.1 and Resource Stewardship Plans. This work will be done in cooperation with researchers at Colorado State University. Resources of concern to parks include biological, sound, water, geologic, soil, air and associated processes and dynamic properties. This will focus on how to build on scientific and management principles and information sources, including conceptual models needed for a step-wise approach to statement development. This will incorporate how an analysis of the potential and dynamics of resource condition without anthropogenic influence and how to address constraints such as legislative directives, boundaries, and external inputs is conducted. Once developed, the handbook will show how the DFC can be used by parks for effective performance management. This will help parks to: 1) establish "interim DFC's" in cases where formal DFC statements have yet to be developed; 2) develop interim DFC statements into comprehensive statements; 3) use DFCs with resource condition assessments to support Condition Scorecards and Restoration Inventory and Assessment; and 4) relate DFCs to Reference Conditions for restoration projects. Guidelines need to address constraints in a logical sequence to show that Desired Future Conditions are more than what is attainable in the short term.

There is a modification from Valley Forge NHP that includes: (1) Provide an opportunity to "field test" the concepts and processes outlined in the draft handbook on developing and using Desired Future Condition Statements for natural resources and to refine/revise handbook content based on field application and associated observations; and (2) Develop specific, measurable, Desired Future Meadow Condition Statements for Valley Forge National Historical Park that reflect new GMP management objectives (general DFCs) and lay the foundation for future revision of the 1991 Field Management Plan and development of a park Resource Stewardship Plan (RSP)

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- 1) draft handbook on development and use of Desired Future Conditions (due 09/30/2009)
- 2) Description of Desired Future Conditions for Meadows at Valley Forge National Historical Park (due September 30, 2008)

Keywords: handbook, Desired Future Conditions, Biological Resource Management Division, WASO, Colorado State University, resource stewardship plans, meadows, Valley Forge NHS

For Administrative Use Only:

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