

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

Project Title: Preservation, Protection, and Management of Water and Aquatic Resources of Units of the National Park System

Discipline: Natural Resources  
Type of Project: Technical assistance  
Funding Agency: National Park Service  
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University  
Effective Dates: 9/11/2005-9/30/2008  
Funding Amount: \$470,700

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The NPS-Water Resources Division will work with the College of Engineering of Colorado State University on issues related to protection of water resources in parks. This project will be a collaborative work effort to:

- A. Develop effective tools and techniques, and analysis of data, to address evolving threats to water and aquatic resources and attendant riparian ecosystems in park units;
- B. Develop methods and guidelines for sound water resources management and for the long-term protection of surface and ground water resources;
- C. Perform ecosystem-scale analyses and investigations of the scope, magnitude, and trends of existing or potential long-term effects to natural resources as a result of human activities; and
- D. Provide technical guidance, extension, and training to provide information to be used for the overall education and enlightenment of CSU students and the general public.

Under this task agreement, CSU will work with NPS to compile and manage a comprehensive set of data and information that will contribute to protection, management and preservation of NPS water rights in various park units, including: Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Mesa Verde National Park, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area; Great Basin National Park; Zion National Park; Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park, and other California park units; and all five park units within Montana; and b) research water law and technical scientific issues and prepare accurate and comprehensive documentation that serves to clarify, describe, and protect NPS water rights and water resources.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** *Investigator's Annual Report due* by March 31, 2007; Products will vary case by case and will include bibliographies of applicable scientific research and analyses of water right laws and administrative procedures, all due by 9/30/2008

**Keywords:** water rights, water law, database management, NPS-Water Resources Division, Colorado State University

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

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