

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Protocol Development for Wetland Monitoring, and Implementation of Wetland Monitoring for ROMN National Parks

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 4/1/2005 - 12/31/09

Funding Amount: \$133,091

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). This project includes Phase 1 of a multi-year effort to develop protocols for monitoring of wetlands in the six parks. There may be a further modification of this project to include parks in the Sierra Network in California. This Phase 1 project also includes funding from the NPS, RM-CESU to assist the development of a restoration plan for elk-affected wetlands in Rocky Mountain NP.

The CSU investigators, with ROMN staff, will develop two Wetland Ecological Integrity (WEI) protocols, one for use in ROMN parks. The second task is to initiate a wetland monitoring program in Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) to test and refine the wetland protocols (including reference condition development) and phase in wetland monitoring programs in ROMO. The protocols developed for ROMN parks will be applicable to all parks in the network. Phase 2 of this project would include implementation of the wetland protocol in the other five parks. This will require additional funding.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Protocols for wetland monitoring - due fall 2006

Test of protocols in ROMO - summer 2006

Wetland Improvement Plan for ROMO - due fall 2006

Plan for Phase 2 - due winter 2006

Training in WEI protocol - spring 2007

Data collection and data analysis - Summer and fall 2007

Update protocol - fall 2007

Keywords: Vital Signs Monitoring, wetlands 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: