

RM-CESU - Project Progress Report, FY06

Project Title: Geology and Paleontology Exhibits

Park: Florissant Fossils Beds NM

Funding Sources: Rocky Mountain CESU Technical Assistance Funding (\$5,000);
Interpretation Repair/ Rehab Demo (\$25,000)
Donation Monies (\$4,000)

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Project Description:

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument has established a partnership with Colorado State University to update five geology/ paleontology exhibits in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument visitor center. The exhibits will interpret the geologic history of the monument and the significance of its fossils as well as display up to 200 fossils. This collaborative effort will combine CSU's technical assistance in museum exhibit design, interpretation, and education with Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument expertise in the Monument's geologic, fossil, and cultural resources as well as the Monument's knowledge of interpretation and education.

Project Progress:

In the spring of 2006, CSU visited Florissant and, working with NPS staff, developed a preliminary exhibit plan. This was finalized after subsequent meetings during the summer of 2006. Also, during the summer of 2006, NPS staff worked on text and graphics and preliminary layouts for the exhibits. This involved the divisions of interpretation and paleontology. The preliminary layouts and final text and graphics for exhibit 1, 2, and 5 were in draft form by the end of FY06. During the summer of 2006, CSU developed the plans for the exhibit cases, researched and hired an exhibit cabinet maker, and had the cabinets made. They arrived shortly after the new fiscal year.

Plans are to complete this project by the late spring of FY07 in preparation for the large summer crowds. Exhibits 1, 2, and 5 should actually be installed in January of FY07 with exhibits 4, 5 coming in late spring.