

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Identifying Multi-jurisdictional Adaptation Strategies for Responding to Climate Change on Federal Lands

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: WASO-DOI - Revolving Fund; NPS
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/01/2007- 12/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$55,000 [FY07 task agreement]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Federal partners in the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units have funded a series of three climate change workshops to be facilitated by The University of Montana and Colorado State University. Consultation between the University cooperators and the Federal agencies will begin in December 2007. By early 2008 there will be detailed scopes of work and schedules for these workshops. We propose a series of consultations/workshops to empower federal land managers with the skills, tools and resources necessary to become more proactive, adaptive, and collaborative in finding solutions for coping with climate change issues. This scope of work outlines how we propose to plan, prepare and host two "pilot" strategic planning programs for federal land managers. The program will include two pilot projects that will be designed and implemented in coordination with the multi-agency CESU Network. Each pilot will focus within one of five "critical systems" (high latitudes, high altitudes, complex coastal, drylands, and prairie grasslands) that have been identified by the scientific community as requiring special focus for research and management related to climate change.

Pre- and post-consultation activities will include site visits as well as remote interaction and follow up. Workshop activities will include a panel of interdisciplinary experts that will present material relevant to the natural and social dynamics of the resources issues at hand (e.g. fire management, habitat fragmentation and loss, species migration and range shifts, sea level rise, altered hydrologic regimes, etc). Poster presentations will also be available to display success stories from local and regional mitigation and adaptation efforts (e.g. Climate Friendly Parks, scenario planning, etc.). The workshop will incorporate communication capacity training to help the participants deal with organizational learning and change. Such topics could include: systems thinking training, learning to deal with complexity and uncertainty, decision-making tools, adaptive management principles, strategies for scenario planning, "safe-to-fail" strategies, tips for communicating with scientists, managers, and the public. The ultimate goal of the workshop series is to empower managers to develop, implement, and sustain climate change adaptation strategies that make use of multi-agency collaboration and planning.

The approach will meet this goal by providing a multidisciplinary lens that links science and communication training, with follow up support, which is tailored to the specific management needs of a particular multi-jurisdictional landscape.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- Detailed scope of work - March 1, 2008
- Two or more workshops on climate change in sensitive ecosystems - date TBD early in 2008
- presentation of scientific findings related to climate change impacts to federal lands for managers, development of multi-jurisdictional climate change adaptation, planning, and communication strategies, and documentation of multi-stakeholder engagement process and outcomes for use in other regions.

Keywords: Climate change, workshops, CESU agency partners, adaptation strategies, Colorado State University

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: