

## **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:** 3/1/2008- 12/31/09  
**Funding Amount:** \$56,040

**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 modifications to the 2007 scope of work at both gradient and sentinel sites 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.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: By December 2009 all monitoring data and analyses for wetland survey, sentinel and gradient sites, updated wetland ecological integrity protocol based on pilot season data (including monitoring and study design, field protocols, data management SOPs, and analysis protocols).

**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