

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Vascular Plant Inventory and Voucher Collection for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 3/1/2008 - 12/31/2009  
**Funding Amount:** \$9,973

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Phyllis Pineda Bovin, National Park Service, Great Sand Dunes Park and Preserve, 11500 Hwy. 150, Mosca, CO 81146, [Phyllis\\_Bovin@nps.gov](mailto:Phyllis_Bovin@nps.gov), 719-378-6363

Investigator: Joe Stevens, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 254 General Services Building, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, 970-491-7760, [js@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:js@lamar.colostate.edu)

**Project Abstract:** The National Park Service Biological Inventories Program has several objectives to identify and verify with voucher specimens the biodiversity of all Park units. Previous plant inventory projects at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA) have expanded the list of plant species verified in the Park and identified the need for continued inventory. The Colorado Natural Heritage (CNHP) Program identified a total of 111 species that had not previously been documented in the Park and advised that the species list represented far less than the 90% level recommended by the Biological Inventory Program. With the recent expansion of the Park boundaries the need for additional inventory and documentation of the plant species that occur in the Park has increased further. The CNHP proposes to expand the vascular plant inventory for GRSA by collecting and vouchering needed plant specimens from sites identified during the Vegetation Classification (VC) project. This project will search selected VC plot locations to provide GRSA with verified voucher specimens for the species known to occur in the Park and for which no voucher specimen currently exist. This project will address the Biological Inventory Program objectives of documenting the biodiversity of the Park. Objectives for this project include: (1) Collect and verify identification of high quality specimens of vascular plant species identified during the 2005 field season as new to the Park. Document occurrence and distribution information for the collected specimens, (2) Label and mount collected specimens in accordance with NPS requirements for materials and methods of preservation, and (3) Enter data for voucher specimens into the ANCS+ Museum Curatorial Database, as well as the NPSpecies database.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: By May 31, 2009 the cooperators will provide:**

- Brief summary report on the vascular plant inventory project,
- Mounted specimens,
- Specimen data in electronic NPSpecies formats,
- Voucher and associated herbarium data in electronic ANCS+ format,
- A detailed species list of the specimens collected,
- GIS data for Element Occurrence Records (EORs) that are located during the survey.

**Keywords:** vegetation classification, biological inventories, vascular plants, vegetation mapping, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Inventory and Monitoring Program