

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Biological Resource Management in National Parks- Vegetation Mapping Information Management and Delivery in support of the NPS Vegetation Mapping Inventory

**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 9/1/2008 - 6/30/2010  
**Funding Amount:** \$237,780 (FY08: \$197,270; FY09: \$40,510)

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Karl Brown, National Park Service, Biological Resource Management Division, 1201 Oak Ridge Dr., Suite 201, Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-225-3591, karl\_brown@nps.gov

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 goal of this project is to design, develop, and implement long-term vegetation mapping information management procedures. These procedures include managing spatial and tabular vegetation data to assist parks, fire and fuels management teams, Regional Offices, Inventory and Monitoring Networks, Program Centers, Technical Divisions, and others (including non-NPS agencies and organizations) with the use of vegetation data and information to better manage park resources. This goal is intended to help the NPS Servicewide Biological Resource Management Division and Inventory and Monitoring Networks achieve their long-term goals particularly Decision Support, Integration, Technical Assistance, Database Management, and Partnerships.

The Vegetation Mapping Program Assistant was hired in mid-February 2007 and will be renewed for continuation through FY09. This position works closely with the Program Manager, Program Botanist, Database Administrator, and NPS Information Staff. The vegetation mapping assistant will continue to assist the Program Manager and Program Botanist with initiating and monitoring the progress of Park mapping projects, and will work with NPS Information staff and the CNHP database administrator for refinement and updating of project tracking and reporting tools. We anticipate travel to and direct participation with park projects during scoping meetings, map class and accuracy assessment negotiations, and close-out meetings as needed by the Program Manager. The Program Assistant will aid with guidance and management of database development projects to support the program. Additional tasks of the Program Assistant include lending support for project planning and assisting with formal program guideline development and distribution.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

The products will include:

1. Appropriate database management systems will be designed, developed, implemented, and managed to accommodate all vegetation-related biological resource management data and information collected throughout the NPS.
2. Decision-support systems responsive to the needs of the Servicewide Biological Resource Management Division, Parks, Support offices, and other Program Offices will be designed, developed, implemented and managed.
3. Design of a project tracking process in concert with the Inventory & Monitoring team effort at the Natural Resources Program Center. This will include multi-step tracking protocols to permit network planning and comparison of project unit costs by project steps. Summaries and recommend tracking and unit cost

comparison methods will be provided to the program manager and vegetation inventory advisory group.

4. Assistance to parks and networks in developing objectives and justification statements for vegetation inventory and monitoring by developing lists of objectives and justification statements related to invasive vegetation and related fuels mapping, predictive risk modeling, and potential imagery options that contribute to monitoring the vegetation and related park management efforts.
5. Assistance in providing interim guidance to current projects with the staff botanist and program manager regarding accuracy assessment, provisional types, database crosswalks, and inventory prototype web pages.

Development and maintenance of a website and listserve to communicate technical information to networks and vegetation park management teams. And establishment and maintenance of relationships and communications with federal, state, university and private entities involved in vegetation inventory, monitoring, research, and management.

**Keywords:** vegetation mapping, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Inventory and Monitoring Program,