

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Great Sand Dunes Natural Resource Condition Assessment Report
Writing/Editing and Layout

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/1/2009 - 12/31/2012
Funding Amount: \$ 8,478

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Mike Britten, Rocky Mountain I&M Network, 1201 Oak Ridge Dr., Suite 201,
Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-267-2150, mike_britten@nps.gov

Investigator: Karin Decker, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State
University, 8002 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-8002, 970-491-3285,
karin.decker@colostate.edu

Project Abstract: NPS Natural Resource Condition Assessments (NRCAs) are one aspect of the Natural Resource Challenge funding initiative. A NRCA is "a spatially explicit multi-disciplinary synthesis of existing scientific data and knowledge from multiple sources to help answer the question: what are current conditions for important park natural resources?"

NRCAs should strive to provide a mix of new insights and useful scientific documentation about current resource conditions and some of the factors influencing those conditions (i.e., threats and stressors). The NRCA has practical value to park managers for their ongoing efforts to:

1. develop near-term strategies and priorities—given limited park staff and funding, what are some park areas and resources deserving their greatest attention right now;
2. engage in watershed or landscape scale resource partnerships and education efforts;
3. conduct formal planning to quantify desired conditions for their most important resources, and to develop comprehensive strategies for how to best protect/restore those same resources;
4. report to "resource condition status" performance/accountability measures as defined by the Department of Interior and the Office of Management and Budget

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) will edit and professionally lay out Natural Resource Condition Assessment report for Great Sand Dunes NP and Preserve, Colorado. The final report will be published in the National Park Service Natural Resources Report or Natural Resources Technical Report series and must follow NPS guidance (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/publications/NRPM/>). This report is being prepared by multiple authors from different organizations (Natural Resource Ecology Lab of Colorado State University, NatureServe (and one subcontractor), the NPS Intermountain Region GIS Office, GRSA staff, and the ROMN). Report preparation and writing will require coordination and communication among the multiple authors - the CNHP Writer/Editor will provide this as well as contribute to the report, edit the report and layout the report per NPS guidance.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: The final report will be due December 31, 2011

Keywords: Natural Resource Condition Assessments (NRCAs), Rocky Mountain Inventory I&M Network, Great Sand Dunes NP and Preserve, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, report editing