

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Create and Package Natural Resource Education and Public Outreach Programs and Techniques

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance and Education  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 07/01/09 - 06/30/2014  
**Funding Amount:** \$39,100

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** One of the many capabilities of Colorado State University (CSU) is providing a sound foundation in natural resource communications, education and public information management. This foundation includes: education instructional methods and techniques, communications product development, networking, training, publication development, and knowledge and experience in Web application programming and deployment.

CSU will provide support to the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) information infrastructure by evaluating the current developments in the academic and private educational communities concerning natural resource education programs and communications activities. It will make recommendations and provide support that will allow NRPC to remain on the cutting edge of natural resource education and communications, and facilitate their ability to provide educational products and services to others at the national, state and local level.

CSU's support to the NRPC will vary in degree, but will include assisting NRPC staff with development of communications plans, presenting natural resource educational workshops and seminars, developing text and/or scripts for various natural resource topics, providing support for NRPC oversight of Learning Center programs, evaluating existing NPS environmental education and outreach programs, review of national and regional educational organizations (and the possible establishment of networking and potential partnership opportunities), review of national and state curriculum standards (and their application of natural resource education), and development of activities and educational materials for NPS Internet and Intranet sites and other forms of mass media, including Views of the National Parks modules. In addition, based on current literature and product and service information, CSU staff may recommend programs and techniques necessary to maintain state-of-the-art educational programs and activities, and when necessary make recommendations for additional technical expertise.

CSU's support to the NRPC will include assisting NRPC staff develop and administer various service-wide natural resource communications initiatives for more than 270 units of the National Park System, including evaluation of existing programs and services. Support will also include assisting NRPC staff develop internal natural resource communications plans for individual park units, and will also involve assistance with developing service-wide natural resource training courses and development of communications products. Specific communications prototype products and procedural guidelines will be developed for the Mojave I&M Network (MOJN), and a minimum of seven reports and guidance documents will be prepared for NRPC WRD.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Products under this project will include: Development of curricula, videos, exhibits, posters, brochures, pamphlets, and other communications products and approaches; presentation of information at professional training sessions; preparation of reports and templates to streamline future interpretive product development. Due 6/30/2014

**Keywords:** natural resources, public outreach, education, NPS-Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC), Colorado State University