

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, the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 4/30/2010 - 3/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$56,499

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: One of the many capabilities of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program at Colorado State University (CSU) is to provide expertise to make scientific biological inventory and geospatial information available to scientists, managers, educators and the public. The NPS Vegetation Mapping Inventory produces the National Park Service (NPS) GIS and database products that characterize the biological inventory and geospatial information for all NPS units identified in the I&M program (270 parks).

Through this cooperative agreement CSU works to assist the NPS Biological Resource Management Division (BRMD) in researching, designing, developing and implementing data management and project tracking technologies and tools in support of the NPS vegetation inventory to store, manage, and disseminate NPS biological inventory and associated information to NPS staff, scientists, educators and visitors to national park units (i.e. the general public). The assistance allows the National Park Service to serve geospatial datasets and related information technologies to share scientific information consistent with standard protocols and presentations of the respective disciplines related to the vegetation mapping inventory. CSU provides vegetation mapping program expertise, GIS and relational database management, and project management technologies including, but not limited to proposal preparation and review, data tool developments for cross-walks, upgrading legacy datasets and migration, data conversion, manipulation and QA/QC, accomplishment reports, the integration of photos and graphics in database designs, and protocol development.

The National Park Service (NPS) Inventory and Monitoring Program oversees inventory and monitoring programs throughout the National Park Service, and assists parks and regions in the acquisition of natural resource inventory and monitoring information and its application in management decision-making and resource protection. The NPS has organized parks into 32 networks to facilitate collaboration, information sharing, and economies of scale in natural resource inventory and monitoring.

The mission of the Biological Resource Management Division is to work in cooperation with parks, regions, other divisions of the Natural Resource Program Center, and other partners to preserve, protect, and manage biological resource and related ecosystem processes in units of the NPS. Vegetation 'alliance' map class inventory, monitoring and management are a critical aspect of protecting biodiversity in parks. Coordinated efforts to inventory, map, and monitor the vegetation types in parks is critical for effective management.

The goal of this project modification is to extend the collaborative work of the CNHP and the NPS to include additional document development and review

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

1. A completed detailed study plan for conducting the vegetation inventory at BICA;
2. A final, reviewed and ready for printing copy of the vegetation Inventory Application Abstracts;
3. A concise guidance document for conducting Accuracy assessments of vegetation Inventory projects based on the programmatic procedure and protocols document of the same topic;
4. Ongoing PLOTS 3.0 support and programming;
5. Ongoing GIS support and creation of Vegetation Inventory geodatabases;
6. Editing support for Yosemite final report - consolidation into a final report and formatting for publication.

Keywords: vegetation mapping, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program