

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Alpine Biodiversity and Soils Monitoring Utilizing the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) Field Methods

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 8/15/2010 - 12/31/2012
Funding Amount: \$63,926

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University (CSU) proposes to assist the National Park Service (NPS) Inventory and Monitoring Program (I&M) Rocky Mountain Network (ROMN) to establish and conduct monitoring of high elevation summits in Yellowstone (YELL) and Grand Teton (GRTE) National Parks of the Greater Yellowstone Network (GRYN) and resurvey similarly established GLORIA monitoring sites in the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA). Establishing and monitoring of the selected sites will follow the protocols established by the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA). The GLORIA protocols were developed by the Global Terrestrial Observing System specifically to provide accurate and consistent climate change data to researchers and scientists across the globe (European Commission 2004). The project will provide the NPS and CNHP with important data on the effect of climate change on Park biological resources specifically, and biological diversity generally.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 1, 2012

1. Report on GRTE and GRYN site identification, establishment and monitoring (including status report on vegetation and soils; collaborative responsibility between CNHP and NPS)
2. Monitoring data including field data sheets and digital data files (e.g., from temp loggers)
3. Digital data entered into GLORIA database (collaborative responsibility between CNHP and NPS)

Keywords: Alpine, monitoring, climate change, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Rocky Mountain I&M Network