

Project Progress Report, FY11 RM-CESU small projects Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Rare Plant Field Surveys and Database Development for Black Canyon/Curecanti NRA, Colorado State University

Project Code: J1242110009/CSURM-217

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Education): Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner Agency/University: Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

NPS Agreement Technical Representative (with complete contact information):

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Start Date of Project: April 1, 2011

End Date of Project:
February 28, 2012

Funding Amount:
\$5,000

Project Summary, including descriptions of products, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report. Also add web sites where project-related information may be found.

Field work was conducted from June 1- 9, 2011. CNHP botanist Bernadette Kuhn, along with

field technician Mike Schneider, with the use of technical rock climbing gear, surveyed cliff faces within the Black Canyon for rare plants. New and updated occurrences of the following rare plants were documented: *Argyrochosma fendleri*, *Astragalus anisus*, *Cirsium perplexans*, *Gilia penstemonoides*, *Myosorus cupulatus*, *Physaria rollinsii*. Information on population size, habitat, condition, and threats will be included in final report and data deliverables, due February 2012.

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.

Undergraduate work study students at CSU will assist in mapping spatial data.

Lessons Learned from this project.

The unique geology and substrates found within the Black Canyon/Curecanti NRA support globally rare plant species. Because of the difficult nature of accessing areas within the Black Canyon, many of these species are poorly documented. The results of this project will provide NPS land managers with updated spatial and ecological data on these rare species. Although many new occurrences were mapped during the 2011 field season, there remain vast amounts of vertical faces within the Black Canyon yet to be surveyed for rare plants.

When final products will be received.

Final deliverables are due February 2012.