

# **Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

**Project Title:** Place-based Climate Change Communication using Repeat Photography in Southwest Alaska National Parks

**Project Code (such as UMT-72 and/or the “P” number):** CSURM-233, P11AC90671

**Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Education):** Tech assistance/education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** Colorado State University

**NPS Agreement Technical Representative (with complete contact information):** Michael Shephard [Michael\\_shephard@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_shephard@nps.gov)

**Principal Investigators (with complete contact information):**

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**Start Date of Project:** 7/15/11

**End Date of Project:** 3/31/14

**Funding Amount:** \$72,609

**Project Summary**, Project focused on redoing the repeat photography site to make it function better for both national and local audiences to understand climate change. <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/swan/monitor/repeatphoto/RepeatPhotography.cfm>

**Number of students participating in this project:** undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred. 2 graduate students, degrees completed

**Lessons Learned from this project:** More frequent meeting and being very clear on objectives and goals is critically important. We have improved the functionality of the website tremendously, yet it is still difficult for the average person to fully use it and appreciate the change they are seeing. Switching PIs was pretty difficult.

**Journal Publication:** Mullen, K., G. Newman, and J. Thompson. 2013. Facilitating the development and evaluation of a citizen science website: A case study of repeat photography and climate change in southwest Alaska's national parks. Applied

**Environmental Education and Communication 12:4, 261-271; DOI:10.1080/1533015X.2013.876302.**

**ABSTRACT :** Interviews with national park visitors across the country revealed that climate change education through place-based, hands-on learning using repeat photographs and technology is appealing to park visitors. This manuscript provides a summary of the development of a repeat photography citizen science Web site for national parks in Southwest Alaska. Lessons learned from interviews on the Web development process are summarized to inform similar future projects:

(a) Hold a face-to-face meeting in the same location with the whole research group, (b) Provide a central document accessible to the entire group listing tasks completed and to be accomplished, (c) Create a well-developed marketing plan to promote Web site, and (d) Incorporate evaluation components throughout the process to ensure clear communication