

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Assistance **Waste Stream Analysis and Recycling Educational Outreach for Rocky Mountain National Park**

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 6/1/2011 - 12/31/2015
Funding Amount: \$20,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) is planning to conduct a waste audit in FY11 of their consumable waste stream and develop an educational component based on their findings. A waste audit is used to determine the specific types of materials that make up the total waste stream. Project teams will collect the campground; maintenance area and trail head site waste during a designated collection period and then physically sort through the waste to measure the relative percentage of landfill waste produced by each type of waste material. The waste auditing process will allow park management to identify opportunities for diverting waste streams away from the landfill and toward recycling or composting. Not only will this data improve RMNP's efforts in moving to a more sustainable park, but the results of this waste audit will help target future source reduction and recycling activities at ROMO. To improve on the park's efforts, a second waste stream analysis will be conducted in FY12. This waste audit will allow us to collect the needed data to compare with the FY11 audit. The results will give the needed feedback to see how effective the new outreach efforts are and how the park can further its efforts.

ROMO will receive assistance from Colorado State University and the Institute for the Built Environment (IBE) to plan and facilitate a waste audit of their consumable waste stream. CSU has a nationally recognized reputation as a leader in university sustainability with a recycling rate of more than 56 percent of total waste recycled. The Institute for the Built Environment (IBE), founded in 1994 at Colorado State University, is a multidisciplinary institute whose mission is to foster stewardship and sustainability of natural and built environments through research-based, interdisciplinary educational forums. The experience and committed efforts that CSU and IBE will bring to this project are much needed and will help RMNP increase visitor/employee awareness of recycling and waste minimization.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- Waste Audit Spreadsheet: 6/3/2011
- Waste Stream Analysis Protocol, Report and Best Implementation Practices Report submitted to park management for review: 7/29/2011
- Waste Stream Analysis Protocol and Report: 8/12/2011
- Best Implementation Practices Report: 8/12/2011
- Report presented to the park management team: 8/26/2011
- Present Waste stream Analysis Results and Report to park staff and public: 5/1/2012
- 2nd Waste Stream Analysis Report and Best Implementation Practices Report: 8/10/2012

Key Words: waste audit, recycling, educational outreach, Colorado State University, Institute for the Built Environment Rocky Mountain National Park