

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Water rights activity assessment, and water rights records research and management in protection of water and aquatic resources of Units of the National Park System

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical assistance and Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 12/13/2010 - 12/31/2013
Funding Amount: \$32,310 [FY13: \$12,614; FY12: \$5,000; FY11: \$14,696]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The central mission of the National Park Service (NPS) is "... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein [*within NPS managed areas*] and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (NPS Organic Act of 1916). By this language and through other legislation, Congress has given NPS an explicit mandate to protect resources and values of national park units while simultaneously providing opportunities for their enjoyment by the public.

The National Park Service Water Resources Division (WRD) provides technical advice and recommendations on water resources and rights issues to national parks throughout the country. Through the WRD's Water Rights Branch, NPS evaluates water development proposals and advises park management of the appropriate response to such proposals. This activity involves the review of water rights notices, research of records, preparation of maps and other information in support of NPS actions. This activity also includes developing case evidence materials and securing water rights for units of the NPS system.

This task agreement continues a collaborative effort between NPS and Colorado State University on project together to provide an opportunity for students to gain experience in the field of natural resources management, conducting project support activities that involve research, technical assistance, and management policies related to the protection of ecosystems and water resources and management issues.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 30, 2013

Keywords: NPS-Water Resources Division, Colorado State University, water rights, assessment, research, students