

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title: Wetland Ecological Integrity Data Analysis and Reporting**

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012  
**Funding Amount:** \$10,379

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** NPS Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network (ROMN) is developing a long-term ecological monitoring program to document status and trends in "Vital Signs" of park ecosystem health for 6 national park units in Colorado and Montana (including Rocky Mountain and Glacier NPs, Great Sand Dunes NP and Pr, Florissant Fossil Beds and Little Bighorn Battlefield NMs, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS). Specific physical and biological components of wetland resources are monitored as part of the Wetland Ecological Integrity (WEI) protocol which is being implemented in four of the six ROMN Network Parks: ROMO, GRSA, GLAC, and FLFO. The WEI protocol directly addresses 5 vital signs: Wetland Communities, Ground Water Dynamics, Invasive/Exotic Plants, and Focal Species - Beaver and Focal Species - Elk. Other vital signs that may be indirectly addressed by this protocol include Landscape Dynamics, Wet and Dry Deposition, and Weather and Climate. The ROMN network has partnered with collaborators at CSU in the implementation of three of these protocols. This task agreement further utilizes the experience of CSU collaborators in finalizing products necessary for the communication of annual results of data collected in one of the target park units.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Data collection would occur during June-early September of 2011 and 2012. A report will be submitted to NPS in October 2011 and October 2012

**Keywords:** long-term monitoring, Vital Signs, wetland ecology, NPS Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network (ROMN), Colorado State University