Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Rare Plant Monitoring and Database Development at BLCA and CURE

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 4/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Funding Amount: $10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:
NPS Contact: Danguole Bockus, Ecologist, National Park Service, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP/Curecanti NRA, 2465 S Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401; danguole_bockus@nps.gov; 970-249-1914 x432

Investigator: Peggy Lyon, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 1474 Campus Delivery, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474; peggy.lyon@colostate.edu; 970-491-7331

Bernadette Kuhn, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, 254 General Services Building, 1474 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474, 970-491-5857, bernadette.kuhn@colostate.edu

Project Abstract: The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University (CSU) will assist the National Park Service (NPS) to monitor three rare plant—species in specified areas of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (BLCA)/Curecanti National Recreation Area (CURE). Records of known populations will be updated using CNHP methodology. Targeted species include: Gunnison milkvetch (*Astragalus anisus*), Juniper tumble-mustard (*Thelypodiopsis juniperorum*) and Hanging Garden sullivantia (*Sullivantia hapemanii var. purpusii*). Monitoring of rare plant populations on National Park Lands is needed to determine current viability and long-term trends. Impacts to plants from human uses and climate change need to be assessed

The results of this research project will provide NPS and CNHP with up-to-date information on the location, population size, habitat, and threats to rare plants that occur within BLCA/CURE. This data set is for the staff at BLCA/CURE to adequately manage, monitor and protect these globally imperiled plant species. A complete data set is also required to predict species distributions, and to enable monitoring of population trends. Location specific data are extremely valuable for assessing range and abundance, and for identifying areas of critical habitat.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: A final report including GIS coverage and photos will be furnished to the National Park Service by February 28, 2013

Keywords: long term monitoring, rare plants, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (BLCA)/Curecanti National Recreation Area (CURE), Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program