

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Engage Partners to Deliver the "Responding to Climate Change" Stream of the World Parks Congress

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/10/2014 - 12/30/2015
Funding Amount: \$51,071

Investigators and Agency Representatives:

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Project Abstract:

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress 2014 is a once-in-a-decade landmark global forum on protected areas. The Congress will share knowledge and innovation, setting the agenda for protected areas conservation for the decade to come. Building on the theme "Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions", it will present, discuss and create original approaches for conservation and development, helping to address the gap in the conservation and sustainable development agenda. The NPS will play an important leadership role in the 2014 Congress as lead of the Responding to Climate Change stream, one of eight focus areas that will be featured at the Congress, in collaboration with the Mexican National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia (CSIRO).

The Responding to Climate Change Stream will assemble tools for enabling the role of protected areas as "natural solutions" in helping communities to mitigate, adapt to, and communicate about the impacts of climate change to protected area resources and the communities that depend on them. It includes new knowledge and case studies in the field of ecosystem-based management and emphasizes the critical role of education and effective communication.

The NPS will partner with CSU to facilitate the effective delivery of the WPC stream, which will include identifying and coordinating speakers and moderators for plenary sessions, thirty-six 90-minute concurrent sessions, eight side events, and numerous other activities. The range of session topics will include vulnerability assessments, monitoring, forecasts and modelling, adaptation planning and implementation, roles of cultural heritage and climate change, climate literacy, and communication, and tools for climate change interpretation.

CSU will commit the expertise and time of the Principal Investigator (PI), to contribute to the organization and delivery of panel discussions, workshops, side events, capacity building, and training. The PI has extensive experience in the field of climate change science and education and has conducted numerous workshops and events. He will lead a small team to support the NPS in ensuring topics delivered to the sessions represent current scientific understanding and will personally provide training on science literacy and effective communication.

In addition, CSU will coordinate the services of staff to support logistics, reporting on session outcomes, and communication with WPC participants. Case studies and approaches presented during the Congress and captured by the CSU team will be delivered as a Best Practices Guidelines manual for climate change adaptation that will be launched at the Congress in consultation form and finalized in June 2015 as part of the IUCN Best Practices Guidelines series.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: December 30, 2015

Keywords: World Parks Congress, climate change Colorado State University, National Park Service- Climate Change Response Program