

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Web Mapping Research and Development for the NPS

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Research and Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/10/2014 - 9/29/2016
Funding Amount: \$985,159 [FY15: \$351,700; FY14: \$633,459]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The primary objective is to leverage both public and internal interest and support for the upcoming centennial to modernize the NPS's digital outreach strategy. Maps are a key component of this modernization effort. To support this modernization, the NPS' mapping platforms and efforts need to be updated so the agency's mapping products can be disseminated more widely and used more effectively on all platforms - including the NPS.gov website and mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.

This work will require nearly constant research and development to keep up with the ever-changing technological landscape.

To meet this objective, the NPS must maintain consistent engagement with the public and other federal, state, and local agencies. Related to mapping, this increased engagement will include accepting "crowd-sourced" data from members of the public and integrating it into park maps. It will also include working hand-in-hand with other government agencies and non-profit organizations to improve collaboration and communication.

In fact, most of the products built and maintained under this task agreement will be released under an open source license so other organizations can take advantage of the work. In this way, the NPS and CSU will continue to lead the way in web mapping through openness and transparency.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 29, 2016

Keywords: NPS- Resources Information Services Division, Colorado State University, research and development, web mapping