Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Assistance for Visibility Data Analysis and Image Display Techniques

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Research/Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Student Involvement: Yes
Effective Dates: 08/01/2015 – 07/31/2016
Funding Amount: $895,976

Investigators and Agency Representative:
NPS Contact: Bret Schichtel, National Park Service, Air Resources Division; (970) 491-8581; bret_schichtel@nps.gov

Investigator: Jenny Hand, Colorado State University, Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA), 1375 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523; (979)-491-3699; Fax (970)-491-8598e-mail: hand@cira.colostate.edu

Project Abstract: Air pollutants can adversely affect visitor experience by degrading the vistas, affecting the natural ecosystems of these areas, and in some extreme cases, adversely affecting visitor health. In working with NPS scientists, the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at CSU will enhance the scientific understanding of causes of visibility impairment and atmospheric loading to ecosystems to better understand the scientific basis of these issues

This project funds ongoing research at the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at Colorado State University (CSU) to enhance the scientific understanding of the causes of visibility degradation and atmospheric loading to ecosystems. It is designed to assist the National Park Service (NPS), other land managers, and air pollution control agencies understand and advance the protection of scenic vistas and ecosystem resources. The results of this research will be made available through the scientific literature and through the dissemination of information to the public through the web. A key element of the project is to interpret and display this scientific information for the general public, enhancing their understanding of issues that can affect their enjoyment of publicly owned lands.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: July 31, 2016
Analyses, Publications, Web Pages, Final Report

Key Words: air pollutants, visibility, visitor experience, Air Resource Management, Colorado State University, Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA), National Park Service