

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Intermountain West Data Warehouse

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 4/1/2015 - 10/1/2016
Funding Amount: \$236,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The purpose of the agreement is for the National Park Service and Colorado State University to work together to support future air quality planning through making data available in the Intermountain West Data Warehouse that is consistent, comprehensive and is of good quality which CSU-CIRA has initially developed. The project is in collaboration with several federal and state government organizations, which includes: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, New Mexico Environment Department, Bureau of Land Management - Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico State Offices, U.S. Forest Service - Regions 2, 3 and 4, and Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8.

The project, the Intermountain West Data Warehouse, is to facilitate air quality planning, in particular planning under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), related to oil and gas development in the region. This effort is intended to make NEPA projects more consistent, more efficient and more cost effective while making better information more readily available to the public.

The primary objectives are to:

- Utilize the unique skills, resources, and expertise of each entity (NPS and CSU-CIRA) to better understand the relationship between air pollution emissions, meteorology and concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere and a better understanding of atmospheric processes like transport, chemical conversion and deposition. This will be accomplished through operation and maintenance of a data warehouse previously developed by CSU-CIRA and the further creation of tools to analyze and quality assure air quality data housed there, as well as provide an efficient means for accessing large data sets that are inputs to air quality models for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other planning activities.
- Enhance coordination and collaboration between NPS and CSU-CIRA.
- Improve through this project access to data that are up-to-date, comprehensive and of known and documented quality.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: October 1, 2016

Keywords: air quality, data management, Colorado State University, Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, NPS WASO Natural Resource and Stewardship/Air Resources Division