

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Preparing Natural Resource Condition Assessment (NRCA) for Dinosaur National Park

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Students Involvement: yes
Effective Dates: 7/1/2015 - 12/30/2017
Funding Amount: \$105,150

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The NPS is implementing a natural resource condition assessment (NRCA) for Dinosaur National Park (DINO). This agreement describes the scope and tasks associated with preparing an NRCA for DINO. The NRCA will be developed collaboratively between NPS and CSU. The NRCA will focus on a subset of important park natural resources and resource management topics. The assessment will evaluate and report on current conditions, critical data and knowledge gaps, and describe resource threats and stressors of concern to DINO resource managers.

The project is a snapshot-in-time evaluation of resource condition for the most important subset of park resources. Project scope is comprehensive in that a wide range of biotic, abiotic, landscape, and ecological resources and interactions will be considered, and that conditions will be evaluated for selected critical ecological components for DINO. The goals are to develop information that assists DINO managers in efforts to develop near-term management priorities, engage in watershed and landscape scale partnerships and education efforts, conduct park planning, and report program performance.

The project will compile and synthesize existing scientific information from multiple sources, and expert judgment from an interdisciplinary team of specialists, the project will assist NPS in defining specific park priorities. The project objectives include: characterize park biological and physical resource conditions at appropriate scales; define threat and stress factors and their relationship to identified resources; identify critical data gaps; and suggest data collection or resource investigations to address those gaps. Resource conditions, threats, and stressors will be evaluated and depicted spatially (to the extent possible) to facilitate use of project findings in a wide variety of park decision and planning processes, and for use in park reporting to the Department of Interior's Strategic Plan land health goals.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Final Project Report, data, supporting materials, and GIS products to NPS - December 30, 2017

Keywords: Natural Resource Condition Assessment, Dinosaur National Park, Colorado State University