

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: NPS Groundwater Data Management

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Participation: Yes, Graduate

Effective Dates: May 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

Funding Amount: \$65,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Project Goals – The goal of this project is to collect, compile, and develop a database for existing and new information describing groundwater resources of NPS units in DOI Unified Region 7 – Upper Colorado Basin (i.e. Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico). Ultimately, this project aims to support NPS efforts to identify and mitigate existing threats to park groundwater resources and proactively secure park water supplies.

Project Objectives – The primary objectives of this project are: (1) Promote the application of hydrogeologic and groundwater resource information to the conservation, restoration, and management of NPS resources; (2) Identify and digitize legacy well and spring records and datasets that describe the location, hydrogeologic setting, use, significance, current conditions, and trends of NPS groundwater resources in DOI Unified Region 7 park units; (3) Address critical data gaps by gathering new groundwater resource information; (4) Develop databases and other electronic information systems that enable other data providers, partners, and affiliates (e.g. individual parks, state and federal organizations, academic institutions, etc.) to access or exchange NPS groundwater resource information when appropriate; (5) Assist in groundwater assessments and investigations for park units, as requested by NPS and accepted by CSU, to provide additional learning opportunities and support NPS resource management efforts; and (6) Provide NPS water managers with hydrogeologic interpretations in an understandable form that provides necessary information to make decisions regarding water supply for visitors, staff, and the preservation of groundwater resources.