

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Acquisition, Entry, and Maintenance of Resource-related Information for "Synthesis" and "Views of the National Parks"
Type of Project Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Effective Dates: Oct 1, 2002 - January 30, 2004
Funding Amount: \$5,987
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Project Abstract: <p>The concept of <i>Views of the National Park Service</i> (Views) was initiated in the Spring of 2000 to present NPS information and messages in an educational and interactive format. This project is intended to help interpreters present the many stories associated with national parks and to allow the public to explore sites of interest that they might not be able to visit. <i>Views</i> consists of two complementary components. The first of these, knowledge centers, presents general information and principles on a variety of natural resource themes. These knowledge centers may also contain park-specific case studies. Knowledge centers provide a means of connecting national parks that share natural resource themes.</p> <p>The second component of <i>Views</i> is a series of virtual experiences presented as multimedia gateways to park-based educational experiences. They will help park interpreters and education specialists reach a greater number of people, including park visitors that do not have time to take a ranger-led tour, student in classrooms (local and distant), handicapped visitors who can not reach remote park sites, or members of the public unable to visit the park. The virtual experiences also allow interpreters and educational specialists to re-create historical natural and cultural landscapes. The ability to experience vanished landscapes will provide new understanding of the past. Staff in the WASO-Natural Resource Information Division (NRID) coordinate the project. To ensure high-quality information, subject matter experts from WASO divisions, central offices, and parks are recruited to help design and build the knowledge centers and park-based virtual experiences. The project philosophy is that park educators, interpreters, and resource staff should select the material, the stories, and the best methods for presenting information from their park. This ensures park buy-in, bolsters WASO-park cooperation, and prevents duplication with existing park-based interpretive tools.</p>
Outcomes with completion dates: Completion Report (descriptive narrative of type of work and how student contributed to effort).
Keywords: education, <i>Synthesis</i> , <i>Views of the National Parks</i> , visitor experience
<u>For Administrative use only:</u> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i> <i>Date Final Report Received:</i> <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>