

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Evaluating and Developing Education Resources and Junior Ranger Programs for Colorado National Parks

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Denver

Effective Dates: 9/1/2006 - 12/30/08

Funding Amount: \$41,477

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This project will link Colorado National Parks' Junior Ranger Programs to under-served school children by utilizing the highly successful Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program (TRT). The TRT program uses the Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement to detail teachers from public school to national parks for 8-10 weeks. This program allows teachers to wear the NPS uniform during their detail assignments in National Parks. It also provides a focused effort to reach under-served and ethnically diverse populations of students.

Participants will develop and review present park activities for schools with under-served students.

- develop and present interpretive programs.
- work at visitor center public information desks.
- develop activities based on their experience to use in their school districts.
- work to support resource management efforts.

This program will give teachers the opportunity to make Junior Ranger Program relevant to their students and allow teachers to develop activities for the Junior Ranger program that are more appropriate for under-served youth both in schools and in the parks. It benefits under-served students that are participating in the Junior Ranger Program by having their own Teacher-Ranger in the classroom.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by December 30, 2007

- Review and report on existing curriculum/junior ranger activities/programs for their effectiveness in reaching underserved student populations in Colorado.
- Develop new activities to reach those populations.
- Use junior ranger materials in their classrooms.
- Return to the park with their students and have students complete the on-site junior ranger program.
- Assist with the development of a graduate-level course for educators that incorporates the use of junior ranger materials into the classroom in ways that make the program relevant to underserved students.

Keywords: educational resources, junior rangers, Colorado parks, curriculum development, University of Colorado at Denver