

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Workshop to Develop a Short-Term Strategy for Addressing the Ecological Impacts of Climate Change at Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder

Effective Dates: 8/1/2007- March 31, 2008

Funding Amount: \$12,500

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: In March 2007, Rocky Mountain National Park conducted a Climate Friendly Park workshop in Estes Park. One of the needs identified during this meeting was to better understand how climate change will affect the natural resources in Rocky Mountain National Park and how the park may manage these changes. This agreement will engage the Center of the American West to assist the NPS in conducting such a workshop.

The workshop objective is to create a short-term (5 year) strategy for addressing the ecological aspects of climate change including likely responses of plants, animals, and hydrological systems to warming. The strategy will cover three areas:

- *research needs* for the next 5 years (Are there significant knowledge gaps that the park could address through research ?)
- *monitoring recommendations* (The park, through the Rocky Mountain I&M Network, is implementing a comprehensive monitoring strategy. Are there critical gaps in monitoring?)
- *management recommendations* (The park is already working to provide leadership in sustainability and greenhouse gas reductions. Are there management actions that will help to protect ecological functions and species? How can the park most effectively work regionally to mitigate climate change impacts on park resources and allow native species to persist over time?)

We anticipate 40 or so participants, including up to 20 park staff. Experts from universities, the USGS and other National Park Service units and offices will also be invited.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by March 31, 2008

- 1) Identification of workshop participants, 30 August 2007
- 2) Preliminary meetings with park staff regarding workshop objectives and structure, 3-4 meetings anticipated in September-October 2007
- 3) Conduct workshop in Estes Park in early November 2007
- 4) Pay honoraria and/or reimburse ~10 invited guests for travel expenses (park anticipates providing some lodging)
- 5) In cooperation with park staff, draft WORD document summarizing workshop activities and resulting written plan no later than 45 days after workshop

Keywords: Rocky Mountain NP, University of Colorado at Boulder, workshop, climate change, ecological effects

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: