

# **Project Completion Report**

## **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

**Project Title:** Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Intern Teachers

**Project Code:** UCOD-41, J1246070054

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** University of Colorado University Denver

**NPS Agreement Technical Representative:** Linda Lutz-Ryan, Interpretive Specialist, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228, Phone: 303-969-2638;Linda\_Lutz-Ryan@nps.gov

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Marlow, University of Colorado – Denver, Box 106, NC-4018B, Denver, CO, Phone: 303-556-8111, mike.marlow@cudenver.edu

**Start Date of Project:** September 1, 2007

**End Date of Project:** February 3, 2007

**Funding Amount:** \$32,700

**Project Summary:** As part of this project with UC Denver, the NPS recruited teachers, who then enrolled with the University of Colorado Denver, where he/she developed a **Teacher to Ranger to Teacher** curriculum as part of their graduate education. Each teacher then served an 8-10 week detail as a ranger within a NPS park unit, and then used that NPS experience as the basis for classroom activities within their home schools.

**More information on the program can be found at:**

<http://parkteachers.ning.com/forum/topics/teachertorangertoteacher-1>

<http://www.nps.gov/learn/trt/>

The teachers were from the Denver area, primarily from Title 1 Schools. The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program in the Intermountain Region is a much larger program that these teachers were joining. Parks have a difficult time recruiting teachers for this program from large metropolitan areas and it was thought this method may help parks make a better connection with urban teachers.

The teachers became interns through the university and also signed up under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement in order to work for the parks in uniform. The teachers worked in individual parks and in the Intermountain Regional office to develop curriculum that they would use in the classrooms. These teachers occasionally wear the uniform in the classroom, present their curriculum, and do general presentations to large groups about National Parks. Some continue to do past the two year agreement.

**Number of students participating in this project:** There were 15 teachers recruited and trained under this program

**Lessons Learned from this project.** It was sometimes difficult to recruit the number of teachers we needed each year. Teacher would commit and then back out. The teachers who did commit were enthusiastic and fulfilled all of their obligations to the parks and the regions. I would work with Mike Marlow again on similar projects. He was very helpful and fulfilled all of his commitments.