

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Evaluating and reporting Climate Data to I & M Networks and Parks

Type of Project: Research

Discipline: Natural

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder

Effective Dates: September 20, 2007- November 30, 2008

Funding Amount: \$29,963

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program will work with CU-Boulder to determine the strategy for climate monitoring and reporting among the 32 I&M networks.

The tasks include:

1. **Ecological Linkages and Scaling.** This addresses the need to identify and articulate ways to link climate information to ecological processes and patterns at local to regional scales.
2. **Reporting Climate Information to Parks.** This is a continuation of work undertaken by GRYN and within the NPCLime framework. This category includes identifying 'best practice' methods for reporting climate data in routine annual reports, and in the occasional synthesis report that includes more sophisticated statistical analyses and interpretation (i.e., a report that might be completed every five or so years).
3. **Data management, data processing, and quality control and quality assurance.** This category includes a very broad and complex set of issues, from the philosophy of how to handle outlier values to the aggregation of data from sensor that differ in type (e.g., electronic vs manual gauges).

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by November 2008, a report that:

- a. Identifies and summarizes the most important data issues that Network (rather than regional or National) staff will confront when acquiring or using data from state, regional, or national databases.
- b. For the highest priority and most general issues, summarize the most common approaches and, where possible, provide expert advice or an evaluation of approaches most likely to be useful to NPS staff. The report is to include references that serve as an entry into the professional literature.

Keywords: climate, Inventory and Monitoring, databases, data management, University of Colorado at Boulder,