

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** New Model Diversity Training, and IMR Relevance and Diversity Executive Steering Committee Action Plan

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Colorado at Denver

**Effective Dates:** 10/30/2007 - 7/31/2009

**Funding Amount:** \$2,700

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The University of Colorado at Denver, School of Education and Human Development is working with the National Park Service, Intermountain Region, on a project to **discover whether there are cultural perception issues, psychological, and/or socio-economic differences between two specific ethnic groups (Asian Americans and American Indians) that may prevent them from choosing to visit National Parks throughout the United States. Insofar as it is possible, the focus of the research will be national parks in the Intermountain Region (Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.)**

The focus group was formed in the fall of 2007 (the group met in October). During the next six months, 50 participants (25 American Indians and 25 Asian Americans) will be asked to participate in the study. The participants will be e-mailed the first survey by Oct. 15th, 2008. They will be e-mailed again to visit the NPS website and perform the virtual tour (of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument) and then fill out the questionnaire by Nov. 1st, 2008. The field trip will take place in the fall (last field trip to be completed by November 15, 2008). The final questionnaire will be given to them directly after the field trip is completed. After a three month time period (Feb - March 15, 2009) each participant will be asked to complete a follow-up questionnaire to see what, if anything has changed.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by July 2009, (1) Organizational meeting, (2) Focus Group Formation, (3) Questionnaire Development, (4) Analysis, and (5) Final Report**

**Keywords:** National Park Service, Intermountain Region, University of Colorado at Denver, diversity, American Indians, African Americans, Florissant Fossil Beds NM