

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Views of the National Parks FY09 Enhancements

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

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

**Effective Dates:** 9/15/2009 - 12/31/2010

**Funding Amount:** \$15,300

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Bruce L. Nash, National Park Service- Natural Resource Program Center, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228, 303-987-6697, bruce\_nash@nps.gov

Investigator: Michael Marlow, University of Colorado - Denver, Box 106, NC-4018B Denver, CO 80217-3364; Phone: 303-556-8111, mike.marlow@cudenver.edu

**Project Abstract:** In 2005, faculty and students from the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD) began to work cooperatively with NPS personnel on the Views project. The modules built for this project use multimedia techniques to present high quality science and cultural resource information to the public and school children. To make these modules more effective, the NPS has partnered with the University of Colorado-Denver so as to utilize their multimedia and graphics capabilities, as well as their education expertise for the preparation of interactive web pages, lesson plans, educational curriculum guides, references to national teaching standards, etc. In order to provide a balanced learning opportunity for their students, UCD has also drawn on NPS expertise to teach their students how to capture multimedia assets in the field, how to assemble the final modules using computer-based graphics programs, and has taken advantage of NPS expertise in various fields of science and resource management. Both NPS and UCD have shared expertise and resources and provided support to each other at meetings, on projects, in classrooms, on fieldtrips, and on committees. Some of these cooperative actions are documented at the end of this proposal.

This proposal will expand the partnership that was initiated in 2005. UCD faculty, staff, and/or students will work with NPS staff to provide computer and educational expertise for two Views modules currently "in preparation." This modification is designed to address the development of multimedia materials related to the Views modules on "paleontology" and "geologic time." Scripts (representing all on-screen text) have been written for these modules and have been reviewed by numerous experts from within NPS and from both the University of Colorado Denver and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). During summer 2009, a Geologic Society of America "Scientist-in-the-Park" worked with the Views team, UCD, and the DMNS to collect multimedia resources for this project, organize existing image libraries, contact NPS units for photographic resources, and develop a spreadsheet linking text pages to complimentary multimedia resources. The DMNS has offered the use of many additional resources and will make their scientists, educators, and staff available for interviews. While this represents a significant achievement toward the completion of these modules, additional work is necessary to 1) capture additional multimedia resources, 2) select, edit, and insert images/graphics/multimedia to the Views module templates, and 3) validate all pages and navigation elements.

As in all Views "topical" modules, work on the Paleontology and Geologic Time modules will focus on providing information applicable to the entire NPS System while including many examples from individual parks. The result will enhance the entire Views program as well as other NPS websites that wish to link to the Views website. For the selected modules, the UCD staff will work with NPS WASO, park, and regional staff to (as needed): complete existing draft lists of required multimedia assets. Images, interviews, graphics, and other multimedia assets will be collected from NPS and Museum sources. These assets will be edited, as needed, to fit the specifications

of the new Views Flash-based templates. UCD staff will lead the effort in collecting the needed assets and then populate the module with all appropriate text, multimedia assets, and graphics. The UCD researcher will link all multimedia and text to appropriate locations within the module and ensure seamless integration with the existing Views system. Multimedia assets may include, but are not limited to: taped interviews, 360 degree panoramas, virtual walks, 3-D images, soundscapes, tables/charts, and digital images. Lastly, the education specialist(s) will continue to provide advice and expertise to the Views Project Manager in the areas of formal and informal education. As someone with classroom experience, she/he will work with UCD and Views staff to ensure the Paleontology and Geologic Time modules will meet the needs of classroom teachers and park interpreters.

**Keywords: National Park Service-** Natural Resource Program Center, **University of Colorado at Denver, Views program**