

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Coastal Health of Southeast National Parks: Multi-Scale Analysis and Synthesis

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Discipline:** Natural  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Colorado at Boulder  
**Effective Dates:** September 1, 2010 - February 28, 2012  
**Funding Amount:** \$45,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** This project will build on the results of the earlier southeast coast network study by incorporating additional data including, but not limited to:

- NCA sediment and fish data from the 2000-2004 surveys
- Probabilistic water quality data from the Southeast Coast I&M Network (surveys that have been completed in individual parks).
- Fixed site data from the Southeast Coast I&M Network.
- Data from the National Estuarine Research Reserve, System Wide Monitoring Program.
- State (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida (NE) ) Water Quality data
- State Beach Closure data
- State Fish Consumption Warning data
- City of Jacksonville water quality data (for TIMU)
- Florida Water Management District data (TIMU and CANA)
- Impaired waterbodies
- State Harmful Algal Bloom data

This project will fund 0.5 months of PI support at the University of Colorado and Professional Research Associate (PRA) for one year to: 1) acquire various datasets needed for analysis, 2) assess and compare water quality inside park boundaries to water quality outside park boundaries using existing criteria where available, and 3) synthesize results from park WCAs with newly acquired data to put park water quality into state and regional perspectives. The methods used for this project will be carefully documented so that these comparisons can be repeated in other regions and repeated through time to track changes in water quality on a large scale.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** December 30, 2011

1. A database that includes data and metadata with associated park boundaries.
2. An SOP for data comparisons and syntheses.
3. A data comparison report for water quality inside vs. outside park boundaries.
4. One-page briefing sheets for each park to put park information into state and regional context.

**Keywords:** Coastal health, Southeast National Parks, University of Colorado at Boulder