

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

**Project Title:** Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) Program Curriculum Support

**Project Code:**UCOD-67; P11AT10588

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** University of Colorado Denver

**NPS Agreement Technical Representative :**

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**Start Date of Project:** 5/30/2011

**End Date of Project:** 5/31/2013

**Funding Amount:** \$18,695

**Project Summary:**

The Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) Program is a professional development program designed to provide K-12 school teachers the opportunity to work in a NPS unit for the summer, designing educational curriculum that can eventually be taught in their classrooms. The TRT Program has partnered with University of Colorado Denver because of their excellent educational reputation. This partnership has culminated in UC Denver creating a TRT website and offering graduate credit and exposing thousands of students to the NPS.

The teachers chosen for this summer program did the following:

- Prepares and presents a variety of formal and informal programs including orientations talks, conducted walks, guided tours, slide programs, Junior Ranger programs, demonstrations, education programs for children and adults, roving interpretation, and campfire programs.
- Conducts independent research on varied topics for the purpose of providing resource education programs. Learns about park resources by attending in-park training, reading park research materials and maps, and by interviewing other park rangers or staff, researchers, and other professionals.
- Works to identify and develop curriculum-based learning activities relevant to both park resources and the teaching needs of the school district or organization.
- Assists with data collection, plant and animal surveys, eradication of non-native species, fire related projects, or other resource management efforts.
- Support maintenance crews in building and trail projects.

- Presents programs in uniform to other teachers, administrators, students, and schools during National Park Week.
- Provides statistics to the National Park Service for both in-park and in-classroom programs.

**Number of students participating in this project:** In 2011 62 teachers participated in the TRT program. These TRTs were spread across the eight states of the IMR; a wide range of parks to part in the TRT program including Yellowstone NP, Grand Canyon NP, and Glacier NP in Montana.

**Lessons Learned from this project:** The largest lesson learned from this project was the exciting realization that more teachers could benefit from the creation of a TRT website. The work that was done in 2011 has also led to the creation of a graduate level course for TRTs. The focus in 2011 was on how to make the TRT program more of a professional development program for educators. This focus has led to a deeper and more engaging relationship between UC Denver and the NPS.