

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Chaco Landscapes Conferences

Discipline: Cultural Resources

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder

Effective Dates: 9/30/2014 - 9/30/2019

Funding Amount: \$94,597

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The region surrounding Chaco Culture National Historic Park is home to globally significant cultural resources, both tangible and intangible, that are protected by Federal law and managed by a variety of agencies. These irreplaceable cultural resources and values face immediate and critical impacts from large energy development projects, continual increases in development and associated transportation, and other activities. The NPS sees a critical need and a leadership opportunity to convene scientific researchers and other experts to assess the current state of our knowledge, identify data and stewardship gaps, and synthesize recommendations for protection and enhancement of this amazing area and the cultural resources and values it represents.

Tasks

CU Boulder shall conduct a series of three meetings and one remote sensing demonstration project. These are:

GIS meeting (Lincoln NE, July 2015), to reconcile and refine two existing GIS dbases of Chacoan landscapes, with protected presence on the Chaco Research Digital Archive.

White Paper Conference (Durango CO, Sept 2015), to discuss and refine a White Paper on Chacoan Landscapes and Conservation for use by NPS (and others) for commenting on EIS for developments around Chaco and its region.

Capstone Seminar (Crow Canyon Archaeological Center CO, TBA 2017), a scholarly conference of about 12 leading researchers, plus other "skyped" in, to explore the anthropology, archaeology, heritage and living use of Chacoan landscapes, leading to a scholarly book and web materials.

Lidar demonstration project will apply Lidar to a complex Chacoan landscape, to be selected, probably during 2016, to explore methods and techniques for discovering, researching, managing and conserving Chacoan landscapes.

The purpose of this agreement is to obligate funds for travel and conference-related logistics; sub-awards; consultants; and for technical assistance (Lidar, editorial, graphics, GIS, graduate student assistants, etc).

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Draft Final Report and supporting data/documentation - December 31, 2018

Final Report - March 30, 2019

Keywords: cultural resources, current state of knowledge, meetings, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, University of Colorado at Boulder