

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Evaluations of Potential National Natural Landmark (NNL) Sites

**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Colorado at Boulder  
**Effective Dates:** 7/1/2014 - 4/30/2019  
**Funding Amount:** \$20,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), was established in 1962 to identify, recognize and encourage the preservation of sites containing the best remaining examples of biological and geological features that illustrate the Nation's natural heritage. NNL designation does not change ownership or require specific management of the site. Rather the partnership formed between the landowner(s) and the NPS through the designation, allows the NPS to be an advocate for and support the landowner's voluntary conservation efforts.

In addition to existing sites, many more sites have also been identified as Potential NNLs (PNNL), candidate sites that may merit further evaluation for possible designation. Potential sites are identified through Program-sponsored Inventory Studies (1970's-1980's) or by suggestion from individuals or organizations. Potential NNLs are evaluated using the NNL Program's national significance criteria, and designation is conferred by the Secretary of the Interior, with owner consent.

The University of Colorado, Boulder, will complete two (2) or three (3) National Natural Landmark (NNL) evaluation reports for Potential NNL (PNNL) sites. Specific PNNL sites to be evaluated will be determined together by the PI and NPS ATR. The number of PNNLs to be evaluated is dependent on those that the NPS receives written landowner permission. The PNNL sites chosen will be located within one of the eight NPS Intermountain Region states MT, WY, UT, CO, AZ, NM, TX, OK. Evaluation reports will be completed following the guidance detailed in the July 2007 "Guidelines for Evaluation of Potential National Natural Landmarks."

Evaluation reports are completed by a qualified scientist(s), referred to as the Evaluator(s). The PI on this agreement may or may not be the evaluator, but may provide oversight to students or other faculty members at the University of Colorado that are selected to complete the reports based on those individuals whose expertise matches the natural features at the PNNL site.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Preliminary Draft reports for two-three (2-3) PNNL sites - July 1, 2017  
Review Manuscript reports for two-three (2-3) PNNL sites - March 31, 2018  
Final Reports for two-three (2-3) PNNL sites - December 31, 2018

**Keywords:** National Natural Landmark, **evaluation, report**, National Park Service, University of Colorado at Boulder