

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
Project Summary

**Project Title:** Cooperative GIS Internship with the NPS Intermountain Region

**Task Agreement #:** P16AC00511

**Modification(s):** 6

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

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

**Student Participation:** Yes, Internship

**Effective Dates:** 5/1/2016-5/31/2020

**Funding Amount:** \$96,032

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The Intermountain Region Geographic Resources Division has been working with University of Colorado Denver (UCD) for many years to develop a quality internship program at the University. The program exposes undergraduate and graduate students to how GIS can be used for conservation and resource management while supporting the NPS mission of conservation and resource management.

This cooperative project provides a quality, professional internship to student and research associates at UCD. The students work with the NPS Intermountain Region Geographic Resources Division to support GIS projects in our 94 parks. The projects will be determined by UCD and NPS based on the skills of the intern, research interests, and needs of the parks.

The internship is a mutual benefit to the government and the partner. The interns get an understanding of park management and the integration of GIS in conservation and resource management; while the NPS is able to draw on the new experiences and energy of youth to support our mission.

This project will provide each student with valuable professional experience related to GIS and land management. Students are exposed to the integration of geospatial technology into NPS' mission and activities and the focus on data management and technical support. The students gain essential experience in the geospatial technology profession to support their future career goals and make them better professionals joining the work force.

**Keywords:** GIS, internship, Intermountain region, National Park Service, University of Colorado Denver