

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

<b>Project Title:</b> Publication of <i>Microbial Life in Yellowstone National Park</i>
<b>Type of Project:</b> Education
<b>Funding Agency:</b> National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park
<b>Effective Dates:</b> September 20, 2002 - June 1, 2003
<b>Funding Amount:</b> \$5,750
<b>Investigators and Agency Representative:</b> UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Dr. Joan Henson, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Montana State University, Bozeman, 406-994-4690, <a href="mailto:jhenson@montana.edu">jhenson@montana.edu</a>  INVESTIGATOR: Kathy B. Sheehan, Research Associate, Department of Microbiology and Thermal Biology Institute, Montana State University, Bozeman, 406-994-4689, <a href="mailto:umbks@montana.edu">umbks@montana.edu</a>  NPS CONTACT: Roger J. Anderson, Resource Information Specialist, Yellowstone Center for Resources, 307-344-2224, <a href="mailto:roger_j_anderson@nps.gov">roger_j_anderson@nps.gov</a>
<b>Project Abstract:</b> Working in collaboration with Yellowstone National Park and Montana State University's Thermal Biology Institute (TBI), Dr. Joan Henson, professor of Microbiology at Montana State University-Bozeman, Kathy B. Sheehan, a research associate at TBI and Montana State's Department of Microbiology, Dr. David J. Patterson, professor of biology at the University of Sydney, Australia, and photographer Brett L. Dicks of Santa Barbara Community College, Santa Barbara, CA, propose to write and illustrate an original, full-color guidebook to microbes and the mats and streamer communities they create. Their goal is to focus the attention of park visitors on these often overlooked microorganisms through the use of vivid color images accompanied by readable, non-technical text. The book will include images of landscapes, mat communities, and state-of-the-art micrographs (photographs taken with a camera mounted on a microscope). Explanatory text will be presented with a minimum of scientific terminology and will describe the varied microbes, their roles in the ecology of communities, and their uniquely beautiful habitats. Sites will be selected that are frequented by park visitors as well as special or unusual locations to be determined with the assistance of park personnel. The authors anticipate a large interest from the general public visiting the park, teachers and other educators, libraries, students, and scientists. References, as well as web page links, will be included for those desiring more in-depth information.
<b>Outcomes with completion dates:</b> Draft Manuscript: November 20, 2002 Final draft to publisher: approx. December 2002
<b>Keywords:</b> Education, <i>Microbial Life in Yellowstone National Park</i> , microbial mats, visitor education
<b><u>For Administrative use only:</u></b> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i>  <i>Date Final Report Received:</i>  <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>