

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: A Public Engagement Plan and Cooperating Agencies Plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks' Winter Use Environmental Impact Statement and Rulemaking

Discipline: Social Science

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Effective Dates: 5/1/2005 - 12/31/2008

Funding Amount: \$433,113

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The primary purpose of this project is to design a public engagement plan for use by Yellowstone and Grand Teton NP management to develop the Winter Use Environmental Impact Statement for the two parks. The cooperator MSU and Cadence, Inc. will expedite this planning during the EIS process and work closely with NPS staff during 2005-2007. There were five amendments to the original task agreement, with addition of tasks associated with the Sylvan Pass plan.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

1. **NPS Team Meetings on participation plan implementation:** Includes preparation of agendas, facilitation, and follow up for periodic team meetings by phone or in person. Assumes approximately 6 of these meetings between January and September 2006, typically in Bozeman or Gardiner or tagged onto roving team meeting. There will be additional meetings through April 2008.
2. **Roving Team Meetings:** Consultation, travel, preparation of mutually acceptable agendas, follow up. Assumes up to 10 of these between January 1 and September 30, 2006.
3. **Editing and Other Support Services:** Consists of reviewing project newsletters or other written information related to the participation work, providing database maintenance services by request (e.g., contact lists), preparing email notices, and other support tasks as needed. Revised to include facilitation for an avalanche risk assessment and report in August 2007.
4. **Independent Coaching:** This subtask consists of individual phone consultation, responding to electronic requests, and periodic outreach, coaching or support for any interested party involved in this information sharing process (NPS team and governmental and non-governmental stakeholders).
5. **March 2006 Open House:** Agenda preparation, meeting location logistics, travel, product development and facilitation of work for March open house in Bozeman to roll out alternatives. Includes one dry run with NPS and cooperators included in this subtask, but labor hours for other team meetings in which preparation occurs are included in task 2 above.
6. **Tri-State Meetings:** Includes agenda preparation, meeting location logistics, travel, product development and facilitation of work for three meetings -- likely one in each of the three states designed to bring all interested parties together to review and discuss the preliminary draft of the EIS, allow each type of interested party hear one another, and to prepare them for thoughtful engagement in the written feedback they may provide on the DEIS when it is released. These meetings will continue through summer of 2007.
7. **Final Report:** Due by May 1, 2008

Keywords: public engagement plan, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Montana State University, Sylvan Pass, Winter Use EIS, social science

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: