

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Grand Canyon National Park Variable Message Sign (VMS)/Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) Pilot Deployment/Evaluation

Discipline: Social Science
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 5/15/2008- 1/30/2009
Funding Amount: \$20,117

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Grand Canyon National Park proposes a pilot shuttle service to/from Tusayan to offer visitors an opportunity for car free travel to the park, to reduce traffic congestion along Highway 64 through the South Entrance and within Grand Canyon Village, and improve access to the Canyon View Information Plaza and South Rim of the Grand Canyon, where parking is limited at key destinations. The NPS staff will work with Montana State University to implement portable Variable Message Signs (VMS) and Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) approaching the park to help inform visitors of key traveler information for the duration of the pilot shuttle. This project also includes an evaluation the effectiveness of the VMS/HAR system pilot, giving the park guidance for future permanent installations.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: VMS/HAR Siting/Deployment will occur by June 15, 2008; VMS/HAR Evaluation and Recommendations Final Report are due November 1, 2008.

Keywords: shuttle system, messaging, Grand Canyon National Park, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University