

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Operational and technical support for Vital Signs Monitoring in the Greater Yellowstone Network Inventory and Monitoring Program, continuation of FY07 project

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: June 1, 2008- March 1, 2010
Funding Amount: \$73,009

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Big Sky Institute at Montana State University will work with the Greater Yellowstone I&M network to accomplish the following network support for protocols, communications and workshops:

- Compile monitoring protocols (all or in part) by completing literature reviews, proof-reading and editing manuscripts, publishing protocols via MSU publications office and the NPS Natural Resource Report series.
- Update and maintain NPS service-wide databases (NPSPECIES, NatureBib, and NPSTORET) with natural resource related information.
- Prepare sample designs and associated metadata using Geographic Information Systems.
- Host workshops and meetings with NPS and university collaborators.
- Test methods and written protocols through the implementation of pilot projects which include field data collection, data management, analysis and reporting.
- Provide logistical support to field projects such as communications (satellite phone) and transportation.
- Facilitate the development of communication products through independent sources.
- Communicate resource status and trends through Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center communication products, posters, presentation and other suitable communication reports and papers
- Complete an inventory and compile a map of riparian willow distribution and height status in Yellowstone's Northern Range

Outcomes with Completion Dates: (1) Annual progress report September 20, 2008; (2) Final progress report September 20, 2009; and (3) GIS map, shape files and project status report on riparian willow inventory April 1, 2009

Keywords: Montana State University, Greater Yellowstone I&M network, protocols, workshops, riparian willow