

**RM-CESU FY08 Progress Report** – YELL Develop a Science Agenda for the Greater Yellowstone, MSU (\$5,000), Prepared by Glenn Plumb, glenn\_plumb@nps.gov, 307.344.2225

**Progress to Date:** A scientific planning committee has been formed, monthly conference calls are being conducted, supporting FY08 funds were provided by NPS-YELL to MSU-BSI through RM-CESU task agreement, and a workshop is being planned for November 2009.

**Workshop Title:** Wildlands Of The Greater Yellowstone Area As Purveyors Of Socially Relevant Science: A 10-Year Science Plan to Study Wildland Responses To Climate Change, Land-Use Change, And Invasive Species

**Description:** Climate change, land-use change, and non-native species invasion are external drivers that threaten to dramatically alter the ecosystems within the GYE. Understanding the nature of these drivers and their regional consequences to wildland ecosystems poses a challenge for science, management and the public at large. A workshop, to be held in November 2009, that brings together top scientists working in Climate Change, Land Use Change, and Invasive Species, will outline the high-priority science necessary for managers to make science-informed decisions.

**Scope and Objectives:** The workshop results should apply to all areas managed as wildlands within the Greater Yellowstone Area, including national parks and wilderness areas; to 1) Define the key issues concerning how drivers operating at the global-to-regional scale will lead to change in GYA wildland ecosystems; 2) Define the science needed to address current and potential GYA wildland responses to these drivers, including relevant on-going science projects, and critical knowledge gaps; 3) Create a prioritized matrix of necessary science; 4) Recommend how this prioritized matrix of science can be funded and accomplished; 5) Define links between this prioritized science and the decision-making needs of management and the public.

**Outcomes:** 1) In preparation for this workshop, Montana State University's Big Sky Institute (BSI) will develop an annotated bibliography of scientific manuscripts relevant to the scope and objectives of this workshop; 2) BSI will also develop an inventory of all ongoing projects in the GYA related to the three primary drivers; 3) Prior to this workshop, the NPS Climate Change Coordinator will host a scenario planning workshop with managers of the GYA, 4) The outcome of the workshop, with recommendations, will be published in a workshop report.

**Audience:** The primary audience for the workshop report will be GYA managers and wildland managers; Science Agencies; and Scientists interested in working in these focus areas in the GYA; managers and the public interested in wildland areas as baselines for monitoring change due to the three focal drivers.

**Role and Function of the Planning Committee:** 1) Provide scoping oversight for this effort; 2) Design the workshop; 3) Identify and invite workshop participants; 4) Attend and contribute to the workshop; 5) Receive recommendations from the workshop; 6) Draft final report based on all lines of evidence.

### **Planning Committee**

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