

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Completing Coast Climate Change Video

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 8/1/2009 - 12/31/2010
Funding Amount: \$8,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Global warming is occurring at a rapid rate and park ecosystems are particularly susceptible to climate change. Changing landscapes, disturbances regimes, and species distributions will provide new challenges for park managers and surprises for many park visitors. Recent studies in Yosemite have documented changes in the elevational distribution of small mammals of 2,000' in the last century. Subalpine meadows in the Cascades and Sierras have documented increasing rates of tree establishment since the close of the Little Ice Age (late 1800s) and even faster rates in the last 50 years. Disturbance regimes and intensities have resulted in dramatic changes in the landscapes of Mount Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades National Parks, as evidenced last month. The changes we are witnessing will result in changes in natural and cultural resources, recreational use and availability, changes for all park operations (e.g. maintenance of roads and facilities, fire regimes, and interpretation of landscapes). The purpose of the project is to develop a suite of videos that provide information to the public and our own employees on what is happening, expected changes and rates of change, and to illustrate what the NPS is doing in response to global warming.

The purpose of this project is to complete a video illustrating the changes we already anticipate and are expecting in parks of the Pacific West Region. The video footage for this project is already complete so this Task involves editing and distributing the film. The video has three components: 1) a brief explanation of global warming, 2) interviews with scientists describing current and expected changes, and 3) a summary of what the PWR is doing to decrease global warming. It features scientists working in a variety of ecosystems, with this particular film focusing on coastal resources. We will use an existing NPS "video advisory committee" composed of interpreters, resource specialists, science advisors, and managers to review the issues, script, and to identify park contacts for each portion of the video. Video editing and DVD duplication will be conducted in 2010.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

By February 15, 2010: draft storyline will be circulated to NPS support staff for review.

January 2010 - March 30, 2010 Review period for working copy of video.

June 1, 2010: Copies of completed video will be delivered to NPS. The number of DVDs will be determined during the course of the project, but will probably be in the range of 50-100 DVDs.

Keywords: Global warming, climate change, park ecosystems, film, Mount Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades National Parks, Montana State University