

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Learning Center Climate and Resource Science Communication Assistance

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 9/15/2010 - 8/31/2011
Funding Amount: \$35,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Tami Blackford, Yellowstone Center for Resources, PO Box 168, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190; 307-344-2204; tami_blackford@nps.gov

Investigator: Todd Kipfer, Big Sky Institute, 107 AJM Johnson Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-994-5122, tkipfer@montana.edu

Project Abstract: Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, the Rocky Mountains CESU, and the Greater Yellowstone I&M Network are collaborating with universities, nonprofits, and other partners to host a Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center (GYSLC). The goals of GYSLC are to connect parks, science, and people by facilitating research, promoting active partnerships, integrating science into park management, engaging citizen scientists, and providing science outreach and educational opportunities. In support of those goals, the GYSLC and Montana State University's Big Sky Institute (BSI) will work together to develop new content for the GYSLC website and for other I&M networks. The GYSLC website serves as the definitive source for scientific information on the important natural and cultural resources within the three park units (see www.greateryellowstonescience.org). Products for other networks will be posted to their NPS and/or Research Learning Center websites.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: 31 May 2011

List of Products: to include, at least, Resource Briefs on projected changes in climate for 11 park units in the GRYN and UCBN and 6 Resource Briefs on expected changes in particular resources based on synthesis products on climate and ecological response commissioned by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, the I&M Program, and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, as well as a list of relevant references for each topic/brief. Another 7 Resource Briefs and other products as appropriate to the topic will be completed for Yellowstone National Park on cultural or other resource topics. Science communication work may also include researching, writing, editing, and laying out other science reports and documents as time allows.

Keywords: Montana State University, Yellowstone National Park, Greater Yellowstone Inventory and Monitoring Network (GRYN; Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area), Upper Columbia Basin I&M Network), Rocky Mountain I&M Network, science communication, website content, natural resources, cultural resources