

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Learning Center Climate and Resource Science Communication Assistance

Project Code: MSU-222 / J1580100341

Type of Project : Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: Montana State University, Big Sky Institute

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

Principal Investigator: Todd Kipfer, Interim Executive Director, Big Sky Institute, PO Box 173490, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-994-7977; tkipfer@montana.edu

Start Date of Project: September 15, 2010

End Date of Project: July 30, 2014 (project completed July 30, 2013)

Funding Amount: \$35,000.00

Project Summary, including descriptions of products, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report. Also add web sites where project-related information may be found.

Research, drafting and layout of

- 13 resource briefs for park units in the Upper Columbia Basin I&M network on: aspen, bats, climate change, rare plants, and sagebrush-obligate birds (2010–2011; <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ucbn/reports/>)
- Natural Resource Vital Signs reports for Yellowstone National Park for 2011 and 2013

Research, drafting or updating, and layout of

- Approximately 30 resource briefs and/or overviews for the Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center on climate change and other natural and cultural resource topics (2010–2012; www.greateryellowstonescience.org)

Editorial assistance on

- Issues of *Yellowstone Science*: 18(3), 19(1–3), 20(1–2)
- Yellowstone Superintendent's Annual Reports for 2009, 2010
- Annual Yellowstone bird report for 2009
- Native Fish Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (2010)
- Whitebark Pine Strategy for the Greater Yellowstone Area (2010)
- Yellowstone Center for Resources annual report for 2010
- Yellowstone Wolf Project annual reports for 2010 and 2011

- Yellowstone Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences report for 2009–2010
- Prospectus and agenda for the 11th Greater Yellowstone Biennial Science Conference

Editorial assistance and layout of

- Invasive Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (2012)

Research and drafting of articles for *Yellowstone Science* 21(1) and 21(2)

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred. None

Lessons Learned from this project.

Even if the information you are working with is incomplete or out of date, you are likely to get a faster and more complete response if you send an initial draft based on what you do know than just a list of questions.

Rather than asking people to track changes on a first draft, it is usually just as easy and produces better results to let them edit a Word document as they wish and then compare their version with yours.

Even though making editorial changes is more work after a document has been laid out, people are more likely to provide comments on a document that appears about ready to be printed than on a Word document.

Researchers are usually appreciative of suggestions regarding organization and wording.