

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Living Building Challenge Charrette for the Lovell Visitor's Center

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 1/10/2011 - 12/31/2011
Funding Amount: \$9,859

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This project will examine ways in which the Lovell Visitor's Center at Bighorn Canyon can become more sustainable by using a whole-systems approach defined through the Living Building Challenge. Through collaboration between Montana State University's Community Design Center, the Living Building Institute, and the National Park Service the goal is to pilot the use of the Living Building Challenge to determine whether the challenge is applicable and beneficial for federal land based agencies. Throughout the process, various design ideas will be developed and presented to both the Living Building Institute and NPS all aimed at explaining how the imperatives listed in the Living Building Challenge will be fulfilled. The Living Building Challenge offers a planning and certification model with the goal to "reconcile the built environment with the natural environment, into a civilization that creates greater biodiversity, resilience, and opportunities for life with each adaptation and development". The philosophy found within the Living Building Challenge is complementary to our mission, and offers a process which is far more sustainable than LEED. This agreement covers tasks to be performed by MSU's School of Architecture faculty and students; a separate Cooperative Agreement will cover work performed by the Living Building Institute.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: The project will begin on January 10, 2011 and this phase will be completed by August 31, 2011. The Living Building Challenge design charrette will take place the second week of February, 2011.

Keywords: Living Building Challenge, built environment, natural environment, charrette, Lovell Visitor's Center, Bighorn Canyon NRA, Montana State University,