

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Provide Internship Support and Technical Assistance to the Greater Yellowstone Network monitoring program and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Education/Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University  
**Effective Dates:** September 1, 2011 - September 30, 2015  
**Funding Amount:** \$94,022

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Montana State University (MSU) has developed a strong partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) Inventory and Monitoring program, collaborating on research, science application, and outreach. In the past, professors, students, and staff have worked to provide relevant scientific results as well as strategic guidance to the NPS regarding ecosystem processes and patterns in parks in the western United States, including national parks in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and elsewhere. Through this task agreement, MSU will continue to synthesize and communicate scientific understanding about the Greater Yellowstone and other large, complex ecosystems, and be an active participant in the implementation of the Inventory and Monitoring Program for the Greater Yellowstone Network (GRYN) and other participating networks. The GRYN maintains a relationship with MSU for the purpose of acquiring academic and student input into the preparation and implementation of natural resource inventory and monitoring programs.

This project is for support work on basic research for various projects for the GRYN. To meet these needs, Montana State University (MSU) will use candidates from the student body to not only provide the services needed, but also to develop, through exposure, students in the fields of natural resources. This agreement will give students exposure to the National Park Service and help foster the future generation of park managers and resource specialists. GRYN has offices near the MSU campus that provides the venue for reaching students interested in professional careers with the National Park Service and other government agencies.

The overall purpose of the project described herein is for GRYN to assist MSU students working on NPS projects and hire students to assist with various monitoring projects ranging from field work, GIS assistance, report preparation, library research, administrative tasks, and data management needs. Enterprising students may also develop a project related to GRYN goals for a class project. In addition this project will support meeting facilitation for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** September 30, 2015

**Keywords:** student interns, technical assistance, Greater Yellowstone Network I & M Network, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Montana State University