

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Provide Technical Assistance to the Greater Yellowstone I&M Network

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University  
**Effective Dates:** 9/30/2012 - 6/1/2017  
**Funding Amount:** \$34,885 [FY13: \$13,885; FY12: \$21,000]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Cathie Jean, Greater Yellowstone I&M Network, National Park Service, 2327 University Way, Suite 2, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406)-994- 7530; Cathie\_jean@nps.gov

Investigator: Cathy Whitlock, Director of Interdisciplinary Science Initiatives and Professor Earth Sciences, Montana State University, 200 Traphagen Hall, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 994-6910, (406) 994-6923, whitlock@montana.edu

**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 expose students to the NPS and help foster the future generation of land 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:** June 1, 2017

**Keywords:** student interns, technical assistance, meeting facilitation, Greater Yellowstone I&M Network, Montana State University