

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Innovations in Communicating Science at Yellowstone National Park

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 1/12/2015 - 3/31/2017
Funding Amount: \$58,972

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Sarah Haas, Science Program Coordinator, Yellowstone National Park, PO Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190; 307-344- 2265; sarah_haas@nps.gov

Investigator: Kenning Arlitsch, Dean of the Library, Montana State University, Dean of the Library, Montana State University, 309 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717, Phone 406-994- 6978, Kenning.Arlitsch@montana.edu

Project Abstract: Yellowstone National Park has a Science Communications Program that works to keep managers, researchers, and the public informed about and engaged in research taking place in the park. To this end, the program publishes *Yellowstone Science* twice a year as well as a variety of technical documents and maintains website pages related to the park's Yellowstone Center for Resources (YCR) Division Programs (e.g., wildlife conservation, vegetation management, geological resource protection, etc). The program seeks to enhance current communications strategies by generating multimedia content that compliments its existing products.

The Montana State University Library has established the Acoustic Atlas, a comprehensive initiative that seeks to collect, curate and archive natural soundscape recordings of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and to connect people with these sounds of regional biodiversity. A logical way to do this is through the development of sound-rich, multimedia content highlighting audio collections while adding ecological context through narrative science reporting.

Through the objectives of this Task Agreement, Yellowstone NP seeks to work cooperatively with MSU to support science communications through the collection of additional sound recordings that will be shared between the park and the MSU Acoustic Atlas project to enhance their existing collection and preserve this data for future use and study. Additionally, this Task Agreement will support the publication of *Yellowstone Science* and other technical documents as well as through the development and distribution of associated multimedia content that elucidates science in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in innovative and compelling ways.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 31, 2017

Keywords: science communication, Yellowstone National Park, Montana State University