

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Conserve Native Fish and Examine Utility of Environmental DNA in the Upper Gibbon River, Yellowstone National Park

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Student Involvement: Yes
Effective Dates: 9/15/2016 - 12/31/2021
Funding Amount: \$35,000

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 provide the services needed and 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, scientific conference, or other similar venue to practice their skills in scientific outreach.

Keywords: students, technical assistance, monitoring program, Greater Yellowstone Network (GRYN), Montana State University