

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Provide Technical Assistance to the NPS Greater Yellowstone Inventory and Monitoring Network and the NPS Intermountain Region Landscape Conservation and Climate Change Program

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Student Involvement: yes
Effective Dates: 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2020
Funding Amount: \$91,362.00

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. Likewise, MSU and the IMR Landscape Conservation and Climate Change Division (LC&CC), have worked cooperatively on climate change and landscape science, holding workshops for parks, cooperatively conducting and publishing research on climate change exposure and vulnerability in parks, and developing models to better integrate climate science into park management. 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 and the LC&CC program. 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 and LC&CC. To meet these needs, Montana State University (MSU) will use cooperators and 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. Both GRYN and the LC&CC program staff engage with MSU faculty and students, hosting workshops, cooperating on science teams, providing classroom lectures, and sitting on graduate student committees.

Keywords: National Park Service, Greater Yellowstone Network, Landscape Conservation and Climate Change Program, Montana State University, Technical Assistance