

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
Project Summary

**Project Title:** Determine vulnerability of water-dependent resources and facilities under climate change in southwest, great plains, and intermountain west parks

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance and Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University- Institute on Ecosystems

**Student Participation:** No

**Effective Dates:** 9/29/2020 to 9/01/2025

**Funding Amount:** \$185,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:**

Project Goals – Evaluate projected changes in water balance for national park units from site-specific to regional scales using the best available climate change information. These analyses will provide park managers with projections of water availability for national park resources and assets, including natural resources, cultural landscapes, hydrologic systems, and water supply infrastructure that supports park visitors and operations.

Project Objectives – This project will use the computational foundation of water balance products to conduct vulnerability assessments that improve understanding the biophysical (e.g., natural resources - flora, fauna, hydrology, and park infrastructure – wells, water delivery infrastructure) implications of changes in climate.