

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Northern Colorado Plateau Network - Delphi Process for Vital Signs Determination
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service, Northern Colorado Plateau Network
Effective Dates: January 14, 2002 - September 30, 2002
Funding Amount: \$24,607
Investigators and Agency Representative: Dr. Troy Hall, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, Ph: 208-885-9455, troyh@uidaho.edu Dr. Edwin Krumpe, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, Ph: 208-885-7428, ekrumpe@uidaho.edu NPS CONTACT: Dr. Angela Evenden, Northern Colorado Plateau Network, Inventory and Monitoring Program Manager, National Park Service, 2282 S. West Resource Blvd., Moab, UT 84532. Ph: (435) 719-2342, angela.evenden@nps.gov
Project Abstract: The Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) has been charged with developing indicators (vital signs) and monitoring plans to assess park health. The network includes 16 parks in four states, presenting both ecological and logistical difficulties for the development of reliable, useful, and efficient monitoring programs. The NCPN will use a Delphi process to efficiently to gather and synthesize input from geographically dispersed experts on possible monitoring indicators. This project will use an electronic version of the Delphi process to gather information during three rounds of surveying. The first round will be used to poll scientists and managers about potential vital signs. Respondents may nominate species for monitoring, but will also be asked specifically to suggest ecological processes or functions that should be monitored. The second round will be used to prioritize the recommendations from the first round, probably according to ecotype. The third round may be used to do a final prioritization and will be used to elicit information about potential monitoring protocols for high priority indicators.
Outcomes with completion dates: Final Report and Databases, September 30, 2002
Keywords: Northern Colorado Plateau Network, vital signs monitoring, Delphi Process, Inventory and Monitoring
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