

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Monitoring assistance for the Upper Columbia Basin Network, including protocol design, database development, and field testing of protocols

Discipline: Natural Resources

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Idaho

Effective Dates: 9/1/2007 - 8/1/2013

Funding Amount: \$179,500 [added \$145,500 in FY08]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The goal of this project is to provide technical assistance in all phases of the development of monitoring protocols for the Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN). Examples of technical assistance include development of appropriate sampling designs, power analysis, data management for priority vital signs, and communication products that explain the protocol development process. The thirteen vital signs selected for monitoring in UCBN parks include: invasive/exotic plants, sagebrush-steppe vegetation, land cover and use, riparian vegetation communities, stream/river channel characteristics, surface water dynamics, water quality/macroinvertebrates, aspen, osprey, bat communities, limber pine, camas lily, and sage grouse.

The UCBN includes nine NPS units in the arid lands bio-geographic association: Big Hole National Battlefield in Montana; City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho; Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Idaho; John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Oregon; Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area in Washington; Nez Perce National Historical Park in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana; Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho, and Whitman Mission National Historic Site in Washington.

The UCBN Annual Administrative Report and Work Plan (AARWP) will serve as the annual work plan for this project. Other specific tasks to be accomplished by the UI will be designated in the UCBN work plan and provided to the PI by October each year. The final version of the AARWP will be approved by the PI, in consultation with the NPS by January 31 each year. Individual tasks will include a timeline for completion and will state who will accomplish each task. If a report is to be generated as part of the accomplishment then this will be designated in the AARWP. All tasks are directly related to accomplishments necessary for completion of the protocol development. The UI will produce an annual report that describes the annual accomplishments and tasks funded by this Task Agreement. This report will be due on September 1st each year.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due at the end of each Fiscal Year: annual reports and Access database development for UCBN vital signs, communication products for UCBN vital signs, development of protocols for UCBN vital signs

Keywords: Inventory and monitoring, protocols, vital signs, Upper Columbia Basin Network, University of Idaho