

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Scenario Building Sessions for the Strategic Sciences Working Group on Mississippi Canyon 252/Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Idaho
Effective Dates: 8/10/2010 - 12/31/2011
Funding Amount: \$91,802

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Department of the Interior (DOI) has established a Strategic Sciences Working Group (SSWG) in response to the Mississippi Canyon 252/Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The SSWG is tasked with developing a science-based analyses of how the oil spill may impact the ecology, economy, and people of the Gulf of Mexico. The Working Group reports to Dr. Marcia McNutt, Director, US Geological Survey and is led by Dr. Gary Machlis, Science Advisor to the Director, National Park Service, and Professor of Conservation, University of Idaho. An initial scenario-building session was conducted 24-28 May 2010 in Mobile, AL, and a progress report was delivered to the DOI 7 June 2010.

Specific work includes coordination and management of two additional scenario-building sessions by the SSWG, using the previously developed methodology, during CY2010-11. Tasks include: a) selecting and training the interdisciplinary team of approximately 15 federal and nonfederal scientists, b) arranging and conducting two scenario sessions, each approximately 5 days in length, c) preparing and delivering progress reports after each scenario session and a technical report at the conclusion of the work, d) providing briefings to DOI leadership and others as requested, e) supervising graduate students and other staff supporting the SSWG, and f) additional activities related to the SSWG as assigned by USGS Director McNutt and/or NPS Director Jarvis.

Deliverables and due dates include: a) two completed scenario-building sessions of the SSWG, with the first to be completed in New Orleans, LA no later than 1 October 2010, b) two progress reports, due 15 November 2010 and 15 January 2011, c) a final technical report due 15 March 2011, to be peer reviewed following USGS procedures, d) briefing packets of key material and presentations for each brief requested by DOI leadership, and e) a brief final report summarizing the project, due 15 May 2011.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: May 15, 2011

List of Products: a) two completed scenario-building sessions of the SSWG, with the first to be completed in New Orleans, LA no later than 1 October 2010, b) two progress reports, due 15 November 2010 and 15 January 2011, c) a final technical report due 15 March 2011, to be peer reviewed following USGS procedures, d) briefing packets of key material and presentations for each brief requested by DOI leadership, and e) a brief final report summarizing the project, due 15 May 2011.

Keywords: Department of the Interior (DOI Strategic Sciences Working Group (SSWG), Mississippi Canyon 252/Deepwater Horizon oil spill, science-based analyses, impacts ecology, economy, and people of the Gulf of Mexico, National Park Service, University of Idaho