

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** DOI Greenhouse Gas Commuter Transportation Survey

**Discipline:** Social Science

**Type of Project:** Research

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Idaho

**Effective Dates:** 11/15/2010 - 9/30/2011

**Funding Amount:** \$98,626.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** On October 5, 2009, the President signed Executive Order (EO) 13514 - *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*. The goal of EO 13514 is "to establish an integrated strategy towards sustainability in the Federal Government and to make reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) a priority for Federal agencies." Towards meeting that goal, federal agencies are required to meet a series of deadlines critical to achieving the GHG reduction goals of the EO, including by 31 January 2011 a comprehensive GHG inventory is due from each of the agencies to the CEQ Chair and OMB Director.

The Department of the Interior (Department) maintains data for most of its activities that must be reported as part of the GHG inventory. However, in order to establish GHG emissions due to employee commuting, the Department must conduct a survey of all its employees in order to determine their commuting habits. The Department requires survey expertise to provide assistance with the design, administration and data analysis of a commuter survey, which is critical for the Department's GHG Inventory for EO 13514 requirements. The results of the survey will form the baseline and analytical reference point for future GHG reduction strategies.

The Principal Investigator, with the substantial involvement of the NPS Team Leader and Department Officials, shall perform the following tasks:

Task 1: In consultation with the NPS Team Leader and ATR, the PI shall finalize commuter survey questions and survey design (the Final Survey Instrument). Draft questionnaire is already available with questions that should fulfill the EO requirements. The Department seeks input on whether existing questions will gather the information required for the GHG inventory.

Task 2: In consultation with the NPS Team Leader and ATR, develop a survey administration and analysis plan. The plan shall include details on how the survey will be distributed, how responses will be received and tracked, and how data will be compiled and reported.

Task 3: Administer the survey. Survey will be administered online, using a DOI email data base, with three reminder follow-ups to non-respondents. The survey shall be administered to all departmental full-time, permanent employees. Part-time, temporary, and contract employees are not to be included.

Task 4: In consultation with the NPS Team Leader and ATR, produce a final report of survey results.

Report will include:

1. survey methods employed;
2. descriptive results for all questions;
3. commuter data sufficient for the federally required carbon footprint calculations, including frequency, distance, and mode of travel,
4. breakdown of data by the Department's bureaus and offices, and
5. recommendations for future GHG reductions.

Commuter data must be broken down by the Department's bureaus and offices. The substantial involvement of the NPS Team Leader and ATR will include: consultation on the design and

implementation of the approach taken and review of research products, participation in the study design and review of reports, and incorporation of results into planning efforts. The Cooperator shall consult with the NPS Team Leader and ATR, and the DOI Technical Representative concerning the content and format of all analyses.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

- Task 1: Final Survey instrument shall be delivered to the NPS Team Leader and ATR no later than November 1, 2010
- Task 2: Final Survey Administration and Analysis Plan shall be delivered to the NPS Team Leader and ATR no later than November 8, 2010
- Task 3. Survey will be fully administered by December 8, 2010.
- Task 4: Final Survey Results Report shall be delivered to the NPS Team Leader and ATR no later than January 7, 2010

**Keywords:** survey design, questionnaire, transportation, green house gases, sustainability, University of Idaho