

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Program Support for Rocky Mountains I&M Network and for RM-CESU Activities

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 9/1/2004 - 9/30/2010
Funding Amount: \$345,560

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The Inventory & Monitoring program for the Rocky Mountain I&M Network (ROMN - Glacier NP, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Rocky Mountains NP, Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Great Sand Dunes NM&P) is designing a Vital Signs ecological monitoring program for network parks. ROMN will work with staff at the University of Montana and other RM-CESU partners to do the planning and data gathering and analysis needed to design the program. The NPS PRIMENet program of UV and air quality monitoring is synthesizing final reports and data analysis for presentation on the web and in final reports. The Rocky Mountain cluster of parks is supported by the RM-CESU and therefore, some of these tasks will provide technical assistance and education to these parks. University of Montana cooperators will work with NPS staff to design and carry out these small projects.

Specific Activities for the development of the ROMN Vital Signs Monitoring Plan:

- The University of Montana will help provide conference, meeting rooms and materials for Vital Signs Program activities and workshops. The NPS will plan activities associated with these workshops and coordinate the scheduling of facilities with the University of Montana.
- The University of Montana will help provide faculty experts and researchers to participate in peer review of plans and products of the Inventory and Monitoring Program and to participate in scoping workshops designed to identify important 'Vital' attributes for monitoring the parks natural resources. The NPS will distribute plans and products for review and arrange for faculty experts and researchers to participate in the planning workshops.

The University of Montana and other RM-CESU partners will provide student, faculty and research associates to assist with the following tasks:

- Conduct vital signs workshops
- Conduct data compilation, synthesis and reviews for I&M and PRIMENet
- *Provide support for projects in PRIMENet parks, including Glacier and Rocky Mountain
- Assist with design of monitoring protocols
- Conduct literature searches and synthesis
- Assist with ecosystem modeling
- *Provide web design services
- *Assist with meeting logistics and invited travel
- * With Dr. Loren Bahls, UM, conduct a study of diatom taxonomy in streams of Glacier NP.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

List of Products: Due by September 30, 2010:

- reports on vital signs planning efforts, includes literature synthesis and conceptual models
- facilitation and reports for special topic workshops
- synthesis reports and web site maintenance for PRIMENet

-outreach activities to parks

Keywords: Inventory & Monitoring Program, Vital Signs Program, Rocky Mountain I&M Network, Rocky Mountains CESU, PRIMENet, workshops, RM cluster parks, Glacier NP, diatom project, University of Montana