

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: International Training Seminar for Protected Areas Stewardship, revised
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 9/15/2004 - 8/1/2009
Funding Amount: \$50,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The National Park Service (NPS) currently manages a number of World Heritage Sites (WHS) and, as one of the oldest protected area management agencies in the world, provides leadership in managing visitors and tourism in such sites. It has the global recognition and prominence to convene a workshop to build site manager technical proficiencies. This task is a significant challenge for there are more than 850 sites inscribed, with about 190 identified as natural. The proposed workshop would address two fundamental goals: (1) develop WHS managerial capacity to address management of tourism and visitors; and (2) identify capacity building needs in which the NPS could provide leadership.

The Workshop would occur during a five day period in late May 2008. It would be convened by The University of Montana in cooperation with the NPS. The venue would be Yellowstone National Park, a US administered WHS, and a location away from distractions and appropriate to examine on-site visitor and tourism management issues and approaches. The Workshop will examine alternative models of visitor and tourism management, applying the knowledge and experience of both NPS personnel and foreign WHS site managers. Indoor sessions would involve paired presentations by NPS and foreign WHS site managers, facilitated discussions led by university faculty dealing with the state of knowledge concerning visitor management, and appropriate field trips to examine in-place visitor management approaches.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Report of the workshop, due by the end of 2008.

Keywords: protected areas stewardship, National Park Service, Office of International Affairs, World Heritage Sites, workshop, Yellowstone NP