

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Assessment of Natural Resources and Watershed Conditions for Glacier National Park

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

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

**Effective Dates:** 9/15/2006- 9/15/2009

**Funding Amount:** \$120,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** This project will be a collaboration between the National Park Service (NPS) and University of Montana to perform an ecological assessment of natural resource conditions in and adjacent to Glacier National Park, Montana. The assessment will be conducted in the context of established watershed and/or ecological assessment frameworks, at appropriate scales of analysis. Some analyses (e.g. threats/stressors; current conditions) will likely be conducted at broader watershed or landscape scales that encompass areas extending beyond the park's boundaries in order to establish the ecological and social context for park resources. However, the purpose of the assessment is to understand and report on the condition of resources for park-managed watersheds and habitats, not to reach judgments or report on conditions for areas outside park boundaries.

This task agreement includes the following tasks: (1) Develop a scientifically-credible assessment and analytical framework for assessing and reporting on the current condition of resources within each park, and identifying the principal near-term (~5-20 year) threats and stressors., and (2) Develop a list of products that will be most pertinent and useful for assessing conditions within each park and that can reasonably be developed given the financial and time constraints of the project, (3) perform the full synthesis and assessment.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Due by February 15, 2008

- 1) Workshop to refine project objectives; agree upon an initial outline for a scientifically credible and repeatable assessment and analytical framework; describe important park focal resources and ecological processes and/or assessment themes; identify park resource management issues or concerns; and, identify likely sources of data and information for use in the project; and, describe end products needed from the assessment,
- 2) Compilation of data and information sources, as identified through literature reviews and data mining exercises, deemed most relevant and useful to the project,
- 3) A finalized and mutually agreeable (to Principal Investigator and NPS) assessment and analytical framework for use in the project,
- 4) Meeting(s) to present preliminary findings to park managers and other scientific peer review experts, to obtain and incorporate their recommendations into final products,
- 5) A written report and Geographic Information System coverages that convey:
  - o Significant park resources/areas (i.e., where located, why significant);
  - o Current conditions for park resources/areas (i.e., condition status in terms of an initial set of reference conditions, identification of critical data and knowledge gaps, description of level of confidence for findings);
  - o Recommended strategies, data sets or analyses to further quantify reference conditions;
  - o Threat and Stressor impacts (i.e., discussion of existing and emerging resource management concerns), and

(6) All data (and metadata) used or generated by the project.

**Keywords:** watershed assessment, stressors, Glacier NP, NPS-Water Resources Division, The University of Montana

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: