

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Assess Economic Impact of Park Establishment and Wilderness Designation at Two Parks  
**Discipline:** Social science  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 9/1/2007-12/31/2009  
**Funding Amount:** \$94,188

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** This project will identify and assess the economic impact that the establishment and subsequent management decisions at two national park areas (Apostle Islands NL and Pictured Rocks NL) have had or will have on local and regional economies. Where possible, it will also quantify the economic contributions of various segments of visitors to the parks. It is timely due to the recent establishment of the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness and an ongoing (and soon-to-be-completed) General Management Plan at Apostle Islands, and the recent completion of a General Management Plan and a pending Wilderness Proposal at Pictured Rocks. Results will be used by park managers to engage stakeholders and build partnership support while making future decisions. The project objectives are to: 1) Assess the evolution of the local and regional economies since these national lakeshores (and in the case of Apostle Islands, since the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness) were created; 2) Analyze and model the specific ways in which these national park units are connected to and impact the contemporary economy (to a level more refined than the NPS MGM2 model), and 3) study whether there is empirical evidence that amenity-supported economic vitality is important in the evolving regional and local economies.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

- Interim reports due December 1, 2007 and May 1, 2008
- Final report draft due December 1, 2008
- Journal article and presentation at GWS meeting, 2009

**Keywords:** economic value, wilderness, MGM model, Apostle Islands NL, Pictured Rocks NL, University of Montana

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Date Annual Report Received:  
Date Final Report Received:  
Publications, etc. on file: