

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: National Park Service Migratory Species Workshop and Program Design

Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance

Discipline: Natural Resources

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 9/15/2008 - 12/31/2013

Funding Amount: \$147,128 total [\$50,000 added in FY09; \$30,000 added in FY11]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Elaine Leslie, NPS, Biological Resource Management Division, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525; 970-257-2135, Elaine_leslie@nps.gov

Investigator: Joel Berger, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula MT 59812; 406-243-5540; Joel.berger@mso.umt.edu

Project Abstract: The principal objective of this project is to develop a strategy designed to provide the National Park Service (NPS) with a long term approach to dealing with many of the issues facing migratory species. NPS needs a strategic approach to assessing the number of species and critical habitat and linkages for species that spend a short and long periods of time within the boundaries of our parks. NPS also needs to acknowledge that parks are major attractants for our visitors because these species are present. To develop this strategy, the NPS will work with UM to conduct a scientific workshop with a cadre of nationally recognized scientists-experts in the field of migratory species and their habitats. NPS and UM will identify national expertise and contacts for terrestrial, avian and freshwater and marine species and make invitations to a workshop once the date and location have been decided. Following the workshop, the UM researchers will compile the final papers and presentations and will assemble some of this information into outreach and education products. The co-conveners will recommend priority research projects based on the results of the workshop, and UM researchers will carry out the research, as funds permit.

Additional funds were added in FY09 to include park specific projects for research on connectivity and migration.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Reports due: Phase I: April 30, 2009; Phase II: December 31, 2010; Phase III: December 31, 2013

Keywords: Migratory species, climate change, expert workshop, NPS-BRMD, University of Montana, Division of Biological Sciences