

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: RM-CESU Research Report Data Management and Tracking

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 9/1/2010 - 12/30/2013
Funding Amount: \$6,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Each year, the Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU) coordinates scores of task agreements for research, technical assistance, and education for national parks, forests, and other land/resource management agencies in the Rocky Mountain states. The RM-CESU, as well as the benefitting agency/unit, should receive final technical reports for each project completed under an agreement, but tracking individual reports for the large volume of agreements has become problematic.

In addition, a new initiative encouraging climate-change related scientific research has been issued by the Department of the Interior. Many research projects under RM-CESU agreements have recovered data or materials (such as samples) that contain high potential for climate-change related research, particularly for paleo-climates/environments. The best place to identify this potential is in final technical reports for project agreements.

The two objectives of this project are: to ensure that the RM-CESU has all the technical research reports associated with its climate change task agreements between 2005-2010 inclusive; and to evaluate the number of projects with results that can be re-visited for climate-change research, technical assistance and education results. This would include both Natural and Cultural topics, and projects related to facilities management and greenhouse gas reductions. A student intern will perform the following tasks:

1. assess the status of final technical reports for 2005-2010 (inclusive) using a spreadsheet database and other documents provided by the RM-CESU.
2. update the database, determine which reports are missing, and make one attempt via phone or e-mail to acquire each missing report.
3. provide RM-CESU with a copy of each missing report in electronic form,
4. identify reports that do not have 'briefs' or summary information and write the needed briefs,
5. author a technical report summarizing in narrative form the results of the project, and
6. work with the RM-CESU Technical Contact to determine a short list of criteria for projects that have potential for future climate-change-related research, as well as develop a searchable database of these projects.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: 20 December 2012

1. Technical report containing
 - a. Short narrative of tasks performed
 - b. status for all final technical reports under RM-CESU task agreements covering years 2005-2010, inclusive;
 - c. listing of missing reports and brief description of efforts to acquire them.
 - d. An appendix containing research briefs for technical reports that do not currently have completion summaries with the RM-CESU
2. Updated database of final reports and other products (provided by RM-CESU); electronic form
3. Electronic copies of needed reports
4. A searchable spreadsheet of agreements that contain data potentially useful for climate change related research (in spreadsheet format; criteria TBD between technical contact and student intern performing the work)

Keywords: RM-CESU task agreements, final reports, related climate change research, National Park System, University of Montana

