

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
Project Summary**

**Project Title: Economic Values of National Park System Resources Along the Colorado River - Phase III Data Collection and Analysis - Passive Use Values**

**Discipline:** Social science  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 8/8/2012 - 12/31/2016  
**Funding Amount:** \$354,025 {FY15: 45,342; FY12: \$308,683}

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The National Park Service (NPS) requires an evaluation of the economic values of National Park System resources along the Colorado River. These resources contribute substantial benefits to local economies in the form of business output, jobs, and tax revenues resulting from recreational visitation. These resources also provide other significant values including the consumer surplus individuals derive from visitation and non-use values held by the public. NPS manages a number of units along the Colorado River and is responsible for providing many of these benefits. This Statement of Work describes the passive use data collection stage of Phase III of a project that will estimate the economic values of National Park System resources along the Colorado River.

**Phase III:** Conduct original research to fill the data gaps identified in Phase II. Original research would include the development of appropriate economic models, collection and analysis of required survey data, and estimation of economic values. Together with the synthesis of existing literature and data from Phase II, this original research would be used to prepare the analysis of alternative operating scenarios and water levels in Phase IV. The first stage of this Phase involves study design and information collection review only. The second part of the information collection and review involves the development of a second round of study design and information collection review for final surveys following pre-tests and pilot tests.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** December 31, 2016

**Keywords:** economic value, natural resources, water resources, Colorado River, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Grand Canyon NP, Lake Mead NRA, Glen Canyon NRA, Bureau of Reclamation, NPS Environmental Quality Division, University of Montana