

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Native American Student Perspectives of RMNP (Education)

Type of Project: Education
Discipline: Cultural
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Northern Colorado
Effective Dates: September 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012
Funding Amount: \$5000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Karen S. Barton, Ph.D., Geography Department and Center for Engaged Research and Civic Action, University of Northern Colorado, Candelaria 2200, Box 115, Greeley, CO 80639; (970) 351-4620, karen.barton@unco.edu

Project Abstract: Dr. Barton and NASS Director Solomon Little Owl plan to bring members of UNC's Native American student population to RMNP for 1-2 days in Fall 2011 and visit various park sites. This visit will then be followed by a focus group with NASS students in order to discuss the obstacles and challenges to park visitation facing millennial-aged NASS students at UNC. A graduate student at NASS will be employed to help assist with the creation of digital materials, and resulting videos and text will be made available via the UNC website and linked to RMNP where possible. Dr. Barton will interact with park staff to ensure products meet NPS standards and guidelines. The goal of the project is to gauge Native American student perspectives and experiences of RMNP in order to increase this population's visitation and participation in citizen science programs between UNC-RMNP. The project comes on the heels of Colorado PBS's initiating a video documentary project with NASS Director Solomon Little Owl beginning in June 2011. Dr. Barton and Solomon Little Owl intend to feature the UNC Native American student visit to RMNP as a portion of the PBS documentary. ROMO staff will also work closely with the UNC Center for Engaged Research & Civic Action to explore possible overlaps in existing materials and opportunities for joint development on related projects.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 30, 2012

Keywords: Native American students, Native American perspective, education materials, Rocky Mountain National, University of Northern Colorado