

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Support of Ecological Applications for Land Managers
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service, RM CESU
Effective Dates: June 15, 2002 - December 30, 2002
Funding Amount: \$2875
Investigators and Agency Representative: UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Mark Brunson, Utah State University, 435-797-2458, brunsonm@cnr.usu.edu NPS CONTACT: Ben Bobowski, Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS, 406-846-3470, ben_bobowski@nps.gov
Project Abstract: Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) are two of 20+ National Park Service units that are legislated to provide for the grazing of domestic livestock. This management issue has spawned a unique partnership between the NPS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) where resources and expertise are shared to resolve issues on-the-ground. The BLM administers grazing permits on Glen Canyon NRA and is now required to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) on each of the NRA's 30 active allotments as term permits expire. The window of opportunity to have substantial input into decisions/plans for any given allotment occurs approximately every 10+ years under this new BLM policy. Once an EA process has been completed, the probability of changing management on the evaluated allotment is greatly diminished for at least a decade. This problem has justified this course and internship program since 1999. Over the years however, the program has expanded into other states with similar problems. To address resource concerns the cooperators will support a field course and host interns during the summer of 2002. The course titled "Ecological Applications for Land Managers" is a part of the Forest Resources Department of Utah State University. This course will bring together a diverse group of federal and private professional staff, faculty, students and interested publics to address resource management issues. While completing needed projects on-the-ground, the students, professionals and public will work together to learn about the complexities of resource issues and how to manage them. The products of the course will be to gather baseline information on the water quality, riparian and upland health of the rangelands. In addition, the students will complete an archeological survey and present their thoughts on how the resources could be managed to address the identified resources problems. Their thoughts will be used to generate (in part) a land management plan and feed information into the aforementioned NEPA process. Internships will vary with greater than 7 disciplines of resource management participating. Each intern will prepare a final report/presentation of their summer project for peer and instructor review and integration.
Outcomes with completion dates: Course final report (December 30, 2002)
Keywords: Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, grazing, land management training, Bureau of Land Management
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