

# FINAL PROJECT REPORT

## Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H1200040001; J2119080103; USU-RM-51  
USU Control Number: 08-0753

**TITLE OF PROJECT:** Vital Signs Communication

**NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT:** Rocky Mountain I&M Network

**NAME OF UNIVERSITY PARTNER:** Utah State University

**NPS KEY OFFICIAL:** Mike Britten, Rocky Mountain I&M Network, 1201 Oak Ridge Dr., Suite 201, Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-267-2150, mike\_britten@nps.gov

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** Ben Baldwin, Utah State University, EnvS Dept., 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5215, 435-797-2582, ben.baldwin@usu.edu

**RESEARCHER:** Emily Yost, 610-360-9152, esyost@gmail.com

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS:**

**Date of Project Initiation:** February 1, 2008

**Final products include, but are not limited to:**

Professionally edited and designed communication products related to Rocky Mountain I&M Network (ROMN) vital signs:

1. Network newsletters (6, one per network park), approved by network staff
2. Developed and produced (5) long-term monitoring project summaries, approved by network staff
3. Future network newsletter prototype template (including research)
4. Final report of work

**End Date of Project:** February 1, 2009

### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This project supported communicating the results of ROMN efforts by providing outreach products to inform National Park Service (NPS) staff and the public about the activities of the vital signs program in the six parks that compose the network (Rocky Mountain and Glacier national parks, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Florissant Fossil Beds and Little Bighorn Battlefield national monuments, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site). The audience includes network park, regional, and Washington NPS staff; park partners and stakeholders; and interested members of the public

Emily Yost, research assistant, worked with network staff to develop products that met the needs of the network and its audiences. Emily edited newsletter text supplied by network staff, adjusted the layout based on network feedback, and supplied PDFs of the newsletter (one for each of the six network parks) for distribution. Emily also surveyed existing newsletters from

other networks and related research learning centers and supplied her findings to the network. She also created a newsletter template prototype of these findings and submitted it to the principal investigator.

Emily also developed long-term monitoring project summaries to communicate the results and status of network vital signs activities to its audiences. Emily created a format that met the needs of ROMN, but is similar to other networks' products and would be familiar to NPS managers and staff new to the ROMN that may be familiar with products from other NPS networks. Emily developed a prototype (including layout and content) and modified it based on network feedback. She edited text written by network staff, incorporated staff feedback, and drafted original text. Emily completed and supplied PDFs of long-term monitoring project summaries for:

1. Alpine vegetation composition, structure, and soils
2. Stream ecological integrity
3. Snow chemistry
4. Vegetation composition, structure, and soils
5. Wetland ecological integrity

#### FINAL PRODUCTS:

Product CDs, including all text files, Adobe InDesign files, and PDFs were supplied to Mike Britten (ROMN), Kathy Tonnessen (RM-CESU NPS Research Coordinator), and Mark Brunson and Ben Baldwin (Utah State University).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to create communication products that are consistent with other networks, particularly for those with similar titles. As NPS personnel move between sites and become more familiar with these products, the similarity may help facilitate managers' transitions to new resources, issues, and network activities.
2. Continue to solicit feedback from network audiences about the effectiveness and usefulness of products, level of detail in information presented, and if information needs are being met. Adjust products as necessary. I think the maximum length for the newsletter should continue to be four pages and the length for *briefing* products (one or two pages) is also appropriate.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COPIES OF REPORT OR PRODUCTS,

##### CONTACT:

*NPS Key Official:* Mike Britten, Rocky Mountain I&M Network, 1201 Oak Ridge Dr., Suite 201, Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-267-2150, mike\_britten@nps.gov

*Principal Investigator:* Ben Baldwin, Utah State University, EnvS Dept., 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT, 84322-5215, 435-797-2582, ben.baldwin@usu.edu

*Researcher:* Emily Yost, 610-360-9152, esyost@gmail.com