

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Science Communication Assistance

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Utah State University
Effective Dates: September 1, 2008 - November 30, 2010
Funding Amount: \$92,500 (FY08: \$62,500; FY09: \$30,000)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Yellowstone National Park has a Science Communications Office that works to keep managers, researchers, and the public informed about the results of research taking place in the park. The three park units of the Greater Yellowstone Inventory and Monitoring Network (GRYN; Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area) have joined to create a Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center that is currently focused on science communication for each unit using one website, and YELL currently manages the bulk of the workload for maintaining it. The Southern Plains Network (SOPN) has 11 NPS units working to disseminate science information through one website, the Learning Center of the American Southwest, which is still in development and in need of content from the parks. GRYN also needs assistance with layout of reports into the Natural Resource Technical Report series. Through this Task Agreement, YELL, SOPN, and GRYN seek to work cooperatively in this effort with Utah State University because of a record of high quality natural resource communication efforts by USU faculty and staff concerning these and other national parks.

In conjunction with YELL, SOPN, GRYN, and other NPS staff, Utah State University Research Associate, Emily Yost, will edit, write, and/or professionally design and lay out science communication products including: Research Learning Center content, annual and other reports, quarterly magazines, and other documents.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final products will be in the form of agreed-upon science communication tools for Yellowstone's Science Communications Office, SOPN, and GRYN.

Keywords: Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center, Southern Plains I&M Network, Greater Yellowstone I&M Network, Learning Center of American Southwest, Utah State University, science writing, editorial services, communication planning