

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Preparation of a Natural Resource Condition Assessment Report for Three Intermountain Region Parks

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Utah State University
Effective Date: 8/15/2011 - 6/30/2013
Funding Amount: \$32,962

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Abstract: Global climate change is best thought about at scales larger than individual protected areas (e.g., park units) in order to inform decisions towards the protection of species. This effort will evaluate an existing list of species shared between the Monteverde region of Costa Rica and Rocky Mountain National Park to determine ecological connections. It is currently estimated that the two areas share more than 150 species and that likely migration corridors between the two locations can be identified. It is also hypothesized that portions of migrations corridors may respond to climate change differently affecting plant phenology and consequently affecting migration patterns across a landscape. This project will document foundational information towards a better understanding of these ecological relationships. Products will be produced in both English and Spanish to assist with communication and future collaboration with Costa Rica partners.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: June 30, 2011

The partner shall, in conjunction with SOPN and NPS park staff, assemble the data and information for resources from each of the three parks (LIBI, SAND, and WABA) into three well written reports following the general organization from Natural Resources Condition Assessment (NRCA) guidelines.

Each report will include the following chapters:

1. NRCA Background Information (largely boiler plate language)
2. Introduction and Resource Setting (based on SOPN and ROMN Monitoring Plans)
3. Study Scoping and Design (summarizing approach taken for these reports)
4. Natural Resource Condition
5. Resource Summaries

Keywords: Utah State University, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, Sand Creek Massacre NHS, Washita Battlefield NHS, science-based information, Natural Resource Condition Assessment Report