

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Impact Assessment of Natural and Cultural Resource (NCR) Recovery Support Function (RSF) under the National Disaster Recovery Framework

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Utah
Student Involvement: yes, graduate student
Effective Dates: 9/1/2016 - 3/31/2018
Funding Amount: \$30,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Thomas E. Fish, National Coordinator, National Park Service, CESU Network
National Office; 202.354.1825 | 202.302.9482 (mobile); Tom_Fish@nps.gov

Investigator: Divya Chandrasekhar, Assistant Professor, City and Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah; (801) 585-7102; D.Chandrasekhar@utah.edu

Project Abstract: Management and stewardship of the Nation's lands, waters, and public trust resources requires skillful public service supported by sound science. The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network is a national consortium of federal agencies, tribes, academic institutions, state and local governments, nongovernmental conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support informed public trust natural and cultural heritage resource stewardship. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is the coordinating agency for the Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery Support Function (RSF) under the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). The DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), as the lead for the Department, has coordinated with DOI bureaus and NCR RSF major and supporting agencies to deploy many staff to the disaster areas to provide technical assistance to help affected states, tribes, and local communities recover natural and cultural resources impacted by wildfires in TX, Hurricane Isaac in LA, Superstorm Sandy in NY, NJ, and CT, floods in CO, floods in NM Santa Clara Pueblo, and mudslides in WA.

OEPC had teamed with the National Park Service to support this project to conduct and assessment of the NCR RSF activities in terms of impacts to natural and cultural resources recovery and affected economies after recent major disasters. The resulting information from the assessment will aid OEPC and its federal and nonfederal partners better understand the impact and success of NCR RSF recovery efforts led by the Department and FEMA, characterize the Department's leadership role in protecting the nation's natural and cultural resources and the environment, and provide valuable case studies to inform planning and improve the performance of future disaster recovery operations under the NCR RSF and other allied efforts at multiple scales.

Keywords: impact assessment, Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR, Recovery Support Function (RSF), National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), National Park Service, University of Utah