# Project Summary Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Greater Yellowstone Inventory & Monitoring Network (GRYN): Phase 2

Report Collaboration

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service

Effective Dates: February 15, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Funding Amount: \$10,350

### **Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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# **Project Abstract:**

The purpose of this project is to provide critical expertise and assistance to Dr. Glenn Plumb with the development and preparation of Chapter III of the Phase 2 GRYN Vital Signs Monitoring Plan. Chapter III is entitled "Conceptual Models" and is intended to explain the understanding of drivers, stressors and ecological effects of selected resource components of the GRYN parks and will provide a basis for identification and selection of appropriate ecological indicators for GRYN park health and integrity. Dr. Dan Tinker is an acknowledged expert in Greater Yellowstone Area forest ecosystem structure and function and will contribute sections to Chapter 3 on coniferous and deciduous forest ecotypes.

## **Outcomes with completion dates:**

Conceptual models as assigned - April 5, 2003

- Park overview & general conceptual models Bighorn Canyon NRA
- Narrative overview drivers, stressors, function, structure, etc., General schematic model of park, Table of relevant temporal & spatial scales, Map of HUC 6 watershed aggregates, Table of relevant primary ecosystems
- Ecosystem overview and conceptual models Forest
- Overview of forest types, drivers, stressors, function, structure, Relevant forest spatial and temporal scales, General forest schematic conceptual model, Forest ecosystem types
- Lodgepole Pine, Douglas Fir, Spruce Fir, Whitebark Pine, Ponderosa Pine
- Ecosystem variability across HUC units, forest schematic conceptual model,
   Table of ecological elements across HUC aggregates

List of candidate vital signs - May 2, 2003

- Dr. Tinker will travel to Bozeman, MT and participate in a multi-day workshop @ Montana State University to participate in a group setting to identify and select ecological indicators and vital signs for GRYN parks. Chapter 3 Report May 15, 2003
- Dr. Tinker will ensure that ecosystem models and narrative contributions are submitted on schedule and will respond to editorial comment as Dr. Plumb compiles the multi-authored Chapter 3 Report.

**Keywords:** Greater Yellowstone Network; coniferous and deciduous forest ecotypes; inventory and monitoring; vital signs; ecological indicators; conceptual models

#### For Administrative use only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: