

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Climate Summary Reports for the Greater Yellowstone Network Inventory and Monitoring Program

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming

Effective Dates: September 1, 2008- October 30, 2010

Funding Amount: \$7,789

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The primary objective of this project is to 1) prepare annual climate summary reports for the Greater Yellowstone Network which includes Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The climate summary report is a product that offers a narrative summary of recent network-wide climate conditions with mention of any notable extreme events at both a park and regional levels. The report would include reviews of recent conditions focused on key indicators of climate (precipitation, temperature, snowpack and streamflow etc.) and would address seasonal forecasts or outlooks. This project is tiered to a NPS I&M (NPCLIME) project that seeks to identify and articulate ways to link climate information to ecological processes and patterns at local to regional scales. The content of the annual climate summary reports will be informed by recommendations in the Framework for Linking Climate, Resource Inventories, and Ecosystem Monitoring report (Gray 2007) and further recommendations discovered through NPCLIME project. While the primary objective of the task agreement is to report on climate data for the GRYN parks, the report will also serve as an example for other networks and regions planning to report on climate data. Working with the NPS climate program manager is expected to achieve certain efficiency through the coordinated development of general products that can be shared with other I&M networks and program.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: (1) Annual Climate Summary Reports for Greater Yellowstone Network parks (April 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010).

Keywords: University of Wyoming, Greater Yellowstone I&M network, climate