

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: UW-NPS Research Center Research Support, 2012-2013

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education/Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 5/15/2012 - 12/31/2016
Funding Amount: \$56,000[FY13: \$27,500; FY12: \$28,500]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This agreement covers components of work funded in 2012 and 2013:

Research program/grants - The UW-NPS Research Center has a cooperative research program, a shared funding initiative between the University of Wyoming and the National Park Service. Individual research projects are presented to the University of Wyoming in response to a request for proposals. Proposals are reviewed by a panel of University of Wyoming faculty as well as Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Park personnel. Projects are ranked and selected based on merit, contributions to science, and applicability to park and ecosystem needs. Final projects include individual Annual Investigator's Reports submitted to the NPS Research Permitting website, project reports in the UWNPS Research Center annual report series, potential talks in the UWNPS Summer Seminar series scheduled by the UWNPS Center Director, and presentations or publications in other forums such as scientific conferences and the biennial Grand Teton Resource Symposium co-sponsored by the NPS and the UWNPS Research Center and hosted at the research center.

Student interns - Grand Teton NP and the research center also cooperate, as outlined in their 2010 General Agreement, to sponsor two student interns, housed at the UW-NPS AMK Ranch campus. Each signator provides \$2500 in support for the student interns; the NPS share is obligated through this agreement. Students will work 8-10 weeks during the summer season. The UW-NPS Research Center will administer payment, according to their usual means and schedule, to the students. The NPS will identify the needed summer tasks and recruit, with UWNPS assistance, for interns. The NPS will select the interns and provide general supervisory and technical oversight for the assignments. The NPS will determine the appropriate products to be completed by each intern, and advise the UWNPS regarding any problems with the interns' performance or products such as should affect payment. The UWNPS Center Director will provide on-site assistance and logistical support for the interns at the UWNPS campus, as agreed upon with the park liaison.

For 2012, the student intern projects are to: 1) add and/or update content of research and resource management project briefs to the Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center website; and 2) conduct research for determinations of National Register of Historic Places eligibility for backcountry trails and two other properties (Granite Canyon Patrol Cabin and Buffalo Fork Ranger Station) in Grand Teton NP.

For 2013, the student intern projects are to: 1) map and document water rights and associated ditches and diversions; and 2) evaluate lands in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr, Memorial Parkway for wilderness eligibility and help identify elements of wilderness character there and in Grand Teton National Park.

2012 Field school project - In a summer field school project, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design will send eleven students and two professors to Grand Teton National Park to construct a 'green roof prototype' at the historic Bar BC Dude Ranch. This is an experimental project to test how well new roofing material holds up under the environmental conditions found in northwestern Wyoming (and similarly harsh locales), and evaluate the technique's potential applicability for other historic log structures. The product(s) will be the green roofed building and a final report/paper on the project.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 15, 2016

Keywords: Grand Teton NP, University of Wyoming, small research grants, student interns, AMK Ranch