

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Geochemical Analyses of Borehole Cuttings From Yellowstone National Park

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Washington State University
Effective Dates: 8/1/2010 - 9/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$10,575

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Based upon a series of discussions with Yellowstone National Park's Geology Program, Washington State University's GeoAnalytical Laboratory will prepare and geochemically analyze irreplaceable cuttings from 7 borehole-strainmeter wells in Yellowstone National Park. The National Science Foundation EarthScope project provided one-time funding (~\$ 250,000 per borehole) for on-site personnel and the installation of down-hole equipment. From October 2007 through August 2008, YNP geologists sat the wells, catalogued samples at the Heritage Research Center, and collected cuttings. Geochemical analyses of these irreplaceable borehole cuttings will assist our understanding of Yellowstone's hydrothermal system as well as the reconstruction of Yellowstone's volcanic history, glacial history, and river history.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 30, 2011

Keywords: Washington State University, Yellowstone National Park, borehole cuttings, geochemical analyses