

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Coordination and Writing of Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Wyoming Basin

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: USGS
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 5/1/2013 - 4/30/2014
Funding Amount: \$61,121

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The PI at Colorado State University will provide coordination at writing of the Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) for the Wyoming Basin. There are two phases to the approach to the development of the Wyoming Basin REA. The first phase involves working with BLM staff, scientist, and other interested state and federal agencies, to develop lists of Management Questions, Conservations Elements, and Change Agents that are important to land use decisions with the region. Phase one also includes the development of conceptual models, identification and analytical approaches, preliminary screening of data sets, preliminary analyses, and development for the REA work plan. Phase two involves compilation of existing data, documentation of resources, and analyses of data sets to address management questions and complete the final REA.

To provide REAs assessments of ecological conditions, evaluations of risks from major drivers of ecosystem change, predictive capacities for evaluating future risks from drivers of change, baseline information for long-term monitoring of ecoregional conditions, and guidance for adaptive management and mitigation planning in response to climate change. Overall, REAs not only help to create and maintain effective partnerships among agencies, universities and other entities, they foster cross-breeding and sharing of expertise to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborate efforts to conserve and manage public lands and natural resources.

Outcomes with completions dates: April 30, 2014

Keywords: Rapid Ecological Assessment, Wyoming Basin, technical assistance, USGS, Colorado State University