

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary**

Task Agreement #:

Project Title: Aquatics program review, data analysis and reporting for Parks in the Southern Colorado Plateau Network

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Student Participation: no

Effective Dates: 01APR2021-01SEPT2022

Funding Amount: \$75,000.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency Contact:

Stacy Stumpf

Aquatic Ecologist, NPS

Stacy_Stumpf@nps.gov

928-556-7407

Investigator:

Jack Brookshire, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, MSU

(406) 994-3973

jbrookshire@montana.edu

Leon Johnson Hall 806

Project Abstract:

Project goals: Conduct long-term monitoring of water resources and investigate relationships between biotic community parameters, environmental variables and change (with several other ecosystem components, e.g., plants, soils, climate) to improve our understanding of trends in the overall biological health of parks in the Southern Colorado Plateau network.

Project objectives: Proposed work will: review existing water resources vital signs data and sampling design for effective long-term monitoring (aquatic insects, water chemistry, integrated riparian, springs); provide recommendations to improve aquatic monitoring program; conduct trend analysis of existing aquatic insect and water chemistry data and provide support to network staff in selecting appropriate riparian and spring sampling sites and methodologies.