

**RM-CESU Fall Executive Committee Meeting  
 October 6, 2006  
 AMK Ranch, Grand Teton National Park**

**Attendees:**

Keith Blatner, Washington State University  
 Christine Whitacre, National Park Service  
 Jeff Lucero, Bureau of Reclamation  
 Perry Brown, University of Montana, Chair  
 Lisa Gerloff, University of Montana  
 Ben Baldwin, Utah State University  
 Mark Brunson, Utah State University  
 Scott Davis, Bureau of Land Management  
 Terry Sharik, Utah State University  
 Adrian Leighton, Salish Kootenai College

Kathy Tonnessen, National Park Service  
 Alton Campbell, University of Idaho  
 Mike Quinn, University of Calgary  
 Rollin Abernethy, University of Wyoming  
 Hank Harlow, University of Wyoming  
 Fahriye Sancar, University of Colorado at Denver  
 Bob Brunswig, University of Northern Colorado  
 Dave Roberts, Montana State University

**Notes**

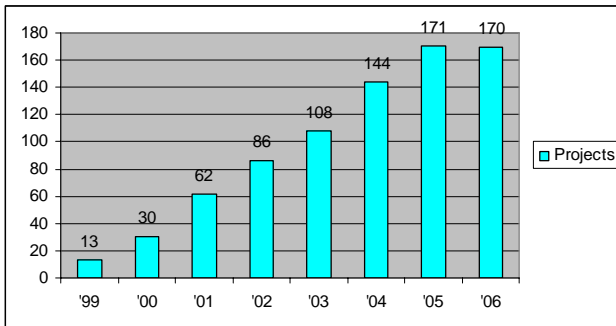
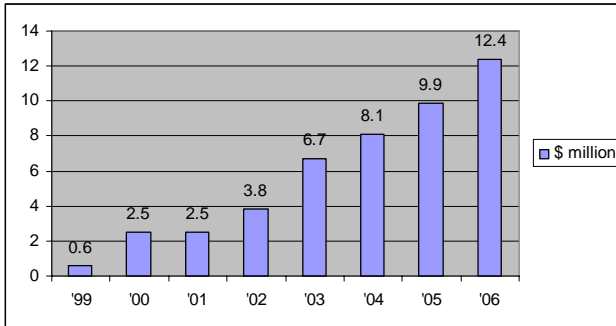
FY06 year-end report

RM-CESU Total Projects & Funds for FY2006 (Preliminary Reporting)

	RM-CESU	NPS	BLM	USFS	USGS	BOR	NRCS
<b>Project #s</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$12,383,400</b>	<b>7,502,073</b>	<b>2,705,030</b>	<b>1,132,560</b>	<b>572,859</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>470,878</b>

Red indicates numbers are not final.

**RM-CESU PROJECT ACTIVITY FY99-FY06**



### Update on CESU and Cooperative Agreements – Kathy Tonnessen

S1288--any implications for CESUs?

S. 1288 is based upon the Administration's proposal that was put forward by Interior and that S. 1288 passed the Senate and is now awaiting action in the House. H. R. 4294. The intent of both bills is to expand NPS cooperative agreement authority to allow NPS to use appropriated dollars outside park boundaries where there is a direct benefit to the natural resources inside the parks. It allows us to enter into CA's with willing private landowners as well. The NPS currently does not have authority to use appropriated dollars outside park boundaries for project activities on the ground. If the bills are passed it would allow NPS to be a real partner at the table on projects/ programs where we have not been able to participate.

The legislation does not address CESU authority but does authorize NPS activities outside park boundaries that could become incorporated as part of activities undertaken by CESUs.

DM-2 and the need for DOI agencies to compete CESU task agreements on grants.gov. Jean McKendry gave a presentation to the DOI working group. She did an overview of the formation of CESU as a competitive process. NPS expects to see a DOI Memo soon stating that task agreements do not have to be advertised on Grants.gov. Only new cooperative agreements will be advertised on Grants.gov (not sure how CESU renewals will work in the future – this will be discussed by the CESU Council).

Waiting on the DOI memo, in the meantime:

- NPS is business as usual.
- BLM, USGS, and BOR have been advertising of Grants.gov
- BOR concerned about the lack of legislative “authority” for the BOR to engage in cooperative agreements/CESU agreements. NPS has the “Thomas Bill” that specifically authorizes NPS to engage in CESUs.

BLM – up till now all RM-CESU projects with the BLM have gone through Lori Anderson, Contracting Officer with the Montana BLM office. Next year (FY07) each state will process the projects that occur in its state. Lisa Gerloff working with Lori and Scott Davis will find out the names of each state’s contracting officer in charge of CESU.

### Internships program - discussion and decision

Outline:

1. Ben Baldwin and Tehabi crew to design several internship options based on Tehabi as a model and on the needs and constraints of the CESU partners. Proposal to be short (2-3 pages)
2. Perry Brown will work with Ben Baldwin on the numbers.
3. Ben will circulate proposal to partners for feedback
4. Executive committee will review plan at the next meeting (date TBD) and move forward or drop CESU internship program.

Alton Campbell (UID) made the motion to move forward on CESU “added value” internship program. Second: Rollin Abernethy (UW). Motion passed unanimously.

Ben Baldwin will be contacting partners to find out their needs and constraints. Partners should identify a liaison for Ben to work with. The ideas being the liaisons will eventually make up the over-sight committee for the program.

University of Denver's request for consideration as a partner university

Univ. of Denver proposal to join the RM-CESU (see attached letter)

- RM-CESU has been inclusive of Fed & Univ partners and exclusive of other partners.
- Univ. of Denver is the first private University to approach RM-CESU; Other CESUs have private university partners (BYU is a member of the Great Basin CESU)
- Univ. of Denver partner could enhance cultural, social, and economic capabilities of the RM-CESU
- State/private university conflicts; DU may be direct competition with CU-Denver (similar program, same city)

Adrian Leighton (SKC) made the motion to ask DU to develop and submit a formal proposal for membership. Second: Terry Sharik (USU). Twelve of the 13 partners present voted to pass the motion; one abstained.

Announce/discuss the Glacier Fellowship with the partners

Jerry O'Neal National Park Service Student Fellowship will be administered through the RM-CESU. Graduate students or superior upper division undergraduate students (3.2 GPA or above) in fields applicable to understanding and management of Glacier National Park, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Historic Site. The fellowship is available to students at universities and colleges within the RM-CESU. Awards of \$2-5 K will be given as seed money for small projects. Special consideration will be given to proposals that address the following:

- 1) natural resource issues such as aquatic ecology, fire ecology, invasive plants, and other landscape processes
- 2) cultural and historic resource studies, including the integration of cultural and natural landscapes
- 3) social science that informs resource management about one of the natural or cultural topics listed above or that addresses visitor impacts to park resources

Timeline:

October 2006– call sent out

January 15, 2007 - proposals due

March 15, 2007 – announcement of awards

RM-CESU Student Award – Kathy Tonnessen

Recognition of students work completed through a CESU project (based on NPS internal award system). The award would be non-monetary plaque or statue and presented at one of the Managers Meetings, where the student would give a presentation on their work. It was suggested that the award program should be expanded to recognize good work whether it is to a researcher, a group, or a student. Christine, Terry, and Lisa will form a committee to put a proposal forth on an annual award.

Now that it looks like the NFS should be able to use the CESU agreement, should NFS be represented on the executive committee--discussion and decision?

National Forest Systems of the Forest Service is very different that the RMRS. It would be difficult for the RMRS to adequately represent the needs of the NFS. The partners agreed the

NFS should have a representative on the executive board. Perry Brown and Lisa Gerloff will work with the NFS to identify an appropriate representative.

### Other

Scott Davis---BLM's needs/process using applied science to mgt. decisions by involving outside providers, such as members of a CESU.

How science providers can address BLM management/ science needs -road map to bring investigative science to BLM--from initial problem identification to the decision & monitoring needs:

1. Problem identification
2. Frame a management issue, citing regulations, budget, how the problem can be solved, etc.
3. Identify the science questions being sure to ask and prioritize the questions correctly. No more just giving money to obtain some useful information. Must focus on BLM's needs and decision requirements.
4. Information gatherers bring together and organize the information. Provide access for sharing electronically.
5. Synthesize the information for common people to understand. (i.e. "Science News" weekly vs "Science" or "Nature" journals). Conduct quality control answering if it is the best available science, state of the art, etc. Answer how good is the information and what purpose was it collected?
6. Analyze options: Are they practicable? What are the success rates? Have they been tried before? Reference the Data Quality Act and NEPA.
7. Record of Decision, provide support
8. Monitoring. Identify the models, how the information was collected that was used in the model. See if any deviation was found. Then adjust or adapt with changing of practices. Re-evaluate the decision model. Indicators lead to good monitoring, one must know how, where, and at what frequency to measure—involves many programs and disciplines in the physical, biological and social sectors.

Why is the BIA not involved in the CESUs? Adrian Leighton pointed out that the tribal colleges may be better suited to contribute in CESU through BIA. Did BIA reject or not see benefits of the CESUs at start? Don't know. We will speak with Gary Machlis to find out the history.

University of Northern Colorado is planning a national conference on sustainability (climate change, water, growth, etc.). Stay tuned.

Next meeting:

NPS proposing a managers meeting on social science needs – could be a combined meeting with Great Basin, Colorado Plateau and Pacific Northwest. Mark Brunson suggested having meeting in conjunction with ISSRM (International Symposium on Society and Resource Management <http://www.issrm2007.org/>), which will take place June 17-21, 2007 in Park City, UT. Similar topic and may increase participation by managers. The following committee will explore this more. Committee: Kathy Tonnessen, Bob Brunswig, Perry Brown, Mark Brunson, and Dave Parsons

Possibility for Fall Meeting 2007 – International Peace Park Conference, Waterton, AB-September?

