Rocky Mountains CESU Managers Meeting  
Location: USGS Fort Collins Science Center, Main Conference Room  
October 1, 2013  

1:30 PM Welcome and Introductions – Jim Burchfield, RM-CESU Chair and Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana  

RM-CESU Student Award and Project Team Awards  

1:40 – 2:05 RM-CESU Project Team Award and Presentation: NPS Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network (Mike Britten, Billy Schweiger, Laura O’Gan and Donna Shorrock), Rocky Mountain National Park (Paul McLaughlin, Judy Visty – retired, and Ben Bobowski), and Colorado State University (David Cooper, Ed Gage, Katie Driver and Jennifer Jones), “Wetland Protocol Development – Pilot Work in Rocky Mountain NP and Wetland Ecological Integrity Data Analysis and Reporting”  


2:30 – 2:50 Break  

2:50 – 5:00 RM-CESU Managers Panel Session: Designing a Successful Natural Resource Monitoring Program  
Moderator: Kathy Tonnessen, NPS RM-CESU  
Federal resource management agencies are working to adopt more sustainable management practices. This need has led to a growing investment in monitoring systems for tracking conditions of our resources. Creating a monitoring program may seem easy, but it is not. Often monitoring activities are passive and do not lead to the changes needed to correct the problems they identify. Monitoring may become an end in itself and may be an expensive drain of public funds, especially if the data are not analyzed and results shared in a timely way.  

The purpose of this panel session is to share the design of successful monitoring programs that have direct relevance for the management of our resources. How does a successful monitoring program 1) fund itself; 2) collect credible data; 3) share that data with resource managers, the public and other stakeholders; and 4) measure progress in improving the condition of our natural resources?  

The panel will briefly outline their programs in Natural Resource monitoring, and comment on the success of those efforts, and “best practices”.  

Panel Includes:  
- Mike Britten, NPS, Rocky Mountain I&M Network  
- Peter A. Dratch, USFWS- Inventory and Monitoring Initiative  
- Cory Davis, University of Montana, USFS Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative  
- Robert Kimbrough, USGS, CO Water Science Center