



RM-CESU Fact Sheet

What is the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit?

A nationwide consortium of federal agencies, universities, conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support agency missions and informed public trust resource stewardship.

- Anthropology to Zoology
- coordinated, collaborative, applied
- natural and cultural resource issues
- multiple scales
- ecosystem context

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

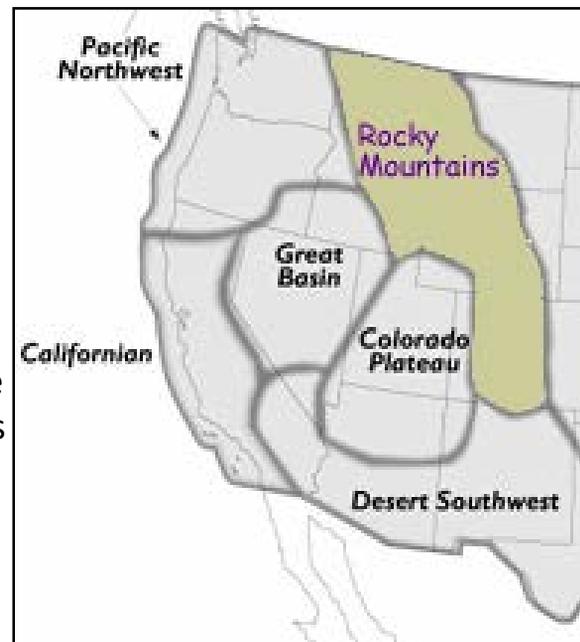
- One of the original four CESUs established in 1999; there are now 17 CESUs.
- Comprised of 10 Federal Agencies and 23 academic institutions and 3 NGOs; The University of Montana is the host
- Nationally recognized as the most active, successful CESU

What kind of projects does the RM-CESU do?

The RM-CESU develops interdisciplinary projects that address the cultural, social and natural resource issues of the Rocky Mountain region.

Some example project themes include:

- Understanding ecosystem and social change and impacts to cultural resources
- Improving university and agency interaction and collaboration
- Enhancing dialogue between and among scientists, scholars, and resource managers
- Understanding, addressing, and educating about the national importance of the legacy of the wild Rockies and wilderness
- Assisting with the training of effective resource managers and the education and training of future agency employees.



How do projects happen?

- Agency has need that is filled by university experts
- University researcher has an idea...finds agency partner
- RM-CESU Executive Committee initiates a project and works on it together
- Cooperative Agreement- involvement of all parties
- Negotiated indirect rate: 17.5% (reflects collaborative nature)

Non-Federal Partners

- **University of Montana (Host) 1999**
- **Montana State University 1999**
- **University of Idaho 1999**
- **Utah State University 1999**
- **Washington State University 1999**
- **Salish Kootenai College 1999**
- **University of Wyoming 2002**
- **University of Colorado Boulder 2002**
- **University of Colorado Denver 2002**
- **Colorado State University 2004**
- **University of Northern Colorado 2006**
- **University of Calgary 2007**
- **Metropolitan State University of Denver 2011**
- **Little Big Horn College 2012**
- **Northwest College 2013**
- **University of Utah 2013**
- **Blackfeet Community College 2014**
- **Chief Dull Knife College 2014**
- **University of Waterloo 2014**
- **Boise State University 2016**
- **Western State Colorado University 2016**
- **University of Denver 2017**
- **Front Range Community College 2017**
- **Center for Large Landscape Conservation 2019**
- **Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 2018**
- **Wildlife Conservation Society 2014**

Federal Partners

- **National Park Service 1999**
- **Bureau of Land Management 1999**
- **US Geological Survey 1999**
- **USDA Forest Service 1999**
- **Bureau of Reclamation 2004**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service 2004**
- **US Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works 2008**
- **Office of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) 2009**
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service 2009**
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs 2017**

www.cfc.umt.edu/CESU

Example Projects

Population Distribution of Snowshoe Hares in Yellowstone National Park. Snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*) are an important prey species for a number of forest carnivores, including the federally threatened Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), which is a specialist predator on hares.

Hares are also well known for their dramatic ten-year population cycles. When lynx were listed in 2000, it was unknown in Yellowstone National Park how many hares occurred and whether their populations cycled; there were scattered records of lynx through the 20th century. Park biologists worked with University of Montana's Scott Mills to determine how many hares were available to support lynx.



“Ranching Through Time” An exhibit titled “Ranching Through Time” was installed at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge, Montana. The display – which helps visitors understand the evolution of ranching in the American West and



the Ranch's role within that history – is the final product of a two-year RM-CESU agreement between Professor Bill Rea, School of Architecture, Montana State University, and Curator Chris Ford, Grant-Kohrs Ranch. Professor Rea used the project as a learning opportunity to guide MSU students through a real-life maze of, first, understanding their client's objectives, and then designing a product that met those needs.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Gerloff
Executive Coordinator, RM-CESU
406-243-6936
lisa.gerloff@umontana.edu

Brendan Moynahan
NPS Research Coordinator, RM-CESU
406-243-4449
brendan_moynahan@nps.gov