Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU)
What are CESUs?

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
CESU Network Objectives

- Provide usable knowledge to support informed decisions;
- Create and maintain effective collaborative partnerships among federal agencies, universities, and others to share resources and expertise;
- Take full advantage of university resources, while benefiting faculty and students;
- Encourage professional development of federal scientist, technical staff, and managers through substantial involvement in projects;
- Prepare future conservation professionals through direct involvement with real-life conservation issues and problem solving.
1999
- Four pilot CESUs established
- 7 Federal Agencies
- 30 universities

2018
- 17 CESUs
- 15 Federal Agencies
- < 400 Nonfederal Partners
- Since 1999, >10,000 projects involving over $1B (est.)
Rocky Mountains CESU

The mission of the Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit is to improve and disseminate the knowledge base for managing natural and cultural resources in the rapidly changing social, cultural, and environmental landscape of the Rocky Mountain Region, and to extend its expertise to national issues where appropriate.

Federal Partners

- National Park Service 1999
- Bureau of Land Management 1999
- US Geological Survey 1999
- US Forest Service 1999
- Bureau of Reclamation 2004
- Natural Resource Conservation Service 2004
- US Army core 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

Nonfederal Partners

- 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
- University of Utah 2012
- Northwest College 2012
- Blackfeet Community College 2014
- Chief Dull Knife College 2014
- University of Waterloo 2014
- Wildlife Conservation Society 2014
- Boise State University 2016
- Western State Colorado University 2016
- University of Denver 2017
- Front Range Community College 2017
- Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 2018
- Center for Large Landscape Conservation 2019
CESU Agreement: How do Projects Happen?

- Agency has need that is filled by university/NGO expert
- 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%
Success of RM-CESU:

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<td>Federal Partners</td>
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<td>Non-Federal Partners</td>
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<td>Number of Task Agreement</td>
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<td>$16.2M</td>
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Success cannot be measured in project #s alone:
- Learning about each other through our Executive Committee/Managers Meetings and outreach visits to campuses and workstations.
- Participation in partner workshops and training opportunities.
- Projects between CESU partners, but using other mechanism to transfer funds.
The RM-CESU Student Award program was established in 2007 as a way to recognize outstanding accomplishments by students involved in RM-CESU projects.

2018: Greg Chorak, Montana State University
2017: Robin Graham, Utah State University
2016: Greg Wann, Colorado State University
2015: Julie Aousloos, University of Colorado Denver
2014: Meghan Forney, Montana State University
2013: Colin May, University of Montana
2012: Nichelle Frank, Colorado State University
2012: Kristen Kaczynski, Colorado State University
2018: Jesse Grace, Colorado State University
2017: Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Colorado State University
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http://www.cfc.umt/CESU