



Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

NEWSLETTER Summer 2021

RM-CESU NEWS & EVENTS

RM-CESU Announces the Annual Competition for Student Award

The Rocky Mountains CESU annually recognizes "above and beyond" accomplishments by student(s) involved in Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU) projects. Nominations may be submitted by any representative of the federal agency that sponsored the RM-CESU project, or by the student's RM-CESU university. Nominations for Student Award are due August 25, 2021. The Award winner(s) will receive a citation and give a presentation on their project results at annual RM-CESU Fall Meeting. [Nomination Instructions](#)



Photo credit: Brett French

Federal Science Agencies to Develop Baseline Information on Conserved and Restored Lands and Waters, Under New Federal Initiative This month we learned of the planned American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas which will be an accessible, updated, and comprehensive tool to be used to measure the progress of conservation, stewardship, and restoration efforts, as recommended in the new report titled "*Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful*". The interagency working group, which includes many of the member agencies of the Rocky Mountains CESU, will be led by the U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in partnership with the Council on Environmental Quality, and other land and ocean management agencies at the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior. This consortium will begin to gather data from the public, States, Tribal Nations, a wide range of stakeholders, and scientists to assess existing databases, and to develop an collaborative approach to document conservation and restoration of lands and waters. This report further defines a framework for an ambitious conservation plan, emphasizing the role of "voluntary efforts" by states, private landowners and tribal nations. This report describes a 10-year "America the Beautiful" campaign, a vision statement, painting a picture of accessible parks, ranchlands that double as wildlife corridors and farms that could also store carbon instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. This report calls for a "voluntary and locally led" approach to conservation, in which the federal government provides support and guidance to efforts led by landowners, cities, states and tribes. To read this report, go to the [weblink](#).

RM-CESU Partners Part of the Global Initiative on Ungulate Migration: On May 7, 2021 the journal *Science*, announced the launch of the Global Initiative on Ungulate Migration (GIUM) in an article entitled "Mapping out a future for ungulate migrations." An international team of 92 scientists and conservationists created the first-ever global atlas of ungulate (hooved mammal) migrations, working in partnership with the United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). This unique United Nations treaty brings countries and wildlife experts together to address the conservation needs of terrestrial, aquatic,

and avian migratory species and their habitats around the world. Rocky Mountains CESU partners who are involved in this initiative include: University of Wyoming, USGS, University of Montana, Colorado State University, The Wildlife Conservation Society and the National Park Service. To view the policy forum story about the GIUM, go to Kauffman, et al. 2021, [Mapping out a future for ungulate migrations](#), *Science* **372** (6542), 566-569.



Yellowstone Volcano Observatory Annual Report Now Available: In May 2021 a consortium of universities and agencies, many represented in the Rocky Mountains CESU, published the **2020 Annual Report of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory (YVO)**. The YVO is a collaborative consortium made up of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Yellowstone National Park, University of Utah, University of Wyoming, Montana State University, UNAVCO, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, and Idaho Geological Survey. The YVO was formed on May 14, 2001, to strengthen the long-term monitoring of volcanic and seismic activity in the Greater Yellowstone area. If you are interested in knowing more about the volcanic and seismic activity in the area in 2020, go to the referenced report: [Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, 2021, Yellowstone Volcano Observatory 2020 annual report: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1482, 44 p.](#)

Natural Sounds Research into Human Health Benefits Outlined in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: Colorado State University researchers, in concert with the National Park Service partners and others, have synthesized a soundscapes article that appeared in PNAS. This study examines evidence of the health benefits of natural soundscapes and quantifies the prevalence of restorative acoustic environments in national parks across the United States. The article citation is: [Buxton et al., 2021, A synthesis of health benefits of natural sounds and their distribution in national parks, PNAS, April 6, 2021, 118 \(14\) e2013097118.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: 15th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE): Expanding the Scope of Science Together, May 15-18, 2022 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

Yellowstone's 150th birthday is a special occasion to reflect on the science and conservation accomplishments that have brought us to the present day, as well as a time to envision solutions for some of the grand challenges facing Greater Yellowstone's future. The 15th Biennial Scientific Conference on the GYE is an opportunity to gather, share discoveries and ideas, find common ground, and examine different ways of understanding natural and cultural resources. Our goal is that this conference will emerge as the preeminent forum for bringing together researchers and practitioners from academia, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and tribal communities to discuss scientific findings and management needs associated with the Greater Yellowstone region.



The Greater Yellowstone Biennial Scientific Conference series, initiated in 1991, encourages awareness and application of wide-ranging, high-caliber scientific work on the region's natural and cultural resources. These

conferences, with the active involvement of professional societies and other institutions, provide a much-needed forum for knowledge-sharing among hundreds of researchers, park managers, and the public. They attract world-class speakers and are interdisciplinary by design.

Abstract submissions and scholarship applications will be accepted in December 2021. Check the [conference website](#) regularly for additional information as it becomes available.



Waterton-Glacier Science & History Day Last year, *Science & History Day* went virtual to become *Science & History Week*, with a week of online presentations streamed live at lunchtime. This online event will take place September 13-16, 2021 using Microsoft Teams video conferencing. Glacier's Crown of the Continent Learning Center will be updating [this page](#) with details on presentations and how to register as the event draws closer, so check back in!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Professor, Terrestrial ecosystem ecology, Utah State University, Logan, UT (Application review begins 9/1/2021)

Postdoctoral Researcher - Human Environment Systems, Boise State University, Boise, ID (closes 8/22/2021)

Postdoctoral Research Associate in aquatic nitrogen cycling and plankton metabolism, Flathead Biological Station, University of Montana, Polson, MT (Application review begins 8/1/2021)

For details on these job opportunities, visit the [Jobs Page](#)

If you would like to post an announcement in the next RM-CESU Newsletter or on the website, please contact the RM-CESU Coordinator at rmcesu@cfc.umt.edu.