



Fall Newsletter – November 2024

From the Director – Dr. Paul Hanson

Hello partners and friends! This fall has been particularly busy here for me personally but also for the other members of the Great Plains CESU. There are a couple of things emerging on the horizon and we have several announcements to share with you. First off, we have a new member of the GP CESU team, are saying farewell and thanks to one of our own and we have named our 2024 Graduate Student Award winner. In addition, we are gearing up for our annual partner's meeting and in the coming year we will be submitting our package for continuation as host university for the GP CESU. See all of the details (and more) below!



GP CESU Staff Updates

The GP CESU welcomes Dr. Thomas Parr who will be serving as our Acting Research Coordinator. An employee of the National Park Service, he is an ecosystem ecologist by training. He has investigated how landcover, hydrology, biology, and chemistry interact in watersheds to shape their structure and function, and the ecosystem services we derive from them. He currently serves as the Research Coordinator for the Great Lakes/Northern Forest CESU. Dr. Parr's academic home is the University of Minnesota Campus in St Paul. Welcome, Thomas!



Special thanks and farewell to Dr. Brandon Gerig, who served as our Acting Research Coordinator for the past year and a half. In addition to his duties with us, he was an ecologist for the National Park Service and coordinated the Great Rivers CESU. Dr. Gerig left the NPS in September of 2024 and accepted a position at the School of Freshwater Sciences at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. We wish him all the best!



2024 GP CESU Graduate Student Award

Congratulations to Levin Brandt, graduate student in Biology at the University of North Dakota. He was nominated by Zach Rigg, Natural Resources Manager at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Offutt AFB. Levin's jobs this past season as a Midwest Wildlife Intern on several Air Force Installations across the Great Plains were part of a GP CESU funded agreement. Read all about his accomplishments on our website: <https://gpcesu.unl.edu/information/studentawardrecipients.aspx>



2025 GP CESU Annual Partners Meeting

This year's GP CESU Annual Partners Meeting will be held **Tuesday January 14 from 10-2 pm**. We will again offer this meeting as a hybrid with both in person and online options. We expect to cover updates from our office as well as those in our federal partner agencies. As usual we will try to highlight some research activities that are occurring within our footprint. We really hope that you can join us!

GP CESU Five Year Renewal (2025-2030)

Our office will submit our application to continue as host university for the Great Plains CESU in 2025. We may be asking our partners for input and information as we are completing our application. The Great Plains has been a member of the CESU since 2000 and UNL has been host university since then. Happy early 25th anniversary to us!

2024 National CESU Network Meeting

The National CESU Meeting was held in July of 2024 in Shepherdstown, WV as a hybrid meeting. GP CESU staff attended the meeting remotely. Meeting attendees included those in the national CESU office, members of the regional CESU offices, and representatives from our federal and non-governmental organization partner institutions. Highlights of the meeting included presentations discussing activities and plans for the future direction of the CESU network. A presentation and demonstration of a new project database was included, and a lively discussion of funding needs and resources drew a lot of input and suggestions from attendees. It's always good to be able to have an opportunity to discuss our collective visions and plans for the future of the CESU's and learn what others are doing in their areas.

REMINDERS & DEADLINES

- **The Annual Request for Funding Agreements** was sent out. Thanks to those who have submitted a response. The **Deadline for responding is Friday, December 13, 2024**.
- **Your Photos and Videos!** We are always looking for pictures of projects funded through the GP CESU. If you have photos of field work and/or students in action, please send them to us to share on our website. You may also submit videos to use as part of a "Take a Moment" video! Submit any materials or questions to: gpcesu@unl.edu
- **Please make sure we have your updated contact details** by sending Technical and Administrative contact updates to gpcesu@unl.edu.
- We still have some very cool **GP CESU T-Shirts** available at: <https://go.unl.edu/gpcesutshirt>