



Director's Report: Cooperative Agreement P15AC01750

FY 2018 (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018) was the third year in our 2015-2020 Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement between our partners in the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). We followed our progress in FY2016-17 with another year of new actions that should help us reach our goals to be proactive and work on behalf of our partners.

Partners

We have 12 federal agency partners and 23 university/non-federal partners. When Dr. Powell became Director in 2011, the Great Plains CESU had 9 federal and 16 non-federal partners, and we believe the growth in partnerships during the last 7 years demonstrates the value of the CESU system to its members.

We did not add any new partners to the Great Plains CESU in FY2018, although we did work with several potential members. Colorado State University: Pueblo submitted an application for membership, which will be acted upon during FY2019.

Engaging partners

The Great Plains-CESU participated in the 2018 Biennial CESU National Network Meeting in early June, 2018 at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Kat Bickert, our office coordinator, facilitated organization of CESU network reports for the meeting. Kat received a National CESU Network award for her work at the meeting, which was well deserved. Dr. Ryan Sharp, Kansas State University, received a National CESU Network award for an outstanding collaborative research project at the meeting. The project, "Visitor Survey at Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site" was completed under a Great Plains CESU agreement in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS).

Our office awarded the second Great Plains CESU Graduate Student Award to Dr. Andrew Taylor for work as a PhD student on a collaborative project between Oklahoma State University and the National Park Service: "Assess genetic integrity, population status, and long-term viability of isolated populations of shoal bass in Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area." Andrew was nominated by his former advisor, Dr. James Long with a supporting statement from William Cox of the NPS.

Staffing and office support

Our office maintained its full complement of personnel this year, although we transitioned to a new office coordinator. Kat Bickert resigned in late June 2018, to take a full-time position with the University of Nebraska's Department of Anthropology, a frequent user of the CESU funding agreement. Kat was responsible for the creation of our on-line database and project library, and well as many other improvements to the web site and our relations with our partners. We hired Brittany Grove as the new office coordinator in September, and look forward to her contributions in this critical role.

Dr. Tanya Shenk returned from a leave to contribute to work in Rwanda through the Peace Corps Response Program in August, and she resumed her role as the Great Plains CESU's NPS Research Coordinator (RC). We are appreciative of Nicole Athearn, the NPS RC for the Great Rivers CESU, who filled Tanya's shoes during her absence.

We are very appreciative for the continued support of the Institute of Natural Resources (IANR) of the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) for their support of the Great Plains CESU office. We are in the second year of a second 3-year period of support from IANR. IANR provides \$30,000/yr: \$14,000/yr in administrative support, \$15,000/yr in office support for the office coordinator position, and \$1,000/yr in support of office communication (phones, internet). We are grateful to Dr. Mike Boehm, the new IANR Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Ron Yoder, Associate Vice

Chancellor, for their support, which comes at a time of difficult financial decisions on the UNL campus due to the downturn in the state's ag-based economy. We continue to appreciate Dr. John Carroll, Director of the School of Natural Resources, for his support and office space allocations in Hardin Hall.

We also continue to appreciate the support of the Great Plains federal partners who were able to provide funds to support our host university office. Our office received only half of the proposed annual funding support from the National CESU Network, which underscores our thanks to IANR for their support. The amount received from the National CESU Network for host support was \$9,400 during FY2018 (\$7,755 direct costs after removal of 17.5% overhead). We are grateful to the federal partners who contributed to the pool of funds used for this annual support, and we appreciate the efforts of Tom Fish in the National CESU Office to wade through the logistics to funnel funds from various federal agencies to the National Park Service as the contracting source for the funds. Funding from the national level continues to be uncertain under the new plans for federal agency support, and we continue to work with the National CESU Office to secure these funds when available.

Financial Report

There are currently 74 active Great Plains CESU agreements. The following projects were either initiated or modified during FY2018 using a Great Plains CESU's Cooperative Agreement. *We note that USFWS does not keep internal documentation that allows them to distinguish projects that are funded through a CESU agreement. Our ability to document projects and impact of the funding agreement continues to be a critical hurdle, and we appreciate our federal partners' responses to our requests for information.*

Agreement modifications with \$0.00 funding levels indicate no-cost modifications for administrative changes.

2018 Modifications				
Federal Agency	Task Agreement #	Partner Institution	Project Title	Funding
DoD	W9126G-17-2-0021	Texas A&M	Natural Resources Support	\$ 132,000.00
DoD	W8126G-17-2-0020	Texas A&M	Environmental Services Support	\$ 295,404.50
DoD	W9126G-14-2-0050	Colorado State University	Sikes Act Support	\$ 194,144.00
DoD	W9126G-15-2-0044	Oklahoma State University	Migratory Bird Research Mgt Species, Loggerhead Shrike, Gray Vireo, Pinyon Jay and Migratory Song Birds	\$ 220,821.00
DoD	W9126G-17-2-0021	Texas A&M	Natural Resources Support	\$ 149,127.00
DoD	W7126G-15-2-0062	Texas Tech University	Wetland Management	\$ 30,383.00
DoD	W9126G-14-2-0073	University of Oklahoma	Natural Resource Technician Support	\$ 165,357.00
DoD	W9126G-17-2-0011	Colorado State University	Cultural Resources, Sites; Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic and Architecture Recording for Building 208 17-2-0011	\$ 99,937.00
DoD	W9126G-15-2-0052	Texas A&M	Desert Massasauga	\$ 39,657.00

Federal Agency	Task Agreement #	Partner Institution	Project Title	Funding
DoD	W9126G-16-2-0013	Colorado State University	Conservation Program Support	\$ -
DoD	W9126G-16-2-0013	Colorado State University	Conservation Program Support	\$1,601,471.66
DoD	W9126G-16-2-0015	Colorado State University	Maneuver Damage Coordinator	\$ 277,225.15
BLM	L13AC00089	University of Wyoming	Reclamation Grass Genetics/ Commercial Seeds	\$ 25,985.00
BLM	L15AC00008	Texas A&M University	BLM Wild Horse and Burro Genetic Testing	\$ 53,000.00
BLM	L11AC00131	University of Wyoming	WLM Wyoming monitoring amphibians	\$ -
NPS	P15AC01605	N/A	Monitoring horseback rider use at OZAR - GPCESU	\$ -
NPS	P16AC00001	N/A	Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit	\$ -
NPS	P16AC00001	N/A	Ancient Insights for Current Bison Management	\$ -
NPS	P16AC00194	N/A	Temporal and spatial distributions of visitor use and associated impacts on natural and social conditions at Buffalo National River -	\$ -
NPS	P16AC01045	N/A	Traditional Cultural Property Survey AT MNRR	\$ -
NPS	P15AC01750	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	CESU GRPL- Leadership, Coordination, and Administrative Oversight for the Great	\$ 9,400.00
NPS	P16AC00369	University of South Dakota MR institute	Natural Resources Intern Program - MNRR	\$ 15,000.00
NPS	P15AC01085	Texas Tech University	Resilient Landscapes: Forest thinning and fire impacts on wildlife-habitata interactions: Phase 1	\$ 24,840.00
NPS	P17AC00558	Kansas State University	Quantifying the relationships between visitor use, and resource and social conditions at Katmai National park and Preserve and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	\$ 30,000.00
NPS	P16AC01378	University of Wyoming	Plant Species Verification and Checklists for Northern Great Plains Parks	\$ 37,000.00
NPS	P17AC00057	South Dakota State University	Field Validation of Disease Transmission in the BADL Bighorn Sheep Population	\$ 60,000.00
NPS	P17AC00181	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Digital Interpretive Application of African American Homesteaders	\$ 66,770.00
USACE	P00001	Texas Tech	Evaluation of Volatile Emissions at the Indiana Harbor Confined Disposal Facility	\$ 31,752.00
USACE	P00002	Colorado State University	Testing Methods for Determining the Frequency of a Species Wetland Rating	\$ 462.00

\$3,559,736.31

2018 new Agreements				
Federal Agency	Task Agreement #	Partner Institution	Project Title	Funding
DoD	W9126G-18-2-0017	Colorado State University	Cultural and Natural Resource Technical Support	\$ 702,259.00
DoD	W9126G-18-2-0031-P00001	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	\$3,243,269.00
NPS	P18AC0040	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA	Evaluating Post-Flood Sandbar Succession and Species Biodiversity Related to Listed Species Habitat	\$ 122,760.00
NPS	P18AC00328	BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN	Monitoring Bat Resilience in an Agriculturally Dominated Landscape	\$ 29,375.00
NPS	P18AC01217	Kansas State University	Research to Evaluate Visitor Characteristics Across and Within Seasons at Joshua Tree National Park	\$ 152,206.00
NPS	P18AC00478	South Dakota State University	Survey of the Click Beetles of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (Insecta: Coleoptera)	\$ 16,000.00
USGS	G18AC00207	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	Water Availability, Quality of Groundwater and Surface Water, Climate and Land-Use Trends, and Streamflow Dynamics within the Missouri River and Upper Basin Tributaries	\$ 30,000.00
USGS	G18AC00366	Utah State University	Using Ungulate Movements to Assess Risk of Disease Spread and Transmission Between Livestock and Wildlife	\$ 49,500.00
				\$4,374,073.00

Respectfully submitted,



Larkin Powell
 Professor, School of Natural Resources
 Director, Great Plains CESU
 5 February 2019

With grateful thanks to Kat Bickert and Brittany Grove for their work to document projects with agencies and to develop information contained in the financial report.