



Director's Report

FY 2019 (October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019) was the fourth 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 FY2017-18 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 24 university/non-federal partners (22 academic institutions and 2 NGOs). When I 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 8 years demonstrates the value of the CESU system to its members.

Colorado State University-Pueblo became the newest nonfederal partner to join the Great Plains CESU in FY2019.

Engaging partners

The Great Plains-CESU held our first stand-alone Annual Meeting on April 30, 2019. The first portion of the meeting was designed to give feedback to our administrators at UNL. The Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has provided significant and critical support for our office during the highly uncertain period for federal host funding during the last five years, and we are grateful to them for that support. We spent time during the meeting providing information to those administrators and other participants on the benefits of hosting, our progress towards meeting goals, and plans for the future.

The second portion of the annual meeting was dedicated to networking and collaborations. We had 6 representatives from USDA NRCS, USFWS, USGS, USFS Agroforestry Research Center and NPS. Each rep shared their insights on current funding areas and ways to collaborate with their agency. A working lunch further continued interactions. All post-event feedback was highly positive, and we intend to continue with this format in the future.

Our office awarded the third Great Plains CESU Graduate Student Award to Jonathan Knudsen (“Ant Communities are influenced by burn severity after the Las Concha’s Wildfire”). His research project was funded through a Great Plains- CESU agreement between Texas Tech University National Park Services. We received a generous statement of support from NPS Division Chief, Dr. Robert R. Parmenter, Science and Resource Stewardship Valles Caldera National Preserve National Park Services. We are also grateful to Jonathan’s graduate adviser, Dr. Robin Verble, for nominating Jonathan.

Staffing and office support

Our office maintained its full complement of personnel this year. Brittany Grove has been working on new web content as the School of Natural Resources and University of Nebraska-Lincoln roll out new web templates. Dr. Tanya Shenk has also been serving as Research Coordinator for the Great Plains CESU and for the Great Rivers CESU, at the University of Missouri, because of a vacancy in that region. In September, I announced my resignation as Director of the Great Plains CESU, effective Dec. 31, 2019. I have served in the Director role since 2011, and it has been a pleasure to work with our staff and partners. It is satisfying to leave the CESU on more solid financial footing than when I began my duties. Dr. Paul Hanson, the former Associate Director of the School of Natural Resources, will assume the Director position on January 1, 2020.

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 third 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. We continue to appreciate the support of Dr. John Carroll, Director of the School of Natural Resources. Our office space allocations are in Hardin Hall with the School.

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 \$10,600 during FY2019 (minus 17.5% overhead). We also received \$4,000 from the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, and we are extremely grateful for the Region's support of our work. We are thankful for the support of 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

The following projects were either initiated or modified during FY2019 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 and that this is an approximation table of data, due to any lack of response in reporting on our partner's behalf. 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.

2019 ESTIMATED NEW AGREEMENTS

Federal Agency	MASTER	Partner Institution	Project Title	Funding
NPS	P19AC00003	University of North Dakota	Nuclear Genetic Analysis of Historic Bison	15,000.00
NPS	P19AC00027	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Resource management and research	0.00
NPS	P19AC00049	Kansas State University	Potential for Propagation Toopeka Shiners	54,639.00
NPS	P19AC00050	Kansas State University	Conduct Visitor Use Study at Tallgrass PNP	35,037.00
NPS	P19AC00052	Kansas State University	Assess the Geomorphic Assmt of Fox & Palmer	19,750.00
NPS	P19AC00110	North Dakota State University	Partnership to Increase Rec access- RTCA	13,190.00
NPS	P19AC00151	University of Wyoming	Bats & WNS at Jewel Cave	96,624.00
NPS	P19AC00027	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Scarab beetles & allied families at GWMP	8,050.00
NPS	P19AC00164	South Dakota School of Mines and	Fossil Localities with the Sharps Formation	60,180.00
NPS	P19AC00337	Kansas State University	Ecology of Muskrats in Voyageurs Nat. Park	67,720.00
NPS	P19AC00364	Texas A&M AgriLife Research	Genomic Evaluation of MWR Bison Herds	100,513.00
NPS	P17AC00929	Kansas State University	Visitor management- protocol development	10,535.00
NPS	P19AC00490	Texas Tech University	GP CESU Connectivity analysis of border roads	38,209.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-19-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	IMCOM - TLCA	534,755.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-19-2-	Kansas State University	Prairie-Chicken & Anthropogenic Disturbance	155,441.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-19-2-	University of Oklahoma	Natural Resource Support Program	73,000.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-19-2-	Oklahoma State University	Natural Resources and Environmental Services	380,209.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-19-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	9,438,535.00
Total				\$10,867,147.00

2019 ESTIMATED MODIFICATION AGREEMENTS

Federal Agency	MASTER	Partner Institution	Project Title	Funding
NPS	P16AC00011	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Surficial Geologic Mapping in the MNRR in	(26,131.86)
NPS	P11AC91316	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Leadership & Administrative Oversight for	14,599.08
NPS	P16AC00011	Texas Tech University	Alibates Flint Quarries NM Traditional Use Study	4,000.00
NPS	P16AC00011	Texas Tech University	Traditional cultural property (TCP) survey at	0.00
NPS	P16AC00011	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Surficial Geologic Mapping in the MNRR in	0.00
NPS	P16AC00011	University of Wyoming	Plant species verification & checklists for NGP	39,000.00
NPS	P16AC00011	Kansas State University	Visitor Experience & Resource Protection Plan	0.00
NPS	P12AC31164	North Dakota State University	Monitor relative abundance of bats at - GLKN	62,312.00
NPS	P17AC00929	Kansas State University	Quantifying the relationships at Katmai Park	12,866.00
NPS	P17AC00817	Colorado State University	Riverbank Stabilization Guidance at MNRR	0.00
NPS	P17AC01030	Texas A&M AgriLife Research	Bison Partnership: Genetic Conserve Initiative -	0.00
NPS	P18AC00040	University of South Dakota	Evaluating Post- Flood Sandbar Species	123,750.00
NPS	P18AC00328	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Bat Resilience-Agriculturally Dominated	21,800.00
NPS	P19AC00164	South Dakota School of Mines and	Document Fossils Localities with Sharps	10,853.00
BOR	R17AC0039	Kansas State University	Early life history of razorback suckers in San	281,786.00
BOR	R17AP00090	University of Oklahoma	A legal review of adaptive strategies-Washita &	79,626.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-15-2-	Texas Tech University	Wetland Management	0.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-16-2-	Colorado State University	Conservation Program Support	0.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-16-2-	Colorado State University	Conservation Program Support	1,717,861.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-16-2-	Colorado State University	Maneuver Damage Coordinator	219,455.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-17-2-	Texas A&M	Environmental Services Support	667,904.50
USACE (Fort	W9126G-17-2-	Texas A&M	Natural Resources Support	295,186.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University	Cultural and Natural Resource Technical Support	828,234.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	3,776,976.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	1,256,438.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	4,029,391.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	6,624,504.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-18-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	6,894,500.00
USACE (Fort	W9126G-18-2-	South Dakota State University	Compilation & Analysis of Wildlife	28,704.00
USACE (Omaha)	W9126G-19-2-	Colorado State University (CEMML)	Sustainable Range Natural Resource Support	6,078,694.00
Total				\$33,042,307.73

Respectfully submitted,



Larkin Powell
 Professor, School of Natural Resources
 Director, Great Plains CESU
 January 31, 2020

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