Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

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cesu.org

WEAVING PARTNERSHIPS | BUILDING KNOWLEDGE | SUSTAINING HERITAGE
• What is the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network?
• History
• Program Description
• Example projects
• Future of the CESU Network
What is the CESU Network?

A nationwide consortium of federal agencies, universities, conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support agency missions and informed public trust resource stewardship.
What is the CESU Network?

- Anthropology to Zoology
- coordinated, collaborative, applied
- natural and cultural resource issues
- multiple scales
- ecosystem context
State of the Network

2 tribes
15 federal agencies
272 universities (58 minority serving institutions)
90 state, tribal, and non-governmental

379 total partners (as of January 2016)

Since 1999, ~12,000 projects over $1 billion (estimated figures)
CESU Network Objectives

• to provide timely scientific research, technical assistance, and education services to develop usable knowledge supporting public trust resource stewardship aligned with agency and partner missions;
• to create and maintain effective collaborative partnerships among federal and state agencies, universities, and other nonfederal partners to share resources and expertise;
• to promote/maintain high standards for scientific research, technical assistance, and educational activities and associated project outputs;
• to encourage professional development of federal scientists, technical staff, and managers through substantial involvement in projects;
• to help prepare future conservation professionals through direct involvement with real-life conservation issues and problem solving.
1999

- Rocky Mountains – University of Montana
- Colorado Plateau – Northern Arizona University
- North Atlantic Coast – University of Rhode Island
- Southern Appalachian Mountains – University of Tennessee
1999

• Desert Southwest – University of Arizona
• Pacific Northwest – University of Washington
• South Florida-Caribbean – University of Miami
• Great Plains – University of Nebraska, Lincoln

2000
• Chesapeake Watershed – University of Maryland
• Great Basin – University of Nevada, Reno
- Great Lakes - Northern Forest – University of Minnesota
- Gulf Coast – Texas A&M University
- North & West Alaska – University of Alaska
- Piedmont - South Atlantic Coast – University of Georgia
- Upper and Middle Mississippi Valley (now Great Rivers) – University of Missouri
- Californian – University of California, Berkeley
- Hawaii - Pacific Islands – University of Hawaii
Current Participation

- 17 CESUs
- 13 Federal Agencies
- Over 240 universities (including more than 40 minority serving institutions), state, tribal and non-governmental partners
- Since 1999, approximately 5,000 projects involving over $100M
- Some agencies have duty-stationed employees at CESU host universities
Program Description

• established renewable Cooperative/Joint Venture Agreements with 5 year duration
• agreements renewed based on mutual consent, self-assessment, federal agency assessment, and independent external review
• many operational model variations
Program Description

- host university with administrative support staff
- multiple federal agencies
- partner institutions (at least one minority institution)
- federal managers committee
- role and mission statement
- strategic plan and annual work plans
- website
- annual partners meeting
land management units within geographic area

NGOs

academia

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

tribes

agencies

NGOs

host university

agency science coordinators (optional)

annual work plan and project coordination

CESU Council (13 federal agencies)

federal agency regional / state offices

federal managers committee

program oversight

administrative supervision

strategic plan, advice and guidance, 5-yr renewal process

CESU Council (13 federal agencies)
Example Projects

Projects can be
• Research,
• Education, and/or
• Technical Assistance
Example Projects

Regional Interagency Climate Change Workshop Series
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

Example Projects

Salt Marsh Restoration in Chesapeake Bay

NPS photo
Example Projects

Contaminants Assessment in Southeast Alaska

NPS photo
Example Projects

A Climate Change Education Module on Pacific Island Coral Reefs

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Example Projects

Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project (Sage STEP)

Sage STEP photo
Example Projects

Exotic Species Control in South Florida

NPS photo
Example Projects

Mobile App to Identify and Track Invasive Exotics in Florida

University of Georgia photo
Example Projects

Archaeological Field School in Hawaii
Example Projects

Developing, Testing, and Implementing the Recovery Credit System

Texas A&M University photo
Example Projects

People and Nature on the Mountaintop

A Resource and Impact Study of Longs Peak in Colorado

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

NPS photo
Example Projects

Humpback Chub Reintroductions and PIT-tag Technology
Example Projects

Shifting Risk Perceptions of Wildlife Disease: A Study of Avian Outbreak

Cornell University photo
Example Projects

Remote Sensing Training for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Virginia University photo
Example Projects

Natural and Cultural Crossroads: An Environmental History of Pecos National Historical Park

NPS photo
Example Projects

Documenting Fire History in National Parks, Monuments and Historic Sites of the Great Plains

George Catlin painting, Smithsonian American Art Museum
Example Projects

Joshua Tree Vegetation Modeling: Predicting Shifts in the Face of Climate Change

University of California, Riverside, photo
Example Projects

Student Internships: Warriors Project

NPS photo
Example Projects

Student Internships:
Tahabi Fellowship
SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services.
Future of the CESU Network

• adding new federal and nonfederal partners
• expanding participation and scope of the CESU Network with existing network partners
  – sustainability science
  – green engineering and technology
  – renewable/sustainable energy
  – green workforce development
  – international collaboration
• elevating opportunities for capacity building for tomorrow’s environmental professionals
  – national office fellowship program
  – system-wide internship program