Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

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cesu.org
• What is the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network?
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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
What is the CESU Network?

14 federal agencies
231 universities (47 minority serving)
64 state, tribal, and non-governmental
309 total partners

Since 1999, >7,500 projects involving over $600M (est.)
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
• Desert Southwest – University of Arizona
• Pacific Northwest – University of Washington
• South Florida-Caribbean – University of Miami
• Great Plains – University of Nebraska, Lincoln
• Chesapeake Watershed – University of Maryland
• Great Basin – University of Nevada, Reno
- Great Lakes - Northern Forest CESU – University of Minnesota
- Gulf Coast CESU – 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
Since 1999, approximately 5,000 projects involving over $100M have been conducted. 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
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

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
CESU Council (13 federal agencies)

- Federal agency regional/state offices (supervision)
- Federal managers committee (strategic plan, advice and guidance, leads 5-yr renewal process)

CESU

- Agencies
- Academia
- Host university (agency science coordinators, optional)
- Tribes
- NGOs

Land management units in geographic area
• GAO Report on Climate Change (GAO-07-863)
• Executive Order on Federal Sustainability
• Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration
• DOI Secretarial Order on Climate Change
Example Projects

Regional Interagency Climate Change Workshop Series
Example Projects

Salt Marsh Restoration in Chesapeake Bay
Example Projects

Contaminants Assessment in Southeast Alaska

NPS photo
Example Projects

Exotic Species Control in South Florida

NPS photo
Example Projects

Archaeological Field School in Hawaii

NPS photo
Example Projects

People and Nature on the Mountaintop

A Resource and Impact Study of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

NPS photo
Example Projects

Costal Watershed Condition Assessments

NPS photo
SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services.
Key Initiatives

- 10-year Program Evaluation and Project Inventory
- CESU Network Administrative History
- Strategic Plan Revision
- Administrative Handbook
- Collaborative Science Program Summit
- 2012 CESU Network National Meeting (June)
2010 National Meeting

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network
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