

**Coordination of Protocol Reviews for Long-Term Monitoring in the Pacific Northwest Region of the
National Park Service**

Task Agreement P12AC10447

Final Report

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Task agreement P12AC10447 was initiated on March 15, 2012, and ends on March 15, 2018. This report summarizes the activities undertaken under this agreement. During this period, I served as Protocol Review Coordinator (PRC). In this role, I was responsible for coordinating, tracking, overseeing, and synthesizing blind peer reviews of protocols associated with the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program of the Pacific West Region (PWR) of the National Park Service (NPS). These activities required me to contact and negotiate with academic reviewers, arrange for appropriate payments to be made for reviews, and synthesize review comments. I also collaborated with the PWR I&M Regional Program Manager (RPM) to decide about the adequacy of the submitted protocols according to their scientific merit and ability to meet management needs.

Protocols generally were several hundred pages in length and consisted of a Narrative document and a Standard Operating Procedures document. New protocols were reviewed by myself, the RPM, up to two external peer reviewers and, where appropriate, staff from the NPS Water Resources Division. Revised protocols were reviewed by the RPM and myself.

Table 1 summarizes the protocols reviewed under this task agreement. In total, we reviewed 16 protocols from 7 NPS networks. Individual protocols were reviewed up to 3 times. At this point, 12 of the 16 protocols have been approved.

Inventory and Monitoring programs can provide an essential understanding of the status of natural resources at any given time, and of the long-term dynamics of species and communities as they vary with biological, climate, and human stressors over time. It is important to ensure that these programs are supported by scientifically credible long-term monitoring protocols. It has been a pleasure to assist the National Park Service in this aspect of their mission.

Table 1. Summary of protocols reviewed under this task agreement.

Calendar Year	NPS Network	Protocol	New / Revised	# of Reviews	Outcome
2012	SIEN	Rivers	New	6	Revision required
2012	KLMN	Land Cover Land Use	New	4	Revision required
2013	SFAN	Plant Communities	New	4	Revision required
2013	MEDN	Landscape Dynamics	New	4	Revision required
2014	MEDN	Invasive Plants	Revised	3	Revision required
2014	SIEN	Wetland Ecology Integrity	Revised	3	Approved
2014	UCBN	Bat Monitoring	New	4	Revision required
2014	MOJN	Integrated Upland	Revised	2	Revision required
2014	SIEN	Rivers	Revised	4	Revision required
2015	UCBN	Lemhi Penstemon	New	4	Revision required
2015	MOJN	Selected Large Springs	Revised	5	Approved
2015	MOJN	Integrated Upland	Revised	2	Approved
2015	MEDN	Invasive Plants	Revised	2	Approved
2016	MEDN	Terrestrial Vegetation	Revised	2	Approved
2016	SFAN	Plant Communities	Revised	2	Approved
2016	MOJN	Desert Springs	New	3	Revision required
2016	UCBN	Bat Monitoring	Revised	2	Approved
2016	KLMN	Land Cover Land Use	Revised	2	Approved
2017	KLMN	Caves	New	2	Approved
2017	SIEN	Rivers	Revised	2	Approved
2017	PACN	Anchialine Pools	Revised	4	Revision required
2017	MOJN	Desert Springs	Revised	2	Revision required
2017	MEDN	Landscape Dynamics	Revised	2	Approved
2017	UCBN	Lemhi Penstemon	Revised	2	Approved
2018	UCBN	Sage Grouse	New	4	Revision required
2018	MOJN	Desert Springs Vegetation	New	4	Revision required
2018	PACN	Anchialine Pools	Revised	2	Revision required
2018	MOJN	Desert Springs	Revised	2	Revision required