

# Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit



A PERIODIC REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

C. Lockert, editor  
September/October 2006

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

## GP-CESU Office Update

**We've Moved!** With the start of a new semester, the GP-CESU administrative office has moved into a renovated building, Hardin Hall, which houses the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Please make note of our new address and fax number listed below. Phone numbers and email addresses will not change. The GP-CESU is now located at: 514 Hardin Hall  
3310 Holdrege St.  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0985  
Phone: 402.472.5853  
Fax: 402.472.2946

The GP-CESU web site also has a new address, along with a new look. We moved to a new server in order to support searchable databases, such as the Expertise Database. Please visit the new site to see the updates and changes that we have made and note the new address for future reference:  
<http://snr.unl.edu/gpcesu>

**As Host University**, the University of Nebraska has recently reached the one million dollar milestone. Total project

funding through the CESU at UNL has reached over one million dollars (\$1,018,423). The majority of funding comes from smaller budget projects that would not otherwise be done without the benefit of the reduced overhead cost the CESU provides.

### Managers & Executive Meeting.

We held our Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with the Joint Great Plains/Rocky Mountain CESU Managers Meeting hosted by Colorado State University on April 17 and 18, 2006. Twelve individuals, representing eight of our 19 partners, attended the Executive Committee meeting. The 2006 Work Plan was reviewed and approved at this meeting. Please visit our web site to view a meeting summary (<http://snr.unl.edu/gpcesu/documents.htm>).

The Joint GP/RM CESU Managers Meeting was successful in bringing together managers and professors with common interest in three relevant issues related to wildlife disease, tourism, and drought/drought mitigation. Several ideas for collaboration on projects related to these issues were generated. Please visit the web site for more details.

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([http://www.forestry.umn.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Assets/Partner%20Activities/FY06%20Activities/GP&RM%20CESU%20Meeting/Joint\\_CESU-mtg06.htm](http://www.forestry.umn.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Assets/Partner%20Activities/FY06%20Activities/GP&RM%20CESU%20Meeting/Joint_CESU-mtg06.htm))

**An updated** presentation providing an introduction to the GP-CESU, our projects, and our members is now available. It is available for download in PDF or Microsoft PowerPoint format, please visit the Documents section of the web site. We developed this slideshow in order to inform others about the GP-CESU, the types of projects we support, and our annual reporting totals. Please share it with others in your organization. It can be modified to fit your needs;

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# Great Plains CESU

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## GP-CESU Office Update (cont'd from page 1)

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use it all, or only select slides. If there is additional information from our office that you would like to see, please contact us and we will try to accommodate your needs.

**The search** for a new CESU National Coordinator is underway. Applications were due by 9/11/06. This position will be administered by the National

Park Service, and provides coordination and administration of the CESU National Network, serves as facilitator to the inter-agency CESU National Council, and assists the Council with managing the development, updating, and oversight of CESU National Network policies and guidelines. We expect the position to be filled by January 2007.



The flowering of the western prairie fringed orchid can be impacted by prescribed burning, depending on precipitation before and after burning. Results of a recent study will help managers at Pipestone National Monument to plan prescribed burns in a manner that is sensitive to the conservation of this threatened plant species. See NPS News for reference. Photo by Gary Willson, NPS.



## NPS News

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**In FY2006**, the NPS authorized a total of 19 task agreements through the GP-CESU for a total of \$451,756. Twelve projects were new task agreements, while eight were modifications to on-going projects. The total funding is an increase in NPS support from last year.

**The GP-CESU**, as well as the NPS Midwest Regional Office, welcomed the CESU NPS Research Coordinators to Omaha, NE, for their annual meeting May 3-4, 2006. Coordinators representing 15 of 17 CESUs were in attendance, plus additional Washington Office employees and contracting officials. The agenda of the meeting included such topics as National Network News; Accomplishments of regional CESU units; Administration of Agreements; Natural/Cultural Integration; and Student Recruitment. The meeting generated a number of working

groups and plans of action to work towards meeting some of their goals. The NPS Research Coordinators also hold bi-monthly conference calls to discuss the issues facing each CESU and the national network.

**Three GP-CESU** related projects were highlighted within the NPS Natural Resource Year in Review-2005 (April 2006).

*Precipitation and fire effects on flowering of a threatened prairie orchid, by Gary D. Willson, F. Adnan Akyuz, and Manda J Page. Also in Great Plains Research, 16(1) 37-43.*

*Diversifying bighorn sheep genetics at Badlands National Park, by Eddie Childers and Teresa Zimmerman.*

*Midwestern national parks use best available science to "mimic" natural conditions in bison and elk management, by Daniel S. Licht, and Joshua J. Millspaugh.*

**The Midwest** Region has developed the Midwest Region Natural Resource Science Strategy to further enhance the science capacity of parks in the Midwest Region and enable park managers to obtain and use the best scientific information in protecting and managing natural resources. The Strategy focuses on three overarching goals: 1) Communicate science information among natural resource stewardship and science staff, park natural resource staff and partners. 2) Identify and address priority science information needs for effective management of natural resources. 3) Develop infrastructure and procedures to support a strong science program. The Strategy also established a Regional Science Committee, this committee develops work plans to begin addressing the strategies and action items associated with each stated goal of the Strategy.

# Great Plains CESU

Cooperative  
Ecosystem  
Studies Units  
Network



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Contact Us:  
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*The mission of the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit is to determine the ecological state of public lands of the Great Plains and examine its future within the context of private lands. Our focus is on improving the scientific basis for managing ecosystems in the region, through more active an interactive technical assistance, research, and education among the partner institutions and agencies.*

**GP-CESU Members:** University of Nebraska (host), Black Hills State University, Colorado State University, Kansas State University, Langston University, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota, University of Oklahoma, University of South Dakota, and University of Wyoming. Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and US Geological Survey.



Visit us online at  
<http://snr.unl.edu/gpcesu>

## Welcome! The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service joins GP-CESU

The Amendment adding the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the Great Plains CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement has been finalized. The effective date is August 29, 2006. We welcome the USFWS as our seventh federal agency partner and look forward to working with them. The Amendment will provide a mechanism for all programs of the USFWS to work under the GP-CESU. The GP-CESU representative for the USFWS will be Greg

Watson, he will be starting in a few weeks. His contact information will be provided once it is received. In the mean time, you can contact:

Deedee Runner  
303-236-4216 phone  
303-236-4555 fax  
[deedee\\_runner@fws.gov](mailto:deedee_runner@fws.gov)

Or  
Bruce Rosenlund  
303-236-4402 phone  
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We look forward to developing an active partnership with the USFWS.

