# NPS

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

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| **Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**  **Cooperative Agreement Modification** | | | | | |
| FUNDING AGENCY: **National Park Service** | | | | | |
| MODIFICATION NO.: **[CESU info only]** | | COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO.: **H1200-04-0002** | | FUNDING AMOUNT: $ 17,674 | |
| INVESTIGATORS’ Contact Information: **David D. Gillette, PI, Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff AZ 86001 ((28) 774-5211 ext 246; dgillette@mna.mus.az.us** | | | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE: Excavation and Analysis of a Plesiosaur Skeleton from the Cretaceous Tropic Shale in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area | | | | | |
| EFFECTIVE DATES**: March 1, 2005 – March 31-2007** | | | | | |
| PROJECT ABSTRACT: A recently discovered skeleton of a plesiosaur (a giant, extinct marine reptile) in the Cretaceous Tropic Shale in GLCA occurs on an actively eroding slope. This skeleton will be excavated by MNA paleontologists by traditional techniques using hand tools and plaster-and-burlap bandages to remove blocks. These blocks, containing both fossil bones and rock, will be transported to MNA for laboratory processing, involving removing rock from bones, repair of broken bones, conservation, and preparation for incorporation into the MNA paleontology collections. In addition to the excavation, limited field work will be conducted to establish stratigraphic and sedimentological context. Following laboratory processing, the specimen will be studied for its identification and its relationship to other vertebrates from the Tropic Shale. These fossils will be studied in the context of biodiversity changes with the transgression and later regression of the Cretaceous Interior Seaway where muds were deposited in the bottom of the shallow ocean that existed here about 90 million years ago. Graduate students from Northern Arizona University and undergraduate students will be involved in the excavation and research to the extent practicable. | | | | | |
| **Agency Representative:**  Ron Hiebert, NPS Research Coordinator  CPCESU  Northern Arizona University  P.O. Box 5765  Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5765  Tel: (928) 523-0877  Fax: (928) 523-8223  Ron.Hiebert@nau.edu | Agency Administration Representative Lynell Wright  Budget Analyst  Intermountain Region – Budget & Finance  P.O. Box 25287  12795 W. Alameda Parkway  Denver, CO 80225-0287  Tel: (303) 969-2654  Fax: (303) 969-2794  [Lynell\_Wright@nps.gov](mailto:Lynell_Wright@nps.gov) | | **Investigator:**  David D. Gillette, Colbert Curator of Paleontology, Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  (928) 774-5211 ext 246 fax (928) 779-1527  dgillette@mna.mus.az.us | | **Partner Admin. Contact: Dr. Robert Breunig, Director,** Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  (928) 774-5213, fax (928) 779-1527  rbreunig@mna.mus.az.us |
| ***List of Key Words: [Insert key words – list available under “Project Planning” at http://cpcesu.nau.edu]***  ***Fossil, paleontology, Tropic Shale, Cretaceous, plesiosaur*** | | | | | |
| ***Key Official from National Park - Include contact information @ Specific Park or NPS Office****:*  **Lex A. Newcomb, GIS Coordinator/Paleontology, Glen Canyon NRA, P.O. Box 1507, 691 Scenic View Drive, Page, AZ 86040**  **(928) 608-6271**  **Fax: (928) 608-6283** | | | | | |
| *Annual Report Received:*  *Final Report Received:*  *Publications on File:* | | | | | |
| *This Modification is subject to all the provisions included in the Cooperative Agreement,* ***dated 6/18/04.*** | | | | | |

*Attach any supporting material as necessary.*