

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (Cooperative Agreement # H1200-004-0002)

Park: *Pipe Spring National Monument*

Project Title: *Vegetation Management Plan – Phase II*

Funding Amount: *\$10,000*

CPCESU Partner Institution: *Utah State University*

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Start Date: *August 1, 2008*

End Date: *September 30, 2010*

Continuation of project USU-25 and J1510070262

Abstract: *The overall project entails the development of a comprehensive and long-term Vegetation Management Plan for Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP). The plan will define the critical natural, cultural and historic resource priorities related to the park's vegetation and provide vegetation management strategies for the entire 40-acre Monument. PISP requires this multi-dimensional perspective on how to manage its vegetation because of complex issues involving its natural resources (i.e., groundwater/spring hydrology, migratory bird flyway and important bird habitat, wildlife corridor, endemic plant communities, exotic plant invasions, climate change and drought), its historic/cultural resources (i.e., pioneer historic structures including spring water ponds, cultural landscape, recreated garden and orchards and associated irrigation, historic shade tree die-off) and the need to provide a quality visitor experience (screening of modern structures) and public safety. The two recent Cultural Landscape Inventories (Nelson 1997; Shapins et al. 2006) have identified zoning of the park into 3 main management areas: a natural area protecting native vegetation and biological systems therein (approx. 28 acres), a historic zone enhancing historic and cultural landscapes (approx. 10 acres), and a visitor use area providing vegetative screening and shade using non-native plantings (approx. 2 acres). Alternative zonal designations or adjustments and their management prescriptions and alternatives based on desired future conditions will be considered based on the plan.*

This abstract addresses the second phase of the project which will build on Phase I of the project, completing final editorial changes to the Phase I report and developing an implementation plan for vegetation management at PISP. The implementation plan will include detailed technical information on proceeding with selected, preferred alternative approaches identified in the Phase I report. The Phase II report will be developed by the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator, Utah State University graduate students, and other faculty and student cooperators.

The principal investigator and his assistants will: (1) Make final changes to the Phase I "Proposed Alternative Actions" report as recommended by the NPS; (2) prepare an implementation plan for selected, preferred alternative vegetation management treatments. Research all needed information for completion of implementation plan; (3) travel to and collect implementation information and data at PISP as needed; (4) submit one or more drafts of the implementation plan to the NPS as needed for review and editing; (5) complete final draft of implementation plan by March 31, 2010; (6) as funding may permit proceed further on additional vegetation management planning needs identified in the scoping session.

Keywords:

Vegetation- Exotic Vegetation, Revegetation / Restoration

Hydrology- Plant Interactions , Soil Interactions

Cultural Resources- Management, Historic Sites

Anthropogenic Issues- Land Use