

Welcome to the Cornell University Website for the Great Lakes-Northern Forest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

During summer 2008, Cornell University joined other universities and federal agencies as a member of the Great Lakes-Northern Forest (GLNF) Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) (<http://www.cesu.umn.edu/>). This development creates a new opportunity for Cornell University faculty, individually or in collaborations with other CESU members, to provide expertise in research, education and technical assistance to several federal agencies engaged in ecosystem work. Cornell is well poised to offer expertise in all areas of interest to the GLNF CESU, as indicated below in the mission statement for this CESU.

Great Lakes-Northern Forest CESU Mission: To conduct a program of research, technical assistance, and education that involves the biological, physical, social and cultural sciences needed to address, manage and preserve Great Lakes Northern Forest ecosystems in a rapidly changing social, economic and environmental landscape.

The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Concept

Management and stewardship of the nation's public lands and waters requires skillful public service supported by sound science and responsive technical assistance. Complex issues that transcend boundaries make it essential for agencies to work together. Hence, a network of CESUs is being established to provide research, technical assistance, and education to agency managers and resource professionals. The word *cooperative* emphasizes that multiple federal agencies and universities are among the partners in this program. *Ecosystem* studies involve the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address complex resource issues which include both natural and cultural resources.

CESUs in the National Park Service Midwest Region

The University of Minnesota was chosen as the host university for the Great Lakes-Northern Forest Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (GLNF CESU). The primary purpose of CESUs is to provide resource managers with high-quality scientific research, technical assistance, and education through the linking of partner agencies and universities. The GLNF CESU has seven participating federal partners:

- Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, National Park Service)
- Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service)
- NASA
- Department of the Army (US Army Corps of Engineers – Civil Works)

The GLNF CESU has 31 nonfederal partners (Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Indiana University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Minnesota State University-Mankato, Southern University and A&M College, SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry, University of Iowa, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Toledo, University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, University of Wisconsin-Madison, West Virginia University, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Great Lakes

Commission, Great Lakes Forest Alliance, International Association for Great Lakes Research, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, Science Museum of Minnesota, Cleveland State University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Northern Michigan University, Stephen F. Austin State University, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Antioch University New England, **Cornell University**, Indiana State University, Purdue University, University of Notre Dame).

General Requirements of all GLNF-CESU Projects

- All projects must have relevance to the GLNF-CESU mission
- Project approval is noncompetitive between partners
- Projects are collaborative between partners, not contractual
- Any project funded through a cooperative agreement must include substantial involvement by both parties
- Project funding may come from agencies or institutions
- Project funds may be transferred between institutions or between an agency and an institution, but not directly between agencies
- A project become official when a cooperative agreement modification is signed by the collaborators from the federal funding agency and the research/university partner institution
- The indirect cost rate for all partner institutions is 17.5%

Cornell University's affiliation with the GLNF-CESU

As a nonfederal partner of the GLNF-CESU, Cornell University can submit proposals in response to the funding opportunities coming from the CESU system and we have the ability to engage in unsolicited agreements (proposals) with the federal partners. Cooperative agreements via the GLNF-CESU are treated like any other sponsored project. The associated paperwork must flow through the appropriate channels (Department Business Administrator, College Research Office, Office of Sponsored Programs) before it is submitted to the federal agency. All proposals should reference the umbrella CESU agreement (OSP #53964) so the Office of Sponsored Programs can connect individual projects to the terms and conditions of the main agreement. Each of the partner federal agencies has an internal process to initiate a cooperative agreement via the CESU system once a proposal has been accepted.

Website of the CESUs National Network (<http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>)

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