

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Donnelly Training Area Shorebird Study, Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Type of Project: Research

Project Discipline: Natural

Funding Agency: Department of Defense

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 9/30/2015 - 9/30/2018

Funding Amount: \$464,137

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency:

Investigator: Cal Bagley, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; (970)491-3324; Calvin.Bagley@ColoState.EDU

Project Abstract: Interior Alaska, specifically the boreal forest and alpine habitats, have several species of shorebirds that are 'species of concern' as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Audubon Watchlist, and Alaska Wildlife Action Plan highlighting vulnerable populations. These birds include lesser yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), solitary sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), and whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), all of which have been shown to nest in this region. The effects of climate change may be especially pronounced on this habitat type due wetland drying and increased fire frequency, influencing the special suite of birds that nest here. Relatively little is known about the distribution of shorebirds in the Delta Junction area near Donnelly Training Area, not just these species of concern but others such as Wilson's snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), and upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Consequently, efforts to better understand the distribution of shorebirds in the boreal forest and alpine habitats of Delta Junction will not only increase our understanding of how these birds will fare under several climate change scenarios but also aid the military in predicting how shorebird occurrence may interact with training activities.

Outcomes with completion dates: 9/30/2018

Keywords: shorebirds, surveys, habitat use, Donnelly Training Area, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands