

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title: Managing for Habitat and Invertebrate Prey Items: Maximizing Food Resources for Insectivorous Bird, Mammal, and Fish Species**

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** US Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University  
**Effective Dates:** 5/1/2013 - 4/30/2018  
**Funding Amount:** \$10,340

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

USFWS Contact: Bill West, Red Rock National Wildlife, 27650B South Valley Rd, Lima, MT 59739; 406-276-5336, bill\_west@fws.gov

Investigator: Wyatt Cross, MSU, 310 Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-994-2473; wyatt.cross@montana.edu

**Project Abstract:** The PI, Wyatt Cross, will evaluate various land management practices on invertebrate and habitat productivity across Red Rock National Wildlife Refuge, and adjacent habitats in southwest Montana. This project has two primary components: 1) to assess the effects of management and climate on habitat and invertebrate communities across time and space, and 2) to determine how these effects impact species that consume insects for reproduction or survival. This work will start to address effective resource management practices, such as fire and cattle grazing, so the Refuge can achieve its management goals for different habitats described in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

**Outcomes with completions dates: August 31, 2015**

**Keywords:** climate change, management practices, habitats, Comprehensive Conservation Plan, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Rock National Wildlife, Montana State University