

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Modeling the Effects of Alternative Transportation on Resource Protection and Visitor Experiences in Rocky Mountain National Park

**Discipline:** Social Science

**Type of Project:** Research

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University, University of Vermont

**Effective Dates:** 10/1/2007-12/31/2010

**Funding Amount:** \$85,649

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the extent to which ROMO's proposed shuttle system optimizes the park's transportation system, while maintaining resource quality and visitor experiences. This study is being conducted in concert with work by researchers at Virginia Tech and Utah State University. The existing shuttle system at ROMO is approaching capacity and the park managers will recommend changes in shuttle system operation based on visitor enjoyment and resource protection goals. This project will collect resource impact data in the Bear Lake Corridor and social science information at selected recreation sites along the Bear Lake Corridor.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by December 31, 2010:** Visitor Survey: (1) Visitor surveys that will identify levels of visitor preference related to People at One Time (PAOT) and Persons Per Viewscape (PPV) at trails and at attraction sites as well as demographics and other pertinent related items, (2) Visitor Use Data: Precise quantitative estimates of the amount of visitor use by location and time of day, (3) Inventory and assessment of recreational related impacts in conjunction with USU researchers: a) quantify current resource conditions, b) create GIS map of the location and extent of impacts, (4) Monitoring protocols: Develop specific detailed protocols for ongoing monitoring of PAOT and PPV on trails and at attraction sites, (5) Final report - including an electronic version to be provided by RM-CESU, (6) Technical meeting following research

**Keywords:** alternative transportation, visitor survey, resource protection, visitor use, Bear Lake Corridor, Rocky Mountain NP, Colorado State University