

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Study the Effectiveness of a New Fence Design that Excludes Elk and Moose but Allows the Movement of Other Wildlife

Type of Project: Technical assistance

Discipline: Natural Resources

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 6/1/2007-6/30/2009

Funding Amount: \$7,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: David J. Cooper, Department of Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Stewardship, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, (303) 499-6441, dcooper@rm.incc.net

Project Abstract: Colorado State University will cooperate with staff at Rocky Mountain NP to carry out a project related to the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan at ROMO. The scope of work is to evaluate effectiveness of a simple fence design for excluding elk and moose from willow without restricting other species. ROMO would like the fence to be researched to determine the presence of wildlife on both sides of the fence by establishing 8 - trackplots - 2 x2-m area on either side of the fence in areas clear of vegetation to the degree possible to create a tracking medium. Trackplots will be surveyed at least 2 times/month from June 2007 to June 2008, by raking away old tracks and returning approximately 24-hrs later to identify fresh tracks. Volunteers can be used to check the trackplots more frequently if available. In addition, animal-activated cameras (2 outside the enclosure) will be used from June 2007 to June 2008 to record still-image photographs of animals within 20-m of the fence inside and outside of the enclosure.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: (1) One hard copy and one electronic copy of the final report, due December 31, 2008, (2) Annual and final reports will include results of track plot information and animal activated photo documentation, monitoring techniques, sampling plan, effectiveness of fence design, inventory, and monitoring, (3) A least one oral presentation will be provided to the ROMO staff describing the research findings and the resulting management implications of this work, (4) One manuscript is encouraged: regarding the research results.

Keywords: exclosures, Elk and Vegetation management plan, elk herbivory, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: