

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Chronic Wasting Disease Diagnostic Services for Intermountain Region Parks

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 9/25/2007- 3/31/2011  
**Funding Amount:** \$34,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL) will work with the National Park Service to support to the NPS wildlife health program in addressing CWD in two ways. First, CSU will be a cooperator with NPS on a management study to assess live animal tests for CWD in elk at ROMO. Rectal biopsies, and potentially other samples such as blood, collected from about 120 live elk will be analyzed at CSU for presence of PrP<sup>CWD</sup>. Study elk will be radio-collared and monitored through time and complete postmortem evaluation will be performed when elk die or are collected as part of ongoing management activities at the park. The second component of CSU assistance will be provided through ongoing CWD surveillance on all cervid carcasses collected from ROMO or other IMR parks.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

1. Training and assistance in collecting rectal biopsy samples from elk in Rocky Mountain National Park (January 2008).
2. Diagnostic evaluation of antemortem samples, including rectal biopsies, collected from cervids in Rocky Mountain National Park, and other Intermountain Region parks, for presence of PrP<sup>CWD</sup> (2008).
3. Complete diagnostic necropsy accompanied by postmortem endocrine and reproductive systems evaluation and CWD diagnostics on cervids collected from Rocky Mountain National Park, and other Intermountain Region parks (as carcasses are available 2007-2011).

**Keywords:** Wildlife Health, chronic wasting disease, elk, NPS- Biological Resource Management Division, Colorado State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Rocky Mountain NP

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Date Annual Report Received:  
Date Final Report Received:  
Publications, etc. on file: