

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Resource and Impact Study of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary

**Type of Project:** Research

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University

**Effective Dates:** 5/15/2008 - 9/30/2010

**Funding Amount:** \$20,422

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** This study will investigate the history of hiking, mountaineering, and technical climbing on Longs Peak since 1925 and the impact of these forms of recreation over time on the peak's natural and cultural resources. It will also analyze the changes in social identity, cultural values, and environmental perceptions of people who have hiked or climbed Longs Peak as well as changes over time in park management goals. This project will use an interdisciplinary approach involving: historical research in primary and secondary sources; assessments of existing natural and cultural resource studies and inventories; and assessments of existing social science studies concerning human recreation in natural environments. Through reconnaissance-level field investigation with park staff, this project will also identify categories of un-inventoried resources (for example, social trails) and impacts to resources (for example, damage caused to geological resources from technical climbing, litter, soil erosion) that ought to be inventoried or investigated in the future.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Draft report including a complete bibliography and illustrations submitted for review and comment to the park and outside reviewers (due in August 2009). Two oral interviews of persons knowledgeable about the peak's resources and impacts taped and transcribed for repository in the park archives (due in December 2009). Final report incorporating appropriate review comments (due in December 2009). Once approved by the park, the PI will provide ten printed and bound copies and two cds including: oral history transcriptions saved as PDF; final report saved as PDF; photos saved in native TIF format; other project files as appropriate.

**Keywords:** Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University, Long's Peak, history, interviews