

**PROJECT SUMMARY**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Assessing Backcountry Campers' Adoption of Leave No Trace Technologies

**Type of Project:** Research  
**Discipline:** Social Science  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 4/18/2008- 10/31/2010  
**Funding Amount:** \$16,771

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Improper disposal of human waste (feces) in our national parks is creating an increasing problem. Human waste can contaminate streams and lakes, alter wildlife behavior, and create health problems for humans and wildlife alike. Therefore, many national parks are moving toward a policy requiring climbers, hikers, and campers to pack out their human waste. This practice aligns with the Leave No Trace multi-agency project that encourages cleanliness in all areas of national parks. The objective of the research is to determine the primary resistance factors (barriers) to backpackers' use of the Restop 2 disposable travel toilet. Visitors to Rocky Mountain NP will be contacted in four ways to get their survey responses: For this project, we propose four contacts: (1) The Initial Contact Letter, (2) a Packet that includes another personalized letter; a stamped, addressed, return envelope; and the questionnaire, (3) The Postcard Follow-up, and (4) The second Packet including another personalized letter explaining the project; another questionnaire; and a stamped, return envelope. CSU cooperators will develop the survey materials, train ROMO volunteers to recruit participants, administer the survey and perform analysis of the survey data. A written final report and presentation to ROMO staff will conclude the project.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by April 30, 2010**

1. Develop backcountry camper questionnaire/survey with Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) staff.
2. Develop sampling scheme for mail survey of selected backcountry campers.
3. Develop announcement letter, form, and survey packets (cover letter, questionnaire and supporting materials).
4. Prepare training materials for training RMNP volunteers and staff for recruiting participants to the study.
5. Prepare end of project report and results.
6. Present results to RMNP staff.
7. Provide monthly updates of progress to NPS Key Official

**Keywords:** visitor survey, waste disposal, Restop 2 toilet, Social Science, Rocky Mountain NP, Colorado State University.