

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

**Project Title:** Connect Visitors to the Historic Landscape through Restoration of the Core Battlefield at Palo Alto Battlefield NHP

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Student Involvement:** yes, graduate research assistant  
**Effective Dates:** 4/10/2014 - 12/31/2017  
**Funding Amount:** \$391,475 [FY16: \$72,000; FY15: \$72,000; FY14: \$170,799]

**Investigators and Agency Representatives:**

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**Project Abstract:** Research shows that the core battlefields landscape can be restored by: 1) carefully backfilling excavated ditches and stock ponds in the Palo Alto Resaca with side cast materials to restore pre-disturbance topography and hydrologic processes; and 2) planting the disturbed (plowed) wet coastal prairie with gulf cordgrass (*Spartina spartinae*). These steps are critical to the Park's mission to restore and preserve the historic landscape of the 1846 battle and to interpret those events for visitors in the appropriate landscape context. Project benefits also include the restoration of wildlife habitat and other ecological functions of wet coast prairie and Resaca wetlands environments.

**Keywords:** landscape restoration, Core Battlefield at Palo Alto Battlefield NHP, Colorado State University