

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Develop communication tools for elk and vegetation management and research, Rocky Mountain NP

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Research/Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Involvement: Yes, student technician and graduate student

Effective Dates: 08/01/2015 - 11/30/2016

Funding Amount: \$18,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Therese Johnson, Rocky Mountain National Park, Biologist, 1000 US HWY 36, Estes Park, CO 80517, Therese_Johnson@nps.gov, 970-586-1262

Investigator: Cindy T. Christen, Associate Professor, C240 Clark Building, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1785; (970) 491-6319; cindy.christen@colostate.edu

Project Abstract: This cooperative research project will provide tools and information that will assist Rocky Mountain National Park in communicating with various audiences about elk and vegetation history, research and management. The principle investigators and staff will collaborate with park staff to identify audiences, develop messages, and select appropriate communication tools, and then will produce the selected tools. This project will serve a public purpose by providing new tools to communicate about natural resource science and issues, generated by researchers external to the NPS, for the benefit of the greater community. It will also engage university students and faculty in shared environmental stewardship.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Final Report - May 31, 2016

Keywords: Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University, elk management, vegetation management, communication tools