

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Ice Patch Archeology of Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 7/1/2015 - 6/30/2019
Funding Amount: \$29,983

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This cooperative research project will involve work in three major areas with the purpose of documenting archeological evidence at receding ice and snow patches, along with documenting and studying their natural environment. The three major research areas would be: 1.) conservation biology-graduate student investigations led by the principal investigator, Dr. Jason LaBelle, into remains of prehistoric game such as bison and bighorn sheep and the ecological relationships with humans, i.e. what drew the humans to these places 2.) Studies of wood remnants found at treeline and pollen samples from high-elevation ponds to determine shifts in treeline over time 3.) Human use of the environment in the form of tools, game drives, and other human artifacts found in proximity to receding snow/ice patches.

This project will serve a public purpose by providing new knowledge on cultural and natural resources, generated by researchers external to the NPS, for the benefit of the greater scientific community. It will also engage university students and faculty in shared environmental stewardship.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- o Final draft report due to ROMO on 10/1/2018
- o Final report and associated electronic data due to ROMO on 12/15/2018
- o Graduate student will use materials as part of their MA thesis and defend the project in the Fall 2018

Keywords: Ice Patch Archeology, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University, graduate student