

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title: Vegetation Assessment of El Malpais, El Morro, and Wupatki National Monuments**

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 05/01/2015 - 12/30/2016  
**Funding Amount:** \$20,115

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The services provided by the principal investigator will significantly contribute to a collaborative project that provides an assessment of natural resource conditions for El Malpais (ELMA), El Morro (ELMO), and Wupatki (WUPA) NMs (referred to collectively as the national monuments hereafter). This project is intended to assist resource management staff to assess specific park-based resource priorities and needs. Through compilation and synthesis of existing scientific information from multiple sources, and expert judgment from an interdisciplinary team of specialists, of which Dr. Romme will be a key member, the project will assist NPS in defining specific park priorities. The project objectives include: characterize park biological and physical resource conditions at appropriate scales; define threat and stress factors and their relationship to identified resources; identify critical data gaps; and suggest data collection or resource investigations to address those gaps. The project will define resource conditions, threats, and stressors for the national monuments. These factors are evaluated and depicted spatially (to the extent possible) to facilitate use of project findings in a wide variety of park decision and planning processes, and for use in park reporting to the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan land health goals.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** December 30, 2016

**Keywords:** vegetation assessments, El Malpais (ELMA), El Morro (ELMO), and Wupatki (WUPA) National Monuments, Colorado State University