

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

Project Title: Completion of Determination of Eligibility for Park Historic Districts Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Involvement: Yes

Effective Dates: 8/15/2016 - 3/31/2021

Funding Amount: \$30,045

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Paul McLaughlin, Research Coordinator, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1000 US Highway 36; Estes Park, CO 80517; 970-586-1282; paul_mclaughlin@nps.gov

Investigator: Sarah Payne, Assistant Professor, History Department, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1776; Fort Collins, CO 80523-1776; sarah.payne@colostate.edu

Project Abstract: The collaborative project of this agreement between Colorado State University (CSU) and the National Park Service (NPS) will assist Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) with documenting and preparing Determinations of Eligibility (DOE) for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) statements for potential historic districts within the park. CSU's Public Lands History Center (PLHC) will undertake evaluation and completion of the DOE statements for potential districts to be chosen in conjunction with ROMO staff. NPS Cultural Resource Management policies and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) require the park to maintain an inventory of cultural resources. Current NPS focus is to identify cultural resources within cultural landscapes. This approach complements that of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), which recognizes historic cultural landscapes. As park facilities managers plan projects, under the NHPA, they must comply with Section 106 to identify and mitigate adverse effects on cultural resources including listed and potentially eligible historic districts. ROMO needs to take steps to identify historic districts to include cultural landscapes and determine if they are eligible for the NRHP so that park officials can plan for upcoming maintenance and property development. The OAHP stipulates that evaluations of cultural landscapes follow OAHP Form 1404 "Historic Cultural Landscapes." Each structure or building requires an intensive level of historical and architectural survey and a completed OAHP Form 1403. Objects and archeological sites require Form 1402. These forms generally follow the organization of a NRHP nomination and include four principal sections: an architectural description, an architectural/construction history, a history of use and people associated with the structure, and a statement of historic significance and eligibility to the NRHP. Maps and photographs accompany each 1402 or 1403 form. The PLHC will complete cultural landscape analyses for potential historic districts chosen in conjunction with ROMO staff. PLHC researchers will complete OAHP Historic Cultural Landscape Form 1404 evaluations (including appropriate 1402 and 1403 forms) for these potentially-eligible districts. In conjunction, PLHC researchers will re-evaluate existing NRHP historic districts or districts already determined eligible for their potential to be considered as cultural landscapes. Where appropriate, researchers will complete OAHP Historic Cultural Landscape forms for these sites.

ROMO staff has identified the following nine potential historic districts in need of DOEs as cultural landscapes: Aspenglen Campground; Glacier Basin Campground; Longs Peak Campground; Timber Creek Campground; Alpine Visitor Center; Longs Peak Trail; Green Mountain Ranch/Onahu Ranch; Wild Basin Area; and Old High Drive. Within the agreement period through 2020, the PLHC will complete an estimated four cultural landscape DOEs from the aforementioned list of nine potential historic districts in ROMO. With supervision and training from CSU faculty and Public Lands History Center (PLHC) PI, a lead researcher will oversee each of the four DOE projects and assist the graduate students participating in the project. At an initial site visit, ROMO staff, the PLHC PI, and the lead researcher will identify the areas in the park that are in most immediate need cultural landscape DOEs to determine the priority of research and evaluation and the schedule and deadlines for completion. However, both parties to the agreement (ROMO and PLHC) may reconsider and renegotiate this number of four DOEs as cultural landscapes depending on the complexity of the chosen sites.

Keywords: Determinations of Eligibility (DOE) for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), historic districts, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University, students