

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Sounds of Nature & Stories from Science

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Students Involvement: Yes
Effective Dates: 6/31/2016 - 12/31/2018
Funding Amount: \$31,061

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Preservation of the natural soundscape is a critical, but lesser known and under-funded conservation challenge of the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS's Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division (NSNSD) is charged with preserving the sounds of our most cherished wild lands by monitoring and protecting natural soundscapes for the benefit of visitors, wildlife, and soundscapes in general. Colorado State University (CSU) is a partner with the NPS on this mission. Additionally, the NPS and CSU have a joint mission to engage and retain young scientists in the goal to conserve and protect our treasured places. The CSU Listening Lab has been established to assist the NSNSD with data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The *Sounds of Nature & Stories from Science* project will connect and strengthen the efforts of Yellowstone National Park with resources and tools that have been established by the NSNSD-CSU partnership. The project will (1) engage and train young scientists in the field of soundscape recordings and preservation, (2) assist with collection of natural sounds at Yellowstone to be preserved in regional sound repositories, (3) assist with the development of science storytelling about research occurring in Yellowstone, and (4) further Yellowstone's Science Communication Program via the development of web and social media content related to soundscape recordings and science storytelling.

Keywords: technical assistance, National Park Service, Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, Yellowstone National Park, Colorado State University