

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Technical Assistance for Veterinary Pathology and Diagnostic Services for NPS Wildlife Species

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Student Participation: Yes, Veterinary Medicine Students
Effective Dates: 3/31/2016- 2/28/2019
Funding Amount: \$170,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL) has the capabilities to provide specialized support and collaboration with NPS on wildlife health monitoring, disease investigation, NPS training programs, and sample archiving. NPS wildlife veterinarians facilitate this relationship between NPS units and CSUVDL, jointly determining how best to investigate and learn from wildlife disease cases that occur in NPS units. This collaboration between CSUVDL veterinary pathologists and other animal health professionals at CSUVDL and NPS wildlife veterinarians allows for a unique team which is well suited to investigate wildlife health and disease issues within the National Park System and also diversify training for professional veterinary medicine program students during their pathology rotations. Investigations may include disease surveillance and monitoring activities, wildlife species population health assessments, field or laboratory wildlife necropsies, ancillary diagnostic tests, and training NPS staff. Specialized technical expertise in the areas of pathology, bacteriology, virology, parasitology, clinical pathology, and histology will be required to complete these investigations. CSUVDL can provide these services as well as pathologists and support staff for a collaborative approach to these activities. The project will involve the recipient's staff and students to engage in shared environmental stewardship. Further, the scientific community and researchers external to NPS will gain from new knowledge provided by investigations and dissemination of results of natural resource information, specifically wildlife disease information.

Keywords: Veterinary Pathology and Diagnostic Services, wildlife, National Park Service, Colorado State University