

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
Project Summary

**Project Title:** Technical Assistance to the National Park Service Wildlife Health Team

**Task Agreement #:** P17AC00205                      Modification(s): 2

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Research//Technical Assistance/Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University

**Student Participation:** Yes, Veterinary Medicine Students

**Effective Dates:** April 20, 2017 to March 7, 2022

**Funding Amount:** \$819,013

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Linda Drees Deputy Division Chief National Park Service Biological Resources Division 1201 Oak Ridge Dr., Suite 200 Fort Collins, CO, 80525 Ph: 970-225-3595 Fax: 970-225-3585 linda\_drees@nps.gov

Investigator: Dr. Terry Spraker Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Fort Collins, CO 80523 Ph: (970) 297-4155 Fax: (970) 297-0320 terry.spraker@colostate.edu

**Project Abstract:** Emerging infectious diseases are of concern for the health of wildlife, humans, and domestic animals. To help contribute as a landscape-scale partner protecting the health of all species, the National Park Service will collaborate with Colorado State University on surveillance and investigation of diseases in wildlife in national parks. This collaborative work will promote shared environmental stewardship and contribute to our scientific knowledge of disease occurrence in wildlife that can be shared in reports and publications. The work will also provide a unique opportunity for veterinary students at Colorado State University to diversify their education and learn firsthand about diseases in wildlife. Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has the capabilities to provide specialized support to the National Park Service wildlife health program in addressing chronic wasting disease, zoonoses, and other emerging diseases. This agreement will allow staff from the institutions to continue working side by side in providing technical assistance, training, and research investigation on wildlife diseases to parks.

**Keywords:** infectious disease, wildlife, National Park Service, Colorado State University