

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: Evaluation of NPS surface water resources to inform management of the degraded Rio Grande riparian corridor in Big Bend National Park

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Participation: Yes, grad student

Effective Dates: June 15, 2019 – April 10, 2022

Funding Amount: \$123,006

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Derek Schook, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523; 269-924-9800; derek.schook@colostate.edu

Project Abstract:

Management and enhancement of surface water resources are essential functions of the National Park Service (NPS) as supported by the Water Resources Division (WRD). Increasing WRD's capacity to complete surface water hydrology, watershed management, and wetlands restoration and management projects would enhance its ability to serve parks. This includes supporting parks in current projects and helping them strategically plan for the future. This agreement would bring a level of scientific expertise not currently available at WRD. For example, Big Bend National Park (BIBE) is at a turning point in its Rio Grande riparian vegetation management program. Following a decade of invasive species eradication and sediment monitoring, the park needs to better understand the effectiveness of its past management to guide future investments. The goal of this agreement is to support this complex and multifaceted issue at BIBE, as well as provide technical expertise for WRD on other surface water needs.