

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: Distribution of Reed Canary Grass and the testing of management strategies against it

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: 6/1/2019 – 12/31/2021

Funding Amount: \$26,934

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Jim Bromberg, Ecologist, Mountain National Park, 1000 US HWY 36, Estes Park, CO 80517; 970-586-1302; Jim_Bromberg@nps.gov

Investigator: Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523; (970) 491-5430; jeremy.sueltenfuss@colostate.edu

Project Abstract:

Project Goals – The goal of this project is to have students collaborate with Rocky Mountain National Park to collect information and data (e.g. species distributions, vegetation health, and exotic history) to support the management of an invasive exotic species Reed Canary Grass. This will help the park to understand better treatment of this species which will ultimately lead to restoration of wildlife habitat.

Project Objectives – The expected end result of the project are to have educated students on collecting information in Rocky Mountain National Park, to inform management with information that would support the design of habitat restoration projects, and provide information to support the newly signed Exotic Management Plan. The first step will get student researchers into the field to develop a baseline distribution of Reed Canary Grass which will then be used to design treatments and restoration concepts. All of this is to promote beaver, wildlife, bird, and fish habitat. This information will allow NPS staff to be adaptive in their approach and ensure restoration success.