

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary**

Task Agreement #: P20AC00679

Project Title: Effects of excess levels of particulate matter, haze, ozone and nitrogen deposition on resources of six NPS units

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Participation: No

Effective Dates: August 1, 2020 – January 31, 2025

Funding Amount: \$244,714

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Project goals: The proposed work plan is ongoing for 4.5 years, and it is anticipated that this project will be implemented in three phases over this time period. This initial Task Agreement provides financial assistance to conduct Phase I work for the initial twelvemonth period and the project. The work conducted in phases II and III will depend on the availability of funding and in some cases the results from previous phases of work. The goal is to support the National Park Service – Air Resource Division (NPS-ARD) in developing a sound scientific understanding of the effects of excess levels of particulate matter, haze, ozone and nitrogen deposition on park resources and the causes of these excess pollutant levels. In addition, to identify the best management practices for protecting park resources. The public visits national parks and wilderness areas to enjoy nature in an unimpaired state.

Project objectives: The phase I of this cooperative agreement is a continuation of an ongoing collaborative project between the NPS and CSU. Specifically, the analysis of data and publication of results from 2019 Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE) Air Quality Study. This study was designed to better understand the causes of increasing episodes of unhealthy levels of ozone in CAVE.