Project Title: Aspen forest conditions rapid assessment, eastern Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Student Participation: Yes, graduate assistant
Effective Dates: March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021
Funding Amount: $10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:
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Investigator: Dr. Jason Sibold, Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, 907-491-4801, jason.sibold@colostate.edu

Project Abstract:
Project Goals – The goal of this project is to conduct a rapid assessment of aspen forest cover in eastern Rocky Mountain National Park. Aspen is a key forest cover type for biodiversity and can play a critical role in reducing fire hazard because of its dampening influences on fire behavior. The goal of this project is to collaborate with ROMO staff to conduct a rapid assessment of aspen forest conditions on the eastern side of Rocky Mountain National Park that will facilitate decision making regarding aspen management.

Project Objectives – The lead investigator, Jason Sibold will develop the methodology for conducting a rapid assessment of park aspen stands on the eastern side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Along with graduate student assistants, Dr. Sibold will lead ROMO staff in the two-day field project and prior staff training. In addition, Dr. Sibold will conduct the data analysis and generate a project report for staff that will help guide future management of aspen stands at the Park.