

Project Title: Rocky Mountain National Park: A Reservation for Nature

Discipline: Social

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Cooperator: University Of Colorado - Boulder

Student Participation:

Effective Dates: June 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020

Funding Amount: \$8,421

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Scott Esser, Ecologist, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1000 US HWY 36, Estes Park, CO 80517; 970-586-1394; Scott_Esser@nps.gov

Investigator: Lydia Lawhon, Instructor/Policy Specialization Lead, University Colorado Boulder, 3100 Marine Street, Room 467, Boulder, CO 80309-0572; lydia.lawhon@colorado.edu

Project Abstract:

Project Goals – This project strives to help the park understand the various types park reservation systems that are available and that may work to address the effects of increased user visitation. The project will also look at park visitation dependent upon the summer and winter seasons, user group, the amount of visitors, and specific to geographical regions to help the park better understand its visitation and whether a reservation system could work to address increased visitation.

Project Objectives – The project will work with Rocky Mountain National Park staff to review and look at various existing visitor reservation systems and implementation plans so the park may better mitigate issues related to increased visitation. The Recipient will determine peak visitation times on a day and seasonal scale with a focus primarily on the eastern side of the park. The deliverables include a review of existing, potential and conceptual reservation systems that exist and an assessment of available literature on visitation in the NPS.