

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Develop Techniques to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Grizzly Bear Management Areas in Yellowstone National Park

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service, RM-CESU

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University

**Effective Dates:** 5/1/2006 - 12/31/2010

**Funding Amount:** \$5,000.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Special Bear Management Areas (BMAs) were designated in Yellowstone National Park (YELL) in 1983 in an effort to provide security for the threatened grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*). Sixteen BMAs were identified and have been in place since that time. These BMAs comprise 464,638 acres or approximately 21% of YELL, and are closed to human access and recreational activity for part or all of the spring, summer, and fall seasons when bears are active. The goals behind these restrictions were to: 1) minimize bear-human interactions that may lead to habituation of bears to people, 2) prevent human-caused displacement of bears from prime food sources, and 3) decrease the risk of bear-cause human injuries in areas with high levels of bear activity. As part of a larger, interagency effort to evaluate the Bear Management Areas in Yellowstone NP, this project funds a graduate student to begin fieldwork. The student will provide technical assistance on the development of protocols, techniques, and the collection of sampling data within four BMAs in the Yellowstone Lake spawning stream area. Specifically, these funds will allow the graduate student to purchase necessary field equipment and receive 3 months of salary and housing.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Results will be disseminated via annual reports, a master's thesis, scientific publications, and newspaper articles. Additionally a GIS layer will be constructed containing bear movement, habitat use, and human movement data. MS thesis will be complete by December 2008.

**Keywords:** Yellowstone NP, bear management areas, grizzly bear, Montana State University

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: