

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Implementation of a long-term monitoring protocol for American Pika within two National Park Service units

Project Code: P11AT10359 **UID-37**

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: University of Idaho

NPS Agreement Technical Representative: Gordon Dicus, Program Manager, NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network, 105 E. Second St, Ste 5, Moscow ID 83843, 208-885-3684, Gordon_Dicus@nps.gov

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Start Date of Project: June 15, 2011

End Date of Project: Dec 31, 2013

Funding Amount: \$61,000

Project Summary, Implementation of a long-term monitoring protocol for American pika in Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and in Glacier National Park, including development and refinement of sampling designs, data collection, data analysis, and development of reports.

Final reports from this project are available online – see the following links:

<https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/2192698>

<https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/Profile/664550>

Number of students participating in this project: Two undergraduate students participated in this project.

Lessons Learned from this project: Detectability of pika is better in late summer and fall, as opposed to late spring and summer. Observer training is critical in protocols that employ presence/absence types of data collection, since false “absence” data has the potential to significantly skew analysis of multi-year trend.

Other RM-CESU agencies or research partners who participated in this project: Rocky Mountain I&M Network, Upper Columbia Basin I&M Network, University of Colorado Boulder, USGS-NRMSC.