

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Distribution of Pikas and Clark's Nutcrackers in Glacier NP

Discipline: Natural Resources

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 3/1/2006 - 12/30/2007

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Dr. Kerry Foresman, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812; 406-243-4492, kerry.foresman@mso.umt.edu

Project Abstract:

The University of Montana will work with Glacier NP to investigate the distribution and status of pikas and Clark's Nutcrackers in high elevation regions of the park. Prior to the 2006 field season, Foresman and Gniadek will provide a UM student with logistical information and reference materials on the two target species, allowing the student to develop a general sampling protocol. This protocol will be revised as necessary to conform to established or recommended methodologies. Beginning in June, the student will further refine the sampling design and field schedule, participate in park orientation, safety and bear management training, and initiate sampling at more accessible lower elevation historic pika sites (e.g. Red Rock Point, Dead Horse Point). As conditions allow accessibility to higher elevation sites, sampling will proceed at known historic or prior research sites (e.g. Lunch Creek), as well as along systematic transects (trails through alpine and subalpine areas). The student will have a draft summary report completed before returning to the university in September 2006. This report will include a description of the methods used, the effort expended (time and distances traveled, areas sampled), all raw data forms, photographs, and a summary of all sightings. During the fall term, the student will finalize the report and submit it to the park, university and CESU coordinator by the end of December 2006.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

December 30, 2006: Final report due

Keywords: pika, Clark's nutcracker, population surveys, Glacier National Park, University of Montana

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: