

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title: Assessment of Salt Lick Influence on Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use**

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 9/30/2014 - 6/30/2017  
**Funding Amount:** \$10,510

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:**

A research assistant will be selected to accomplish the following objectives for monitoring bighorn sheep. The research assistant will use GPS collar data from ~95 bighorn sheep to evaluate sheep movements in and near Glacier National Park. The research assistant will summarize overall sheep movements. The research assistant will compare those movements with movements towards sheep licks. The research assistant will summarize the timing and frequency of bighorn use of known salt licks. The research assistant will also search for other locations that may be useful for monitoring sheep (e.g. unknown salt licks, locations where sheep funnel onto a narrow trail). The research assistant will prepare a report to document our findings for park resource managers.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Investigator's Annual Report (IAR) - Mar. 31, 2015 and 2016

Final Completion Report - May 30, 2016

- (a) Summary report or publication;
- (b) Report will include a series of maps displaying bighorn sheep activity
- (c) GIS data files and accompanying metadata

Keywords: bighorn sheep, salt licks, USGS, Glacier National Park, University of Montana