

# **Project Completion Report**

## **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

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

**Project Code :** P14AC01562/ UMT-306

**Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Education):** Technical Assistance

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** University of Montana

**NPS Agreements Technical Representative (with complete contact information):**

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**Start Date of Project:** 9/30/2015

**End Date of Project:** 6/30/2017

**Funding Amount:** \$10,510

**Number of Students Involved, and Type of Student (Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Doctorate):** 0 - 1 person between undergraduate and graduate status.

**Project Summary, including descriptions of project deliverables, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report.**

We used GPS collar data from 95 bighorn sheep to evaluate sheep movements in and near Glacier National Park. We summarized overall sheep movements. We compared those movements with movements towards sheep licks. We summarized the timing and frequency of bighorn use of known salt licks. We created home ranges for sheep and describe how salt lick use varies depending on whether known salt licks are present within the home range by sheep social group. We searched for other locations that may be useful for monitoring sheep, in particular other mineral licks, but did not find any obvious locations. A report documents our findings for park resource managers. We also presented these results in poster format to the Montana chapter of The Wildlife Society.