

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Study

**Discipline:** Social science  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 8/22/2014- 9/30/2015  
**Funding Amount:** \$74,986

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:**

The National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, The Bureau of Reclamation, and the United States Forest Service - together the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) agencies - all collect recreational fees under the authority of the REA. Visitors can purchase Annual, Senior, or Access passes that allow unlimited entry for the holder's party (up to four visitors or one car total) over the period of a year (or for life, in the case of the Senior Pass) to the Interior and USFS recreation sites that charge fees. These passes can be purchased on-site, online, on the telephone, or via third party vendors such as REI. The REA agencies wish to learn about the use and characteristics of the purchasers of the Annual, Senior, and Access passes sold and distributed (the Access pass is free of charge) by the USGS online and on the phone. The individuals purchasing passes via phone and the internet from the USGS represent a subset of all pass purchases.

Our principal goal is to study the characteristics and use patterns of consumers who purchase passes online and on the phone.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 30, 2015**

**Keywords:** recreational fees, Annual passes, Senior passes, Access passes, purchaser characteristics, NPS Recreation Fee Program, University of Montana