

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Assessment of Ponderosa Pine Resistance to Mountain Pine Beetle, Devils Tower National Monument

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Research/Technical Assistance/Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Student Involvement: Yes

Effective Dates: 5/2/2016 to 3/31/2018

Funding Amount: \$37,868

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: University of Montana (UMT) will conduct an assessment of ponderosa pine resistance to mountain pine beetle infestation at Devils Tower National Monument (DETO). For genetic comparison, and to assess the regional level of resistance to pine beetle and further inform the predicted threat to resources of Devils Tower, sampling will also be conducted at Wind Cave National Park (WICA) and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial (MORU). If time allows, additional sampling may be conducted at Jewel Cave National Monument (JECA). Additionally, UMT will provide DETO with an educational pamphlet and video short, and will present an educational program on pine beetle in the DETO campground amphitheater. The project fulfills a public purpose by improving public understanding of mountain pine beetle infestation at Devils Tower, and seeks to provide information on the susceptibility of ponderosa pine forests to the beetle that will greatly enhance public knowledge on the threat of the insect.

Keywords: Devils Tower National Monument, University of Montana, Ponderosa Pine, Mountain Pine Beetle