

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Aspen Regeneration Following Large-Scale Fire Disturbance, Rocky Mountain National Park

**Type of Project:** Research  
**Discipline:** Natural  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Northern Colorado  
**Effective Dates:** 9/1/2011 - 12/31/2013  
**Funding Amount:** \$12,178

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The objective of the proposed study is to examine the regeneration of aspen following a major fire (Cow Creek fire) in Rocky Mountain National Park. The large-scale fire event along with above average moisture conditions may create a rare window of opportunity for aspen sexual reproduction. *We hypothesize that aspen forests have changed drastically since the early 1970s, and that changes will be greatest where multiple disturbances occurred. We further hypothesize that there will be no evidence of aspen sexual reproduction; i.e., that the abiotic factors are no longer viable for such reproductive events.*

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Final report due: September 30, 2013

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**Keywords:** Aspen regeneration, disturbances, Rocky Mountain National, University of Northern Colorado