

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Development and Technical Review (NEPA and Content) of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Evaluating Management Actions Regarding the Control of Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

**Discipline:** Natural Resources

**Type of Project:** Technical assistance

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Utah State University

**Effective Dates:** 8/3/2007- 3/30/2009

**Funding Amount:** \$5000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Ben Bobowski, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, 266 Warren Lane, Deer Lodge MT 59722, 406-846-2070, x240, ben\_bobowski@nps.gov

Investigator: Ben Baldwin, Utah State University, EnvS Dept. 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5215, 435-797-2582, ben.baldwin@usu.edu

#### **Project Abstract:**

Beaver are a native species that are often considered to be a pest by the agricultural community and many NPS staff. This small mammal is expanding its range, growing at an unknown rate, and changing a cultural landscape in areas that are currently unacceptable to many staff and park neighbors. This plan will aid managers in the thoughtful management of a native species in an agricultural national park unit.

The NPS and Utah State University will work closely with Gary Swant (local ecologist) to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA). The NPS will provide a current example of an EA, all biological/ecological information, and access to printers/copiers as appropriate. Gary Swant will submit an EA draft to the NPS and Ben Baldwin, Utah State University, by December 21, 2007 to give Ben Baldwin at least 12 weeks to review the document for content and alignment with NEPA. Comments will be given back to Gary Swant (copied to the NPS) for integration. A final draft EA will be submitted to the NPS by the June 1, 2008.

#### **Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

December 21, 2007: Draft an EA (Gary Swant).

March 31, 2008: Review content for alignment with NEPA and for content (Ben Baldwin and assistant)

June 1, 2008: Final draft complete and submitted to NPS.

**Keywords:** beaver, environmental assessment, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Utah State University

#### **For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: