

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H1200040001

USU Control Number: 08-0800

Sponsor Award Number: H1200040001; J1526085194; USU-RM-50

PROJECT TITLE: Writing and Editing of Task Agreements, Research Project Fact Sheets, and Newsletter Articles for Rocky Mountain National Park

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Rocky Mountain National Park

NAME OF UNIVERSITY PARTNER: Utah State University

NPS KEY OFFICIAL: Judith Visty, Research Administrator, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1000 Highway 36 Estes Park, CO 80517; Judy_Visty@nps.gov; 970/586-1302

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Ben Baldwin, Utah State University, Department of Environment and Society, 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5215; ben.baldwin@usu.edu; 435/797-2582

RESEARCHER: Emily Yost, Utah State University, Department of Environment and Society, 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5215; esyost@gmail.com; 610/360-9152

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS:

Date of Project Initiation: March 17, 2008

Final Products include, but are not limited to:

1. Written CESU task agreement scopes of work covering new research projects
2. One-page summaries of research
3. Elk and vegetation management communication plan and tools (e.g., fact sheets, newspaper articles)
4. Final report of work

A CD of all product files (text, photos, Adobe InDesign, PDFs) was provided to the NPS Key Official and Principle Investigator.

End Date of Project: December 30, 2010

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Utah State University (USU) researcher provided science writing, editing, and communication planning assistance to Rocky Mountain National Park Resource Stewardship staff.

Task 1. Developed or edited written scopes of work for future task agreements.

Emily worked closely with the Research Administrator in Rocky Mountain National Park to write scopes of work for inclusion in task agreements for research projects that the park is funding in 2008. Emily worked with park staff and potential investigators to understand research information needs, methods, budgets, and constraints. Emily finalized scopes of work and completed the agreement template, including substantial involvement documentation, in the format required by the CESU NPS research coordinator. In some cases, Emily reviewed the scopes of work prepared by others for completeness.

Agreements Emily worked on:

1. Forecasting the impacts of mountain pine beetle on Rocky Mountain National Park lodgepole pine forests, Dr. Monique Rocca and Dr. Bill Romme, Colorado State University.
2. Assessing Backcountry Campers' Adoption of Leave No Trace Technologies, Don Zimmerman, Colorado State University.

3. Exploring Rocky Mountain National Park visitors' information sources, communications, and perception of wildlife management practices, Don Zimmerman, Colorado State University.
4. Data Collection to Support Restoration Design In the Lulu City Wetland, Colorado River and Lulu Creek Corridors, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, David J. Cooper, Colorado State University.
5. Investigation of Nitrogen Deposition into Loch Vale, Rocky Mountain National Park, David Swift, Colorado State University.
6. Restoration Strategy for Limber Pine along the Front Range of Northern Colorado, Anna Schoettle, Colorado State University (note: agreement for this project was not used).

Emily also drafted a PMIS statement and Visitor Services Project (VSP) nomination for a park demographic social science survey.

Task 2. Wrote one-page summaries of research using park template.

Emily wrote one-page summaries of completed research projects related to the management of elk and vegetation within the park. These summaries were based on project descriptions, technical reports, and articles. The summary drafts were submitted to a review by a small writing team. Emily incorporated the feedback, finalized the text, and placed the text in the product template with photos. The final draft of the summary was submitted to the project researchers for a scientific review. Emily again incorporated these comments and submitted the products for publication.

Summaries written by Emily:

1. Age Distribution of Aspen, based on a study led by Dan Binkley, Colorado State University
2. Effects of Elk on Aspen Growth, based on a US Geological Survey study led by Linda Zeigenfuss.

Emily also worked with the writing team to provide editing services and feedback on summaries written by other team members. When needed, Emily placed the final drafts into the park summary template.

Other summaries Emily worked on:

1. Climate Change and Prehistoric Human Migration (editing and layout)
2. Fire History and Climate Change (editing and layout)
3. Old Voices and Sacred Sites (editing and layout)
4. Stone Artifacts and Prehistoric Human Migration (editing and layout)
5. Nutrition of Black Bears (editing)
6. Effects of Elk on Aspen and Cavity-Nesting Birds (editing)
7. Intersex Fish in Remote Lakes (editing)
8. Mountain Lion Ecology (editing)
9. The Canada Thistle Rust Mite (editing)
10. Plant Response to Ozone (editing)

In addition to the research summary responsibilities, Emily provided feedback on a park association newsletter article, survey report, and portions of the Continental Divide Research Learning Center's strategic plan. She also prepared meeting notes for a chronic wasting disease managers' discussion

Task 3. Developed a communication plan and related communication tools for the park's Elk and Vegetation Management Plan.

Emily developed a communication plan (14 pages) to support public education efforts for the park's Elk and Vegetation Management Plan by explaining new and controversial initiatives to public points of contact. The park assisted in identifying audiences, messages, and key products. Communication tools included developing products intended to provide more information about the roles of elk and vegetation in the Rocky Mountain National Park ecosystem.

Products were reviewed by park's lead Elk and Vegetation Management Plan manager, Research Administrator, and Park Information Officer, as well as other staff.

Products developed by Emily (all requested):

1. Talking Points
2. PowerPoint Presentation (compilation of presentations by park's lead Elk and Vegetation Management Plan manager)
3. Background Summary: Wolves
4. Background Summary: Hunting
5. Background Summary: Fertility Control
6. Article for Rocky Mountain Nature Association quarterly newsletter
7. Article for park newspaper

Summary of final products (16):

6 Task Agreement Scopes of Work

2 One-page research project summaries, assistance on 10 others

1 Communication plan (14 pages) regarding Elk and Vegetation Management Plan implementation actions

7 Communication products related to elk and vegetation

Project Schedule:

March – September 2008: completed tasks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create content guidelines for research project summaries to help new authors. This would simplify the drafting process, provide a framework for starting, and promote consistency to the extent reasonable. Emphasis should be on content rather than style. Guidelines should state the purpose of the summary and define the audience. The length, organization, and level of detail desired should also be described. Consider adding a label that identifies the product as a project summary.
2. Future elk and vegetation management communication leads should work closely with the Public Information Officer as well as Research Stewardship staff..

FINAL PRODUCTS:

A CD of final products was supplied to Judy Visty (ROMO), Kathy Tonnessen (NPS Research Coordinator), and Ben Baldwin (Utah State University). Note: the elk and vegetation communication materials should not be posted on the web without consent from Judy Visty.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COPIES OF REPORT OR PRODUCTS, CONTACT:

NPS Key Official: Judith Visty, Research Administrator, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1000 Highway 36 Estes Park, CO 80517; Judy_Visty@nps.gov; 970/586-1302

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