

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title: Moose-Wilson Corridor Transportation Visitor Use Levels, Patterns and Impacts Data Collection in Grand Teton National Park**

**Type of Project:** Research  
**Discipline:** Social  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Utah State University  
**Effective Dates:** 6/1/2013 - 12/31/2015  
**Funding Amount:** \$384,233

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Future management of the Moose-Wilson corridor is a very challenging issue for the park. It is an area that has tremendous resource values and provides visitors with wonderful opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, and just general enjoyment of the area. It includes the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve and trailheads for Granite and Death Canyons. It is also a travel corridor that is becoming an increasingly used entrance to the park and has become a key link in the county's transportation network. The road system within the corridor is narrow, winding, rustic, and slow, with vegetation up to the edges of and often overhanging the road. The corridor is characterized by some of the richest and most diverse wildlife habitat in the entire park. It is an area of the park where the Snake River and the mountains are very close together, and it includes the whole range of habitats that transition between the montane and riparian zones.

The major challenges within the Moose-Wilson corridor are how to retain its resources, values, and character while allowing for appropriate access and use. Increasing traffic volumes and the desire of some in the local community for a separated shared-use non-motorized pathway are two of the primary issues. To better define these issues as well as a number of others, National Park Service (NPS) staff completed a two-day workshop on February 25-26, 2013. A report summarizing this workshop describes the important resources and values, issues and challenges, and preliminary data needs identified by NPS staff.

The goal of this project is to collect data about visitor use in the corridor. These data will inform a park NEPA planning process which will assess the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource conditions and visitor experience within the Moose-Wilson corridor. In a future planning effort, Grand Teton National Park will use this and other information to develop and evaluate a range of alternatives that considers a variety of transportation and visitor management strategies within the corridor aimed at achieving desired future conditions. The alternatives will be developed through a future planning process that engages the public and results in a long term strategy for the corridor's management.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Revised Technical Report including NPS comments - April 30, 2015  
Final Report - September 2015

**Keywords:** visitor use, transportation planning, Moose-Wilson corridor, Grand Teton National Park, Utah State University