

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Joint National Park Service / Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Washington DC Graduate Student Fellowship

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary  
**Type of Project:** Education/Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Utah State University  
**Student Involvement:** yes, graduate fellowship  
**Effective Dates:** 8/1/2016 - 9/30/2018  
**Funding Amount:** \$71,757

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Peter Bonsall, Geographer - GIS Specialist, National Park Service; (202) 354-6913; peter\_bonsall@nps.gov

Investigator: Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism/Assistant Professor, Department of Environment and Society, Utah State University, 5215 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322; (435) 797-9174; jordan.smith@usu.edu

**Project Abstract:** The intentions of this project are to: 1) Assess the National Park Service's need and capacity to develop and institutionalize visitor use and outdoor recreation resource management within the National Park Service, and 2) perform a formal project-level evaluation of public benefits resulting from a select community assistance projects funded through the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. This project will engage and have direct utility for decision makers in the National Park Service, and also supports a public purpose of providing information to partner non-profit organizations and in state and local governments that will assist them with planning their own outdoor recreation programs as well as future cooperative efforts with the National Park Service. Furthermore, the internship supports the educational and research development of a graduate student at Utah State University.

**Keywords:** graduate student fellowship, National Park Service, Utah State University