

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Denali Community Subsistence Ethnography—Denali National Park Region 2013—Cantwell, Telida, Nikolai, and/or Lake Minchumina

Type of Project: Research
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Utah
Effective Dates: 5/15/2013 - 12/31/2014
Funding Amount: \$17,865

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Dave Schirokauer, Agreements Representative, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755, 907-683-9605, Dave_Schirokauer@nps.gov

Investigator: Kelly Bricker Associate Professor, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, University of Utah, 1901 E. South Campus Drive Annex C, Rm 1085, Salt Lake City, UT 84112. Phone: 801-585-6503. kelly.bricker@health.utah.edu.

Researcher: Melanie Reed, Masters Candidate

Project Abstract: This study will focus on subsistence use of natural resources in and around Denali National Park in the interior region of Alaska. The study will also address ways in which identity is formed through use of natural resources. The ecosystem of the area is highly variable and includes alpine and glacier regions in the Alaska Range to wet and dry tundra areas with portions of forested environments made up primarily of species of spruce, birch, and alder. The study area is characterized by its remote location and by the four communities who are representative of customary and traditional subsistence use communities by Denali National Park and Preserve. Only one of the communities, the town of Cantwell, is located on a road system. The latter three communities, Lake Minchumina, Nikolai, and Telida are accessible only by airplane, boat, or snow machine during the winter months. Given the cultural and economic connection of these communities to the land and its resources, researchers believe the area provides the opportunity to study the significance of subsistence use among Native and Euro-Americans. By gathering information from many different perceptions of subsistence users, researchers believe that this project would broaden state and federal definitions and understandings of subsistence use and provide insight on relative management issues and policies.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Report Delivered November 29, 2014

Keywords: ethnography, subsistence use, Cantwell, Lake Minchumina, Nikolai, and Telida Denali National Park, University of Utah