

# **Project Completion Report**

## **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

**Project Title:** Development of a Manager's Short Course on Wildlife Disease

**Project Code :** J2340060029; WASO Agreement

**Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Research):** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** University of Wyoming

**NPS Agreements Technical Representative (with complete contact information):**

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**Start Date of Project:** 7/15/2006

**End Date of Project:** 7/15/2009

**Funding Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Summary:**

A 3 day Manager's Short Course on Wildlife Disease was created by University of Wyoming faculty and staff, and delivered to 30 NPS wildlife biologists, natural resource specialists, and wildlife health professionals. Notebooks including learning objectives, lectures, scientific articles, laboratory information, and an exit exam were created and distributed to all participants. A half day hands on necropsy demonstration with participation from all students was performed. Students left with the tools to decide when it is appropriate to investigate wildlife die-off events, how to safely collect carcasses or biological samples, and who to consult with for diagnostic services or regarding zoonotic disease concerns. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many participants indicated that they would like to attend a more comprehensive wildlife disease course and recommended the course to others in their parks and regions. A second course similar to the first is scheduled for Spring 2010.

**Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.** 30 NPS managers attended the course, 4 University of Wyoming graduate students assisted with the construction and teaching of the course, no degrees were conferred, however, all students received a certificate of completion.