

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

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

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming

**Effective Dates:** 7/15/2006- 7/15/2008

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

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Wildlife diseases are a growing concern for wildlife managers, including those in the National Park System. Many wildlife diseases, such as chronic wasting disease, avian influenza, West Nile virus, and chytrid fungus, are emerging issues that were not widely recognized even a few years ago. Further, the complexity of managing the more established diseases, such as sylvatic plague, pasteurellosis, rabies, and brucellosis has increased due to concerns over protection of native wildlife populations, and the interactions of diseases between wildlife, livestock, and humans. Although wildlife diseases are "hot topic" items for many NPS managers, access to information and expertise can be limited.

Collaboration with the University of Wyoming provides a unique opportunity for accessing specialized expertise, university educators, and a template for a wildlife disease class that would prove useful to educating and informing NPS managers. The initial short course proposed here will focus on the basics of wildlife disease. Based on the quality of the product, NPS manager response, availability of funds, and university interest, an advanced class in population ecology of wildlife diseases may be pursued to more fully meet the needs of NPS managers.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

1. Summary of a planning meeting between University of Wyoming, NPS, and others that will outline the general curriculum, venue, and schedule for the short course (December 2006).
2. A fully developed curriculum including learning objectives and student handouts (August 2007).
3. Presentation of one short course for up to 40 NPS employees or invitees (November 2007).

**Keywords:** wildlife disease, short course, National Park Service, managers, Biological Resource Management Division, chronic wasting disease, West Nile virus, avian flu

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: