

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Develop Plan and Protocols to Restore Riparian Habitat

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming

Effective Dates: 8/1/2007- 5/1/2008

Funding Amount: \$3850

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The University of Wyoming will work with staff of Devils Tower NM to determine the most feasible method and species for riparian restoration of the Belle Fourche River riparian forest. Natural recruitment of cottonwood trees and willows has been nearly eliminated in the riparian environment in Devils Tower NM. Only mature, aging and drying cottonwoods remain as riparian forest habitat. In a past restoration effort, park staff planted saplings in the restoration areas in an attempt to mimic natural revegetation. However, the project failed as the saplings had a high mortality rate. A tentative restoration plan has been developed by park staff, but expertise in this area does not currently exist. The University of Wyoming investigator will: (1) Review and evaluate the current restoration plan, (2) Conduct a site visit, and (3) Generate report on riparian restoration.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by December 31, 2007 - report on riparian restoration

Keywords: riparian restoration, cottonwoods, Devils Tower NM, University of Wyoming

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: