Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Development and Testing of a Bat Monitoring Plan including WNS detection

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 5/16/2016 – 12/31/2018
Funding Amount: $36,100

Investigators and Agency Representative:
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Project Abstract: The Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) proposes to implement a bat monitoring plan that is currently under development for BICA and to conduct initial searches of recently documented cave-like structures on BICA that have not yet been evaluated for evidence of bat occupation. The monitoring effort will be the first formal quantification of bat populations on BICA, and will serve as a baseline estimate for eventual trend assessment. The monitoring plan will serve as an early warning system to detect sudden changes in the population of bats on in BICA that could signal potential WNS problems in nearby, difficult to access, hibernacula.

The project conducted under this task agreement will allow the scientific research community to gain new knowledge and insight into the habitat requirements and distribution of bat species found in BICA. The project will also assist in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of public understanding of this natural aspect of BICA and other parks, including the monitoring and detection of potential threats to bat species (e.g. White-nose Syndrome (WNS).

Outcomes with Completion Dates: submit monitoring report February 28, 2017

Keywords: Bat monitoring plan, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD)