

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Northern Long Eared Bat Roost and Habitat Assessment, Devils Tower National Monument

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 6/15/2015 - 12/31/2015
Funding Amount: \$15,093

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: David Marshall, 5 Avenue B, Ft. Smith, Montana Phone: 406 666 3303, david_marshall@nps.gov

Investigator: Doug Keinath, Zoology Program Manager, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database,, University of Wyoming, P.O. Box 3381, Laramie, Wyoming 82071; (307) 766-3013; dkeinath@uwyo.edu

Project Abstract: The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was recently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and Devils Tower National Monument (DETO) is near the edge of the species range. Relatively little is known about the bat's basic ecology and habitat associations in this area. University of Wyoming's Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) will conduct a northern long-eared bat roost identification and habitat study at DETO to determine where the bats are roosting in the monument and quantify characteristics of these roosts. WYNDD will capture bats, determine their reproductive status (age, sex, and breeding status), and radio tag up to 15 northern long-eared bats. These bats will then be tracked to potential roost sites. WYNDD will also participate in the 2015 Devils Tower National Monument Bat Festival, a public event aimed at educating visitors on the importance of bats and their habitat, the threat of white nose syndrome, and bat science and management. WYNDD will present a program at the Festival about the bats of Devils Tower. The project fulfills a public purpose by engaging the local community and park visitors in shared environmental stewardship. It also promotes the public's understanding of the bats of DETO, and contributes to the knowledge base on this threatened and understudied mammal.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: WYNDD will provide DETO with a summary report (delivered by December 31, 2015).

Keywords: northern long-eared bat, roost identification and habitat study, Devils Tower National Monument, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD)