

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Devils Tower Plant Inventory and Vegetation Assessment

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming

Student Participation: No

Effective Dates: 4/4/2016 to 3/31/2017

Funding Amount: \$11,838

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: University of Wyoming's Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) will conduct a floristic inventory of the summit and "Meadows" of Devils Tower, and map and characterize the vegetation of the summit using the methods of Driese and Roth (1992) to determine whether significant change has occurred. WYNDD will ensure that all species are documented with vouchers unless rare, in which case photos will be taken. Vouchers will be deposited (on loan) in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming, the leading vascular plant repository for the region. Specimens will be imaged and added to the National Park Service digital herbarium maintained at Mount Rushmore (MORU). WYNDD will create a checklist of the Tower flora, noting any species of concern (e.g. rare, exotic), and will provide additional information for interpretation and climber education. The project thus fulfills a public purpose by improving public understanding and appreciation of the Tower ecosystem.

Keywords: Plant inventory, Devils Tower National Monument, University of Wyoming - Wyoming Natural Diversity Database