

Project Title: Channel Change and Floodplain Forest Establishment in the Colorado River Basin

Task Agreement #: G18AC00359

Modification(s):

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: USGS

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Student Participation:

Effective Dates: 9/24/2018– 9/23/2019

Funding Amount: \$35,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

USGS Contact: Jonathan Friedman; friedmanj@usgs.gov

Investigator: Sara Rathburn, Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO; sara.rathburn@colostate.edu

Project Abstract The goal for this research project is to determine the relation between age and area of cottonwood forest in DINO and CANY, and to reconstruct the formation and destruction of floodplain at Deerlodge Park in DINO to understand the history of flooding and variation in sediment supply. Because cottonwood trees, sediment supply and the history of floodplain change are all major components of the floodplain ecosystem, results of this study will inform a broad array of management actions at these Parks and throughout the Colorado River system.

Objectives include:

- 1) Determine the area and age distribution of the cottonwood forest along the Yampa and Green Rivers in DINO and CANY.
- 2) Reconstruct floodplain formation and destruction at Deerlodge Park in DINO using maps and aerial imagery.