**NPS**

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

|  |
| --- |
| **Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit****Cooperative Agreement Modification**  |
| FUNDING AGENCY: **National Park Service**  |
|  MODIFICATION NO.: **[CESU info only]**  | COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO.:**1200-99-009** |  FUNDING AMOUNT: $**23,000** |
| INVESTIGATORS Contact Information: UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Erika Nowak, Wildlife Biologist (Investigator), USGS Colorado Plateau Field Station, 928-556-7462 x. 239 or Rod Parnell, PhD, Director, CPCESU, 928-523-3329. |
| **PROJECT TITLE:**Evaluation of Prey Base and Habitat Use in Influencing Nuisance Rattlesnake Movements and Behavior at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments  |
| EFFECTIVE DATES**:**3/1/2003 1/31/2006  |
| PROJECT ABSTRACT:This project addresses the management of nuisance rattlesnakes, a priority need stated by many of the southwestern National Park Service areas. Previous nuisance snake management has focused on individual problem animals, rather than determining proximate causes of nuisance behavior. To our knowledge, there have been no conclusive studies linking rattlesnake movements and nuisance behavior with prey base, and prey base with changes in habitat caused by human modifications. Staff at Tonto National Monument are particularly concerned with human safety and management implications of rattlesnakes using the residential area, and the park has funded research on this issue. The NRPP- small parks grants has also pledged funding for 2003-2004 to compare prey availability and habitat use where snakes have been observed foraging in human-modified and more remote areas at Tonto. We will assess the effects of human alteration of habitat on prey populations in each area. We propose to conduct simultaneous research at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments to broaden the scope and any management implications of the research.  |
| **Agency Representative:**Ron Hiebert, NPSResearch CoordinatorCPCESUNorthern Arizona UniversityP.O. Box 5765Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5765Tel: (928) 523-0877Fax: (928) 520-8223Ron.Hiebert@nau.edu  | **Agency Administration Representative**Mary EstepBudget AssistantIntermountain Support OfficeDenver, CO 80225-0287Tel: (303) 969-2750Mary\_Estep@nps.gov | **Investigator:**Erika Nowak, Wildlife Biologist, USGS Colorado Plateau Field Station, Box 5614, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011928-556-7462 x. 239Erika.Nowak@nau.edu  | **Partner Admin. Contact: NAU Contact**Rod Parnell, PhD, Director, CPCESU, 928-523-3329Roderic.Parnell@nau.edu Or Erika Nowak (project manager) |
| ***List of Key Words: [Insert key words]***Rattlesnake, nuisance wildlife, small mammal, habitat use, prey base, Montezuma Caslte National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument  |
| ***Agency Manager/Technical Representative from National Park - Include contact information @ Specific Park****:*Kathy Davis, SuperintendentMontezuma Castle National MonumentPO Box 219Camp Verde, AZ 86322(928) 567-5276 x. 223Kathy\_M\_Davis@nps.gov  |
| *Annual Report Received:**Final Report Received:**Publications on File:*  |
| *This Modification is subject to all the provisions included in the Cooperative Agreement,****dated 6/22/99.***  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Attach any supporting material as necessary.*