# NPS

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

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| **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: $ 64,975.00 |
| INVESTIGATORS Contact Information: Louis Bender, Assistant Unit Leader--Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, PO Box 30003 MSC 4910, Las Cruces, NM 88003 ((505) 646-3382), lbender@nmsu.edu |
| PROJECT TITLE:Determining nutritional influences on American black bear body condition, survival and productivityin Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado |
| EFFECTIVE DATES**:** May 15, 2003 – March 1, 2006 |
| PROJECT ABSTRACT: Rocky Mountain National Park supports a small population of black bear. ROMO is a unique bear habitat, with the majority of the Park having elevations >8,500' in subalpine and alpine communities which limits growing seasons and thus food availability for bears. Further, habitat changes, particular successional changes associated with limiting disturbances in forest communities, may have altered the quality of foraging habitats and the diversity of forages available to bears in ROMO. Because bear habitat in ROMO is marginal and the bear population very low, identification of habitats providing maximum nutritional values for bear is critical to optimize body condition, and thus production and survival of young and overall population health. This information will aid ROMO in effectively meeting bear management requirements associated the National Park Service’s mandate to maintain all ecosystem components and natural processes within U.S. National Parks. Further, this Project will complement an existing project (Bender 2002) aimed at determining black bear population trends and habitat use, thus providing a much more fundamental look at bear habitat quality and population demographics in ROMO. |
| **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 RepresentativeMary EstepBudget AssistantIntermountain Support OfficeDenver, CO 80225-0287Tel: (303) 969-2750Mary\_Estep@nps.gov | **Investigator:****Louis Bender, Assistant Unit Leader--Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, PO Box 30003 MSC 4910, Las Cruces, NM 88003 ((505) 646-3382), lbender@nmsu.edu** | **Partner Admin. Contact: NMSU Contact:****Patty Hartell****Contract Administrator****NMSU****College of Agriculture and Home Economics****Box 3003, MSC 3AGB****Las Cruces, NM****88003-3003****Tel.505-646-1999****Fax 646-2301**patharte@nmsu.edu |
| ***List of Key Words:*** black bear, DNA, noninvasive monitoring |
| ***Agency Manager/Technical Representative from National Park - Include contact information @ Specific Park****:*Terry Terrell, Research Administrator, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1000 U.S. Highway 36, Estes Park, CO 80517Ph: (970)596-1282 Email terry\_terrell@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.*