**Award Number (for administrative use only):**

**PR/J Number:** R7190100019

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** El Malpais National Monument

**Project Title:** Determining presence of White Nose Syndrome through analyzing soils of caves

**Funding Amount:** $19,979

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** University of New Mexico

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**Start Date:** August 1, 2010

**End Date:** December 15, 2012

**Abstract:** The proposed research aims to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the level of risk ELMA’s bat populations have to White Nose Syndrome. We propose to inventory and analyze soil samples for existence of *Geomyces destructans* in ten caves thought to be suitable habitat for bat species.

Bats are susceptible to many threats, including white nose syndrome, habitat destruction, insecticide use, and damage to colonial roosting sites. A baseline inventory of ELMA’s bat population completed in 2000 identified 13 bat species, the most abundant species were Western Small-footed Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Fringed Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Silver-haired Bat, and Big Brown Bat. New information on the distribution and presence of *Geomyces destructans* the fungus that cause White Nose Syndrome will provide ELMA’s natural resource managers important information necessary to make sound decisions related to protecting the local bat populations and cave management.