

1. Evaluation of Avalanche Accident Data

Colorado's outdoor recreation industry generates \$994 million in state and local tax revenue (Outdoor Industry Association, 2014). However, outdoor activities are not without risk, as an average of 27 people per year are killed by avalanches in the United States. I propose to utilize [nationwide accident data](#) collected by the Colorado Avalanche Information Center to evaluate historical data on avalanche fatalities and determine if temporal, elevation or recreation type trends differ between Colorado and the rest of the country, in order to advise local ski operators, park rangers and tourism organizations on how to best educate and protect visitors.

2. Evaluation of National Park Service Visitation Data

American National Parks in recent years have reached record visitation levels, challenging infrastructure and staff to capacity and park visitors with overcrowding. I propose to evaluate nearly 40 years of [National Park Service data](#) to highlight where additional budget and resources are indicated (most utilized facilities, most visitors per acre, etc) and where visitors can find parks with smaller crowds (both seasonally and overall).

3. Evaluation of Salivary Cortisol and Stress Factors in Hospitalized Dogs

Stress can play a major role in treatment outcomes of hospitalized canines; [this study](#) captured salivary cortisol levels and behavioral stress indicators in two sets of hospitalized dogs. I propose to evaluate how age, breed, sex, and hospitalization time may impact stress levels. This information would help guide veterinarians in order to improve treatment outcomes in clinical care.