



PRESS RELEASE
September 24, 2013

Contact Information:
Ian Billick, Ph.D.
Executive Director
RMBL
(970) 349-6669
director@rmbll.org

Local Teacher and Her Students Benefit for National Grant through RMBL

Crested Butte – Local science teacher, Lisa Hart, has received funding from a National Science Foundation grant through the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory to develop curriculum and introduce ecological genomics to local students. Her funding is part of project that will provide scientists at RMBL with equipment they need to support research and training in ecological genomics. Genomics is essentially the study of the physiological pathways by which genes control the manner in which organisms interact with their environments, and there are an increasing number of scientists at RMBL who will be working in ecological genomics. Providing instrumentation that will isolate and amplify genetic material in Gothic, facilitate transportation of material to other research institutions with full lab set-ups, enable establishing field populations of known genetic backgrounds, and providing opportunities to measure physiological traits linking genes to performance have been a focus of RMBL's grant funding strategy since 2010. With the construction of the new Gothic Research Center, including both wet and dry labs, RMBL finally has the infrastructure to provide for complicated genetic studies.

Hart was granted \$13,000 to assist with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) training at the Crested Butte Community School through her curriculum development which will make ecological genomics accessible to the general public and her students. "When I grow as a teacher and a scientist, I have more to offer to my students. So, as a result of this grant, I think my students will have opportunities to meet scientists and get a firsthand look at the cutting edge science of the future. This is a great opportunity for local students."

###