Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Fish Inventories for the Four Parks of the Rocky Mountain Network
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University; USGS-Coop Unit
Effective Dates: September 1, 2001- December 15, 2002
Funding Amount: $20,000
Investigators and Agency Representative: NPS CONTACT: Mike Britten, ROMN I&M Network, National Park Service, 1201 Oak Ridge Drive, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-267-2150, mike_britten@nps.gov UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Al Zale, Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT; 406-994-2380, zale@montana.edu
Project Abstract: The goal of this project is to provide information for Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve, and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on fish species presence/absence as part of the Biological Inventories for the Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Program. Specific objectives are to 1) document 90% of the fish species present and their relative abundance in each of the four park units; 2) create voucher specimens for species not previously recorded or for known taxa where voucher specimens do not currently exist; and 3) provide data on species of fish present in the four park units to NPS personnel in proper format to update NPS databases including NRBib, NPSpecies, and the Dataset Catalog. Conventional fish sampling methods will be employed for field collections as determined by local conditions and species expected. These may include electrofishing, seining, gill netting, and trapping. Combinations of methods may be used to counteract different habitat use among species and the biases inherent to any single sampling technique. Photographic documentation of sample sites, location of benchmarks, and representative habitats will be recorded with color transparency (slide) film. Detailed metadata sets will be created that accurately describe the methods and procedures followed and sample site locations. A GPS unit will be used to document locations including upstream and downstream benchmarks that delineate stream sample sections and lake/pond sampling sites. Fish will be field-identified to species; live-captured specimens will be released except as required to accomplish Objective 2. Voucher specimens will be fixed and preserved in 10% formalin and labeled to indicate species, location, date of collection, method used, and names of collectors.
Outcomes with completion dates: Final report and database due December 15, 2002.
Keywords: Fish Inventories, Rocky Mountain I&M Network, Montana State University, biological inventories
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