

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Conduct Gardiner Basin Native Vegetation/Ungulate Winter Range Restoration Workshop

**Type of Project:** Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

**Effective Dates:** 8/1/2004 - 12/30/2005

**Funding Amount:** \$10,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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#### **Project Abstract:**

The goal of this proposal is to bring 15-20 state, federal, academic and practicing specialists in the field of desert and semi-desert reclamation to the Gardiner Basin in the spring 2005 to help identify effective reclamation and management strategies for the Basin. A steering committee will meet to prepare an agenda, identify workshop participants and compile information for the workshop. The committee will be comprised of National Park Service and US Forest Service staff and the Restoration Program Coordinator for the Montana State University based Center For Invasive Plant Management.

Approximately 15-20 state, federal, academic and practical specialists in the field of vegetation/wildlife habitat reclamation will be invited to participate in a two-day workshop in Gardiner, Montana to: 1) share their expertise, 2) identify information gaps, and 3) assist in formulating a directional, coordinated park and forest approach to reclamation/long-term management of the federally-owned portions of the Gardiner Basin.

Following the workshop, appropriate NPS and USFS staff will convene to finalize the summary document and action plan, and initiate steps necessary for implementation

#### **Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

The products and outcomes of this project include:

- The identification of semi-arid vegetation specialists and information
- Communication and development of partnerships with these specialists
- Critical assessment of the condition of the Gardiner Basin range by specialists
- Collaborative problem solving between government agencies, academics and practicing range managers to resolve Gardiner Basin range condition and exotic weed invasion
- Identifying holistic practices for restoring disturbed lands in a multi-use semi-desert ecosystem with high levels of use by native ungulates.
- Development of an action plan for implementing holistic practices for restoration of disturbed lands in a multi-use semi-desert ecosystem with high levels of use by native ungulates
- Serve as a pilot project for other restorations of disturbed lands in a multi-use semi-desert ecosystem with high levels of use by native ungulates
- This project will serve to begin the restoration of important ungulate (especially pronghorn antelope) habitat, helping to insure Yellowstone's ecosystems remain intact, and the public by restoring, preserving and protecting Yellowstone's only high altitude semi-desert ecosystem.

**Keywords:** native vegetation, ungulate habitat, winter range, expert workshop, Yellowstone National Park, Montana State University, Center for Invasive Plant Management, weeds, Gardiner Basin, USDA-Forest Service

#### **For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: