Project Summary Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: (1) National Park Service, Exotic Plant Management Teams: An Assessment of the Implementation of this new Model and Recommendations for Future and (2) Needs Assessment for National Park Service Integrated Pest Management Program

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Effective Dates: July 1, 2004 - July 1, 2005

Funding Amount: \$17,508

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS KEY OFFICIAL:

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Project Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to conduct a needs assessment for the Integrated Pest Management Program in order to develop recommendations on how the IPM program can improve service to the parks and regions. The needs assessment should determine the needs for IPM expertise and services at the park, region, and national levels and should cover natural resources, cultural resources, visitor and resource protection, and facilities management. The project will also review the NPS IPM organizational structure and compare to the structure employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, Department of Defense, and the Bureau of Land Management. This review and comparison should provide a basic overview of each agency's staffing and organization and discuss potential strengths and weaknesses. Finally, the project will provide recommendations to reduce weaknesses and enhance strengths of the NPS IPM Program. A similar assessment will be performed for the NPS' Exotic Plant Management Teams.

Outcomes with completion dates:

Draft of Final Reports Due: January 1, 2005

EPMT Task:

- A. Modify an existing assessment tool to determine whether the criteria elements as described in the initial EPMT proposal have been addressed in subsequent work plans or implementation.
- B. A report describing the finding of the assessment, to be used by a team of park evaluators to make recommendations for future implementation of the Exotic Plant Management Teams.

IPM Task:

- A. Needs Assessment Protocol for National Park Service IPM Program.
- B. Determine NPS needs for IPM expertise and services at park, region, and national levels in disciplines association with natural and cultural resources, visitor and resource protection and facilities management.
- C. Review the NPS IPM organizational structure and compare to structures employed by other agencies, with basic overview of each agencies strengths and weaknesses.

Keywords: exotic plant management teams, integrated pest management program, Montana State University, needs assessment, NPS-Biological Resource Management Division

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Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: