

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Intern Contributes to Invasive Plant Management and Biocontrol at Little Bighorn National Monument

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Education and Technical assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University  
**Effective Dates:** September 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010  
**Funding Amount:** \$12,549

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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Project Abstract: Cooperation with Montana State University will allow LIBI to meet its resource management goals while allowing a student intern to develop skills and an understanding of resource management in the NPS. The NPS will be *substantially involved* by (1) providing logistical support and housing for the field technician, (2) providing training on NPS and park policies, safety, and pesticide application, (3) cooperatively defining the work plan and final products, (4) providing supporting data and information, such as GIS coverages.

The MSU intern will work during the 2010 field season with a crew in treating invasive plants as part of the LIBI natural resource program. Because LIBI and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA) share resources, the intern (and crew) will assist with weed management at BICA. Additionally, the intern will research and report biological control options for the species listed in Table 1. Final report of park experience and detailed report with biological control options will be compiled and submitted to the Little Bighorn Battlefield NM natural resources management team by August 2010.

The results of this project will be the increase in experience for both the MSU student and faculty advisor on how invasive plants are managed in two national parks. The LIBI weed management program will be more efficient working with MSU through the CESU program. An undergraduate student will already have knowledge of basic weed/native plant identification before arriving at the monument, which will save training time. Necessary research will be gained, so the monument can implement biological control treatment as a management tool. The monument will learn how to improve future field crew experiences.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Due Date for Final Report and/or Other Products:  
August 12, 2010

List of Products: Final report of park experience and detailed report with biological control options will be compiled and submitted to the Little Bighorn Battlefield NM natural resources management team. This internship will begin during spring 2010 and continue through the field season.

**Keywords:** Montana State University, Little Bighorn National Monument, intern, invasive plant, **resource management**