

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** 2010 Non-Native Plant Inventory at Little Bighorn National Monument

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Montana State University  
**Effective Dates:** August 1, 2009 - September 1, 2011  
**Funding Amount:** \$14,944

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** As part of a larger survey and inventory project initiated by the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service (NPS) and performed under the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU), a non-native plant survey was conducted at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument during July 2004 by employees of Montana State University, Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. Approximately 740 acres were inventoried along transects. Fifteen non-native plant species were targeted during the survey and 13 of these were found plus one other species of concern that was not on the list, infesting a total of 77 acres.

The National Park Service is interested in determining if and how the distribution of non-native plants has changed since the last survey in 2004. Additionally, smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) was not surveyed in the last survey, and anecdotal evidence indicates that this species has been increasing in spatial extent, so the NPS wants to document its current distribution. Similarly, bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*) has been identified within the Monument and is of concern. Finally, there is a small portion of the Monument, along the riparian corridor in the Custer unit, which was not inventoried in 2004. Therefore, the purpose of this proposed work is to re-inventory the park, including *Bromus inermis* and *Poa bulbosa* in the inventory, and to include the riparian area in the Custer unit.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Due Date for Final Report and/or Other Products:  
September 1, 2010

**Keywords:** Montana State University, Little Bighorn National Monument, Non-Native Plant Inventory