

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Control of Canadian Thistle in Irrigated Pastures :YEAR 3 of 3
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/biological sciences
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Effective Dates: May 1, 2003 - Due December 31, 2003
Funding Amount: \$ 7,715
Investigators and Agency Representative: NPS Key Contact: Ben Bobowski, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, 266 Warren Lane, Deer Lodge, MT 59722, 406-846-2070, x240, ben_bobowski@nps.gov UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Peter Rice, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, 406-243-2671, biopmr@selway.umt.edu
Project Abstract: The Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is located on the outskirts of Deer Lodge, Montana. The Ranch consists of ~1,600 acres of irrigated pastures/hayfield, upland range, and riparian habitat. This National Park Service holding is maintained as a historic working ranch to commemorate the open range cattle industry of the 1880's. The University of Montana Division of Biological Sciences has been assisting the Ranch with weed management since 2001. The purpose of the proposed work is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue a program to suppress Canada thistle in a series of irrigated fields • Assist the Ranch and its cooperators in developing a comprehensive map of noxious weeds infesting the Ranch
Outcomes with completion dates: Task 1: Canada thistle <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Measure Canada thistle abundance in the four Lower Meadows in response to spraying that was done in August 2002 b. Continue photo documentation of treatment response in Lower Meadow 2 c. Recommend timing and rate for any necessary herbicide treatments to Lower Meadows 1,2,3 and Lower Meadow 4 d. Prepare a written report consistent with the format of the 2001 and 2002 Canada thistle reports Task 2: Weed Mapping Assistance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Advise the Ranch Resource Manager on weed mapping strategies including target weeds, general distribution of these weeds on the Ranch, and optimal periods for observing individual species b. Provide in-field assistance (up to twenty days) to the weed mapping contractor
Keywords: Canadian thistle, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, weed mapping
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