

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Develop a Vegetation Management Plan Environmental Assessment, Palo Alto Battlefield NHP, Texas

**Discipline:** Natural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 9/1/2009 - 12/31/2010  
**Funding Amount:** \$34,956

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The purpose of this Vegetation Management Plan Environmental Assessment is to develop a long-term, environmentally sensitive plan that will guide Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site's vegetation management efforts, directed towards achieving the park's mission as set forth in the establishing legislation and General Management Plan (GMP), as well as complying with the National Park Service's *Management Policies* (2006), Director's Order 12 - *Environmental Impact Analysis*, and Director's Order 77-7 - *Integrated Pest Management* which requires that the Service and each park unit use integrated pest management (IPM) to address invasive plant issues. This plan will utilize the three management zones set forth in the GMP and develop environmentally and scientifically sound and efficient strategies for managing the vegetation in each zone (Figure 1). Specifically, the plan will define the various strategies for restoring the cultural landscape in the core battlefield zone; delineate what vegetation will be mowed, trimmed and maintained in the development zone; how the vegetation will be managed in the resource management zone; the various strategies for removing, reducing populations, and preventing the spread of invasive plant species in all zones; and so forth. This plan must be general enough to address management actions without becoming excessively restrictive. It must provide resource managers with multiple treatment options and allow them to select the most appropriate treatment option or combination of treatments included in this EA to minimize potential impacts and maximize overall management success. It also must be flexible enough to allow for future use of treatment actions not currently available, and to address new invasive species that may colonize the park, provided that the effect remain similar to or less than those described in this document. However, the document is specific enough to guide site and species-specific planning considerations.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Final Vegetation Management Plan Environmental Assessment will be due by December 31, 2010.

**Keywords:** Vegetation Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, Palo Alto Battlefield NHP, University of Montana