

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Develop an Aquatic Nuisance and Invasive Species Field Guide for the Crown of the Continent

Project Code : J 1242100024 UMT-244

Type of Project: Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: University of Montana

NPS Agreement Technical Representative: Mary Riddle, Environmental Protection and Compliance Specialist, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Mt 59936, 406 888-7898, mary_riddle@nps.gov

Principal Investigator: Vicki Watson, Environmental Studies, University of Montana. Missoula, MT 59812. Ph. 406-243-5153, Vicki.watson@umontana.edu

Researcher: Jennifer McBride, Environmental Studies, University of Montana

Start Date of Project: 9/30/2010

End Date of Project: 9/1/2014

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Project Summary

The field guide contains information about each aquatic species that is considered a nuisance, specific to the freshwaters of the Crown of the Continent. The guide includes known locations of invasive species within the Crown, if any, identifying characteristics, their reproduction and dispersal strategies, and ways to prevent dispersal and populations from becoming established within the Crown's aquatic communities. It will be distributed free to agencies and the public within the Crown and funding for additional copies will be provided by the Crown Managers Partnership.

A digital copy of the Guide can be found at
http://crownmanagers.org/storage/AIS_guide_final0313_web.pdf

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.

Jen McBride, MS (degree will be awarded 2013).

Lessons Learned from this project:

This project was an excellent opportunity for a student to gain experience working with many

different agency partners on a single project and presented a lot of learning opportunities for doing a multi-agency, multi-stakeholder project.

In the future, this kind of project would be better split into two phases. Phase 1: Agency coordination, formation of a working group, agreement on content, research and first draft. Phase 2: Layout and Design, draft and final. Agency coordination is an integral part of both phases.

Other RM-CESU agencies or research partners who participated in this project:

Cosponsors of the Guide include Crown Managers Partnership which includes, Parks Canada, Glacier National Park, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the USFS, Flathead Basin Commission, Alberta and British Columbia Provincial government and the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center