

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Adapt Northern Rocky Mountains Invasive Plant Management Plan Environmental Assessment to Little Bighorn Battlefield NM

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 3/31/2014 - 12/31/2015
Funding Amount: \$10,000

Investigator and Agency Representatives:

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Abstract: The primary goal of this project is to adapt the 2010 Northern Rocky Mountains Invasive Plant Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA) to the most current and specific weed management priority needs at Little Bighorn Battlefield NM (LIBI). The Plan/EA evaluated the impacts of invasive exotic plants on 10 parks in the Northern Rocky Mountains including LIBI; identified high priority weeds for management; considered cultural, manual/mechanical, biological, chemical and prescribed fire treatment options; and evaluated two management alternatives. The objectives of this cooperative project are:

1. Evaluate current weed management and restoration needs for LIBI (starting with the Plan/EA and considering the most current available information) (see below for some current relevant publications).
2. Recommend priorities (species AND treatment/restoration areas) for LIBI weed management.
3. Design an adaptive management and monitoring framework to guide weed management in LIBI.
4. Recommend monitoring and data analysis methods (including criteria for defining whether treatment and restoration was successful).

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- Spring 2014 - Literature review, site visit, evaluate treatment and restoration priorities and resource protection needs for 2014
- June 1, 2014 - Oct 2014 Draft treatment and restoration priorities (June 1 - treatment recommendations, Oct. - draft treatment and restoration priorities)
- Late summer 2014 - LIBI staff monitor 2014 treatment and restoration plots
- Fall 2014 - Evaluate 2014 treatment and restoration data
- November 15, 2014 - Draft final report for internal and external review
- December 16, 2014 -Delivery of the Final Report

Keywords: Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, University of Montana, weed management, restoration