

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

<b>Project Title:</b> Initiate An Intermountain Region Noxious Weed Inventory & Mapping Program Northern Colorado Plateau
<b>Type of Project:</b> Research
<b>Funding Agency:</b> National Park Service
<b>Effective Dates:</b> September 20, 2002 - December 31, 2004
<b>Funding Amount:</b> \$15,000
<b>Investigators and Agency Representative:</b> UNIVERSITY CONTACT: Dr. Steven A. Dewey (PI), Utah State University; 435-797-2256; <a href="mailto:steved@ext.usu.edu">steved@ext.usu.edu</a> NPS CONTACT: Pam Benjamin, IMR Support Office; 303-969-2865; <a href="mailto:pamela.benjamin@nps.gov">pamela.benjamin@nps.gov</a>
<b>Project Abstract:</b> Between 2002 - 2004 field crews will inventory and map noxious weeds in priority units of 6 National Parks or Monuments (totaling 9220 acres) in the Northern Colorado Plateau (NCP) network. Specifically, FY02 funding will be used to initiate weed-mapping work at Hovenweep National Monument. A brief overview of work to be performed is provided below. Arches (ARCH), Canyonlands (CANY), Hovenweep (HOVE), and Natural Bridges (NABR) - Map priority canyon bottoms, riparian zones, and roadsides. The Southern Utah Group of parks is part of the Northern Colorado Plateau Prototype Park Cluster. Planning for both prototype monitoring & network vital signs monitoring are underway or scheduled to begin by FY02. Weed distributions, especially in riparian areas, have been identified as extremely high priority needs for these planning efforts. Black Canyon (BLCA) - Map the inner canyon river corridor. Park has filed a claim for a federal reserved water right in Colorado Water Court (January, 2001). Knowledge of information on weed issues within the inner canyon from this project is imperative to determine the effects of weed species on the proposed new flow regimes. Project will also augment on-going and planned BLM activities to inventory, map & manage weed species within the Gunnison Gorge NCA. Zion (ZION) - Map priority riparian habitats, high visitation zones, and areas of fire and past land use disturbances. The issue of invasive plant management is a high priority for the park. The park has an active weed management program and has weed distributions for some areas of the park. Inventory and mapping for additional priority areas would greatly enhance the park's effectiveness in addressing nonnative plant issues. This project will support on-going activities and contracts with the BLM and the Nature Conservancy.
<b>Outcomes with completion dates:</b> Hardcopy weed infestation maps Digital weed infestation maps Digital geodatabase of weed infestation layers Metadata for each park's weed dataset Final report including summary of hectares inventoried and infested
<b>Keywords:</b> Northern Colorado Plateau, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Hovenweep NM, Natural Bridges NM, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Zion NP, noxious weeds
<b><i>For Administrative use only:</i></b> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i>  <i>Date Final Report Received:</i>  <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>

