

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Invasive Plant Inventory at Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP (BLCA) and Curecanti National Recreation Area (CURE)

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Utah State University
Effective Dates: 9/30/2009 - 6/1/2014
Funding Amount: \$25,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Abstract: Invasive exotic species fragment native ecosystems, displace native plants and animals, and alter ecosystem function. Invasive species are second only to habitat loss as threats to global biodiversity and represent one of the most serious threats to natural ecosystem integrity. Furthermore, NPS Management Policies state that "high priority will be given to managing exotic species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on park resources, and that can reasonably be expected to be successfully controllable."

The last large scale invasive plant inventory was completed in 2003 and 2004 at BLCA and there has been no recent survey at CURE. It is vital to re-inventory invasive weeds to determine if management efforts are effective and to be aware of the next threatening invasive plant before it becomes widespread.

The objectives of this project are to:

- 1) Document distribution and abundance of targeted invasive non-native plant species across the range of habitats and areas of management concern in BLCA and CURE; and
- 2) Test and refine data collection and monitoring techniques that NCPN plans to use for long-term monitoring.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due Date for Final Report and/or Other Products: June 1, 2014

Keywords: Utah State University, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Invasive Plant Inventory