

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Technical review and consultation of NPSpecies database: Vascular Plant and Vertebrate Species in the Greater Yellowstone Network parks.

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service, Greater Yellowstone I&M Network  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming  
**Effective Dates:** 4/1/2005 - 4/1/2006  
**Funding Amount:** \$9,630.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:**

The National Park Service - Greater Yellowstone I&M Network is working to create accurate vascular plant and vertebrate species lists for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and Bighorn Canyon NRA in a service-wide database titled NPSpecies. The purpose of this task agreement is to obtain technical assistance with the review and certification of species records in the NPSpecies database.

Originally the NPSpecies database was populated with records from various data sources that were not necessarily quality checked and validated prior to or during data entry. The GRYN is now working to establish the quality, validity, and sensitivity of database records prior to using or sharing the data with the public. This involves:

- adding new species to the list resulting from our biological inventories (or other sources),
- reconciling issues of synonymy and where synonymy exists, deciding upon the preferred local name,
- populating the 'checklist fields' (park status, abundance, residency, nativity, cultivation) using NPS definitions (NPSpecies Data Dictionary for Users), and,
- adding supporting evidence (where evidence exists) in the form of vouchers, references and/or observations, and,
- assigning a sensitivity level to the evidence.

During 2005 the GRYN will have each species list reviewed by a NPS and University of Wyoming experts to make the database certified and ready for use in 2006. After this initial step, the network will perform subsequent data entry, review, and quality assurance activities as part of the NPSpecies development and maintenance plan.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Report due 04-01-2006

**Keywords:** vascular plant, vertebrate, species lists, NPSpecies Database, Greater Yellowstone I&M Network, University of Wyoming, Yellowstone NP, Grand Teton NP, Bighorn Canyon NRA

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