

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Aquatic Nuisance Species Educational Workshop

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 6/1/2008 - 6/1/2009
Funding Amount: \$5,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Land managers in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks as well as in the six National Forests and three states within the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) are becoming increasingly concerned with the threat of aquatic nuisance species (and diseases) (ANS) to natural aquatic ecosystems in the GYA, including whirling disease, quagga mussels and New Zealand mudsnails. The maintenance of aquatic ecosystems is fundamental to the national parks and the national forests located in the GYA. Multiple federal, state and local governments have varying levels of jurisdiction over this issue, which can complicate attempts to make the public aware of this issue. The objective of this Aquatic Nuisance Workshop will be: (1) To gather representatives of National Parks, National Forests, state, county and local agencies to coordinate efforts and to provide a united front for protecting the Upper Snake River watershed from invasion by aquatic nuisance species; and (2) to obtain monetary (or other) commitments from local businesses, concessionaires and NGOs that will support agency efforts and ensure program sustainability. A two-day workshop is proposed, to be held in September 2008 at the AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. On the first day, representatives from local federal, state, county and town agencies will be invited to discuss their strategies for preventing the spread of ANS. Additionally, managers of successful ANS programs (within or outside of the GYA) will be invited to share winning strategies that could be adapted to local needs. For the second day, representatives from local outfitters, park and forest concessionaires and interested NGOs will be invited to join us. Tentative agenda includes (1) An introductory presentation defining the ANS problem; (2) A presentation from each agency on current strategies and funding levels; (3) A discussion on similarities and differences in approaches and opportunities for syntheses between agencies.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Workshop will take place at AMK Ranch on September 17-18, 2008; Final Report Due by November 30, 2008

Keywords: Grand Teton NP, University of Wyoming, aquatic nuisance species, workshop, New Zealand mudsnails, quagga mussels, whirling disease, Greater Yellowstone Area, Upper Snake River watershed