

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

<b>Project Title:</b> Effects of Fire Suppression and Exclusion on Boreal Toad ( <i>Bufo boreas</i> ) Populations
<b>Type of Project:</b> [Research]
<b>Funding Agency:</b> USGS
<b>Effective Dates:</b> 8/1/03 – 7/31/05
<b>Funding Amount:</b> \$ 33,270 (2003) & \$3680 (2004)
<b>Investigators and Agency Representative (include name, address, phone, email):</b> Lisa Eby College of Forestry and Conservation University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 Phone: 406-243-5984; <a href="mailto:leby@forestry.umt.edu">leby@forestry.umt.edu</a>  Steve Corn Missoula Field Station, USGS Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute 790 E. Beckwith, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, Montana 59807 Phone: (406) 542-4191, 542-4190 email: <a href="mailto:steve_corn@usgs.gov">steve_corn@usgs.gov</a>
<b>Project Abstract:</b>  The boreal toad ( <i>Bufo boreas</i> ) is rare over much of its range and declines have been documented or are suspected in many areas of the West, including the northern Rocky Mountains. Surveys of >2000 waterbodies in western Montana since 1997 have found breeding populations at <5% of sites. According to historic accounts, the boreal toad was once considered common or abundant in western Montana. Recent evidence from Glacier NP has linked presence of <i>B. boreas</i> with wildfire. We plan to examine whether habitat alteration resulting from wildfires explain colonization of these areas by toads. We will conduct a study of habitat use by adult <i>B. boreas</i> using radio telemetry and analysis of biophysical requirements and constraints to compare burned and unburned habitats.
<b>Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.):</b> An interim report, with preliminary data analysis will be submitted to NRMSC by 31 December 2004. By June 2005 a Master Thesis will be completed and will be considered the final report.
<b>Keywords:</b> Boreal toad, <i>Bufo boreas</i> , fire effects, habitat use, water and temperature budgets
<b><u>For Administrative use only:</u></b> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i>  <i>Date Final Report Received:</i>  <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>

Attach any appropriate supporting materials.