

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Developing a Regional Information Node for the 6-State Mountain Prairie Region
Type of Project : Research
Project Discipline: Natural
Funding Agency: USGS National Biological Information Inventory
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University; USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center; USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Station; US National Partnership on the Management of Wild and Native Cold Water Fisheries, Whirling Disease Initiative; State of Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, Yellowstone National Park
Effective Dates: July 1, 2006 to June 31, 2009
Funding Amount: \$146,500 (FY06) \$168,325.00 FY07
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Project Abstract: The Mountain Prairie Information Node (MPIN) < http://mpin.nbj.gov > encompasses the broad geographic area of six states: Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. As a regional information service, MPIN will support the NBII Program's mission to increase access to available scientific data and information for federal, state, and local agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The MPIN project has five main components, guided by the goals of the draft strategic plan: 1) identify and engage key stakeholders and partners within the MPIN region; 2) acquire and provide access to biological and natural resource data, information, and related tools to users and stakeholders throughout the MPIN region; 3) brand and develop support for MPIN as the primary source of authoritative information about natural resources in the Mountain Prairie region; 4) develop a MPIN capacity in staffing, infrastructure, and capability that enables MPIN to work towards being a sustainable and fully operational Node; and 5) support the NBII Program and other Nodes.
Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.): The primary outcomes are 1) an engaged group of regional stakeholders and partners, including a completed strategic plan (June 2007); 2) a user friendly, stakeholder/partner driven NBII MPIN web site (http://mpin.nbj.gov) with associated content items, databases, web applications, and external project web sites (June 2007); 3) two complimentary projects that leverage the NBII effort with supporting funds and further the NBII MPIN brand (June 2007); 4) staffing expertise in informatics, GIS, and science content development and an initial, robust, and secure distributed cyberinfrastructure supporting MPIN projects (June 2007); and, 5) support for the NBII program and Nodes through cooperative projects, workshops, and shared expertise (June 2007).
Keywords: NBII, Mountain Prairie, Biological Information, Informatics