

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: GNIS Application and Updates
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Project Discipline: Inter-disciplinary
Funding Agency: USGS
Other Partners/Cooperators: National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana
Effective Dates: 6/1/2007 – 5/31/2008
Funding Amount: \$20,382
Investigators and Agency Representative: Lee Macholz, NCLFA; LLoyd Queen, NCLFA; Lance Clampitt, USGS
Project Abstract: The objectives of the GNIS Application and Updates project within the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis (NCLFA) are three-fold: to evaluate the utility of the federally recognized Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database as the source of geographic names for Montana framework data layers; to propose the establishment of the GNIS as a framework data layer for Montana; and to incorporate the GNIS database into the Montana Wildland Fire Base Map application. The first objective will be addressed by performing a series of spatial analyses comparing the GNIS to several existing Montana framework data layers for the purposes of identifying differences between the Montana names data and the national GNIS dataset. The second objective will be addressed by proposing that the Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC) establish the GNIS as a framework data layer for Montana. The NCLFA will also present MLIAC with a proposed institutional process for integrating, updating, and maintaining Montana names data within the national GNIS. The third objective will be addressed by attempting to incorporate GNIS data into the NCLFA's Montana Wildland Fire Base Map as the underlying source for text-based searches and feature labeling; thus providing a demonstration of the utility of the GNIS in context of a state-wide application.
Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.): GNIS Data Model & Maintenance Process Document: June 2008
Keywords: GNIS, Basemap, Base Map, Fire, Framework data layer