

Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

December 2000

Greetings and Happy Holidays to the Northern Great Plains Network! December has been a time for transitioning from the planning phase to the 'action' phase for FY01. Our proposal for FY01 was submitted on December 1 and reviewed by the national I&M committee. I am happy to report our funding request of \$128,456 was approved and will be transferred to our network shortly.

Update on Monitoring: During the first week of December, I attended a portion of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and a regional Park Service meeting for Natural Resource staff in Minneapolis, MN. A significant portion of the Park Service meeting was spent discussing I&M issues and there was a lot of good information exchanged between networks. Phyllis Adams, the regional I&M coordinator, updated the group on the transition from inventories to monitoring. For our network, we are slated to receive \$150,000 in FY03 to plan for monitoring and beginning in FY04, we will receive approximately \$600,000/yr for monitoring.

Data Management: We initiated the hiring process for the network's data management technician. The paperwork has cleared Theodore Roosevelt and is currently being processed by personnel staff at Wind Cave N.P. We requested a start date of February 15th, which is probably optimistic, but it doesn't hurt to ask! As a reminder, the position is a 5/7 term. If you know of anyone that will be interested in the position, please feel free to pass on the information.

GIS Theme Manager: The I&M WASO has recently released the ArcView Theme Manager extension. The Theme Manager makes it easier to display data layers and create simple maps, especially for people who do not regularly use ArcView. The WASO offered to process data layers for the Theme Manager and I sent them the layers I had for Devils Tower NM. As long as WASO continues to have the time, we will send data layers for additional parks in the future. If you want to try out the extension, it can be downloaded from: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/im/thmmgr.html>

Rare species information for Network Parks: During December I received records on rare species, federally and state listed species and species of special concern from state Natural Heritage Programs in our network. I requested a list of species, their status and location information for relevant counties. The following table summarizes the number of species for each park.

Table 1. Summary of rare species occurrences in relevant network counties

PARKS	# OF SPECIES	COUNTIES INCLUDED
AGFO	143	Sioux
BADL	43	Pennington, Shannon, Jackson
DETO	98	Crook
FOLA	84	Platte, Goshen
FOUS	50	North Dakota: McKenzie, Williams Montana: Roosevelt, Richland
JECA	63	Custer
KNRI	13	Mercer
MNRR	96	South Dakota: Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay, Union Nebraska: Boyd, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Knox
MORU	61	Pennington
NIOB	165	Cherry, Brown, Keyapaha, Holt, Rock
SCBL	63	Scotts Bluff
THRO	60	Billings, McKenzie
WICA	63	Custer

The list is only a county wide summary and has not been evaluated to determine if a given species is likely to occur on park lands. The exception is Pennington County in South Dakota, species records were divided into Black Hills species for Mount Rushmore and prairie species for Badlands NP. The number of species documented for a given area may be a reflection of how much research has been done in an area instead of an accurate reflection of how many species actually occur or the biodiversity of an area.

**I will send a second cemail message to everyone with the files for your particular park of interest. These files have all of the information I received from the Natural Heritage Programs, but may require some clean-up or reorganization to get them into a form useful to you.

Federally listed species: The following table lists federally endangered, threatened or candidate species documented to occur in relevant counties in the Northern Great Plains network (for a list of counties see Table 1). Whether or not any appropriate habitat exists for these species on park land has not been evaluated. A list of which species have already been documented on park lands will be developed.

Table 2. Federally listed species known to occur in relevant network counties.

Species	AGFO	BADL	DETO	FOLA	FOUS	JECA	KNRI	MORU	MNRR	NIOB	SCLBL	THRO	WICA
Endangered													
Blowout penstemon <i>Penstemon haydenii</i>										X			
Topeka shiner <i>Notropis topeka</i>									X	X			
Pallid sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>					X				X			X	
Whooping crane <i>Grus americana</i>		X			X				X	X			
Interior least tern <i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>		X			X				X	X		X	
Black-footed ferret <i>Mustela nigripes</i>		X											
Threatened													
Western prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i>										X			
Ute ladies' tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	X			X									
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>				X		X	X		X	X	X		X
Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>					X		X		X	X		X	
Preble's meadow jumping mouse <i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>				X									
Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>		X							X				
Candidate													
Sicklefin chub <i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>					X				X	X		X	
Sturgeon chub <i>Hybopsis meeki</i>		X			X		X			X		X	X
Swift fox <i>Vulpes velox</i>	X	X			X		X				X		X

Coming up:

- The development of the Midwest CESU is underway and we will begin setting up agreements to complete I&M work in January
 - At the present time, the CESU includes the following Universities
 - Univ of Nebraska at Lincoln
 - Colorado State University
 - Langston University
 - Little Priest Tribal College
 - Texas A&M University
 - University of Minnesota
 - University of North Dakota
 - University of Oklahoma
- Still working on a memo about network structure (steering committee, my supervision, etc.), should be out in January
- Continue hiring process for data management technician