



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

December 2003



Field Inventories: I've received annual progress reports for the mammal inventory and most of the herpetofauna inventory. I expect to receive the annual report for the bird inventory shortly, as well as the balance of the herpetofauna inventory. I will forward copies of the reports to each park's Technical Committee representative.

Data Manager Position: I've interviewed one candidate and expect to interview others the first week in January. I expect to have a selection made by the time of our annual meeting in Rapid City, i.e., January 14-15.

Computer Assistant: I've hired Erin Handberg as a part-time Computer Assistant GS-335-05. Erin will come on as a STEP hire (she's currently enrolled at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology). Erin's highest priority will be to develop a web page for the Network. My hope is all of our documents, images, and other information will be accessible via the web page. I've budgeted to keep Erin on for all of FY04. (The hiring of Erin will allow our Data Manager to focus on GIS and database development needs.)

Annual NEKOTA/I&M/EPMT Meeting: If you haven't made reservations for the annual NEKOTA/I&M/EPMT meeting please do so as soon as possible. The meeting will be at the Radisson in Rapid City (605 348-8300 - tell them you are with the National Park Service). The draft agenda for the I&M sessions is:

January 14 – Technical Committee only

1:00pm	Intro	Licht
1:05pm	NatureBib	Schumacher (remote)
1:40pm	NPSpecies	Wilson
1:50pm	Vegetation Monitoring	Symstad
2:45pm	Air Quality Monitoring	Pohlman (remote)
3:00pm	Break	
3:15pm	I&M and Fire Effects	Licht/Wienk
4:00pm	FY04 Projects	Licht
4:30am	Adjourn	

January 15 – Superintendents, park staff, and all other interested parties

8:00am	Intro	Licht
8:10am	Status of I&M Program at National Level	Adams
8:30am	CESU	Willson
8:50am	Herp Inventories	Smith
9:15m	Mammal Inventories	Schmidt
9:40am	Bird and Plant Inventories	Licht
10:00am	Break	
10:15am	Status of Network I&M Program	Licht

11:00am	EPMT	Drees
11:45am	Adjourn	
1:00pm	Status of Network I&M Program (continued)	Licht
1:30pm	EPMT	Prosser

Let me know if you have any suggestions for the agenda. Other items of note are that the I&M Program will be on the agenda for the NEKOTA administrative meeting the morning of the 14th (the Board of Directors and I will be there). Also, the afternoon of the 15th will be used by the Exotic Plant Management Team (as well as one hour in the morning of the 15th).