

Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

March 2002

Northern Great Plains I&M Network Cost Code: WASO has established unique org codes for each of the 32 I&M Networks. The code for the Northern Great Plains Network is 2107 (the accounts are 2107-NII for inventory and non-water monitoring; 2107-NWZ for water monitoring). From this point on all I&M expenditures will be charged to one of these accounts (specifically, the NII account since we have not entered the water monitoring phase). The I&M program will reimburse Badlands National Park for some FY02 costs they have incurred.

Northern Great Plains Inventory Study Plan: WASO has approved the study plan. I will forward a hard copy to each park within the next few days. Along with the hard copy will be a signature page; I need each superintendent to sign the page and return it to me. I will then forward the final document to WASO along with the signature page.

Field Inventories for FY02: As stated in the previous newsletter, the bird inventories and herpetofauna inventories are coming together well. I expect to have the funding paperwork signed within the next week or so. I'm happy to report that we will be initiating mammal inventories this summer as well. Although things did not work out with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we are fortunate that Dr. Cheryl Schmidt is available to conduct the inventories and can do so within our budget. Dr. Schmidt is a well known mammalogist, and an expert in bats. Dr. Schmidt is currently teaching at Central Missouri State; however, she has resigned from her position so she can be closer to her husband in Rapid City. We will fund Dr. Schmidt's work via an inter-agency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station in Rapid City. This provided several cost savings to us such as the Research Station's contribution of supplies (e.g., live traps, bat detectors). Dr. Schmidt is working on her schedule; it's possible she will visit in 2002 only some of the parks scheduled to get mammal inventories (with the balance in CY03). In summary, the inventories we will be conducting this summer are:

INVENTORY	FUNDING MECHANISM	PERFORMING ENTITY	PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR	FY02	TOTAL
Birds	Cooperative Agreement	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	Arvind Panjabi	\$6,374	\$19,362
Herpetofauna	Co-op Agreement via CESU	U. of Wyoming & Black Hills State U.	Dr. Brian Smith	\$30,075	\$63,600
Mammal	Inter-agency Agreement	Forest Service Research Station	Dr. Cheryl Schmidt	\$34,038	\$79,300

Compliance and Permits: I will begin working on the permits and compliance documents needed to conduct this summer's fieldwork. You can expect me to be in contact with you over the next month or so.

NPSpecies and other Databases: Dawn and I have been entering records into NPSpecies and NPBIB. If you have any old data (e.g., hard copies of observation cards) you'd like entered into NPSpecies please send it to us.

Vouchers: Vouchers were put on the back burner over the last month due to other higher priorities. I anticipate revisiting the issue soon.