

Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

May 2001

Greetings and farewell to the Northern Great Plains Network! May has been a very productive month, but also a month of change. Just in case there is someone who hasn't heard, I am moving on to work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, CO and Dan Licht, Regional Wildlife Biologist, is taking over the I&M coordinator position. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your hard work and contributions to the I&M program, it has been my pleasure to work with this network.

Network Meeting: On May 9th, we had a network meeting at Mt. Rushmore. The meeting was well attended and we discussed several topics relevant to the detailed inventory study plan being developed for FY02-04. Most importantly, we revised the list of inventory projects and prioritized them. Park staff reviewed the list of potential projects, developed a list of criteria with which to evaluate the projects and weighted the projects based on how complete the existing inventory data is. I have received input from all of the parks and forwarded the comments, scores and draft list to Dan. There is a copy of the draft list at the end of this report. I am sure that this list will undergo revision as the detailed planning for projects gets underway.

Mark Wotawa, the National Inventory Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on data management and the database tools the I&M program has developed. Several people also joined us at Wind Cave the next day for a hands-on demonstration led by Mark.

Issues and concerns related to voucher storage was discussed also. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln is very interested in serving as the repository for our surplus vouchers. This is a nationally recognized institution with staff expertise in specimen preparation and storage. However, it is not centrally located, which may be a concern. Since the meeting, I have found out more information about a potential repository at the USFWS DC Booth Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, SD. The curator is primarily interested in surplus fish specimens, although she may consider other taxa. They do not presently have a natural history collection at DC Booth, and would need monetary support from the I&M program if we housed specimens there. I am sure that developing a plan for our voucher specimens will be on-going as the network works to have its needs met.

There was also a discussion on NEPA compliance as it relates to the I&M program. The general consensus of the group was that individual project compliance actions would be preferable to a programmatic approach. We also discussed the compliance for the upcoming fish inventory and the final paperwork is being circulated.

Other projects: We received products on several contracts this month.

- Overall sampling framework: the USGS-BRD office in Jamestown, ND developed an overall sampling framework for our inventories as suggested by the I&M program. They have developed a very thoughtful and flexible design which I think will help in planning scientifically credible inventories. The final product has been written in such a way that it can be added to the detailed study plan with minimal modifications.
- Lists of expected plant species in the Dakota parks: Cindy Reed, the contract botanist from the Black Hills, has submitted her final report. I will forward copies to the relevant parks. Cindy also did an excellent job. Her report will enable the network to estimate how complete the current information on plant species is in the Dakota parks.
- Published literature review: I received the draft list of published literature that may pertain to the I&M effort in the northern great plains. Gina Hupton, from the Univ of Minnesota, did a very thorough job of searching the literature and an excellent job of documenting her search effort. From her list, there were about 40-50 papers I think would be helpful. I forwarded her report and my comments to Dan and he will see the contract through the next step, which is to request copies of any relevant papers from Gina.

Draft list of new inventory projects (in priority order according to scoring system). P/A=presence/absence

TAXA	PARK	PROJECT	LEVEL OF DETAIL	COMMENTS
PLANT	MNRR	vegetation map	P/A & Distribution of plant communities	
PLANT	NIOB	vegetation map--all river	P/A & Distribution of plant communities	
BIRDS	DETO	Comprehensive Breeding Bird inventory	P/A & Absolute abundance for certain species	
PLANT	FOUS/ KNRI	species inventory and vegetation map (USGS-NPS 2001)		Project proposal submitted for 2001 by USGS-NPS veg mapping program for 2001 for FOUS & KNRI
PLANT	BADL	Rare & endemic plant inventory	P/A & Relative abundance	
PLANT	MNRR	species inventory of vegetated islands	P/A	
MAMMALS,HERPS, PLANTS	NIOB	comprehensive, coarse-scale inventory on east half of river	P/A	
PLANT	MNRR	exotic plant inventory (remote sensing/aerial photography)	Distribution of exotic species	
MAMMALS	MNRR	comprehensive mammal inventory	P/A & Abundance	
HERP	MNRR	general herp inventory	P/A & Abundance	
PLANT	BADL	plant species inventories of south unit/palmer creek	P/A	
PLANT	MNRR	rare plant community inventory	P/A	
BIRDS	BADL	Comprehensive Breeding Bird inventory of south unit/Palmer Creek	P/A & Relative Abundance	
MAMMALS	MORU	comprehensive mammal inventory	P/A	
PLANT	MORU	supplemental plant species inventory	P/A	
HERPS	FOUS	general herp inventory		
HERPS	MORU	general herp inventory (amphibians/snakes)	P/A	
MAMMALS	FOUS	bat inventory		
BIRDS	FOLA	supplemental breeding bird inventory	P/A & Abundance	
MAMMALS	WICA	bat inventory	P/A & Abundance	
BIRDS	FOUS	comprehensive breeding bird inventory		
MAMMALS	FOLA	bat inventory	Absolute abundance of specific populations	
MAMMALS	FOUS	comprehensive mammal inventory		
BIRDS	MORU	supplemental breeding bird inventory	P/A	
HERPS	BADL	targeted survey of rare areas/have B Smith complete write up on previous work	P/A & Abundance	
MAMMALS	BADL	comprehensive mammal inventory in south unit/palmer creek area	P/A	
HERPS	JECA	general herp inventory	P/A & Absolute abundance	
HERPS	DETO	inventory of amphibians and turtles	P/A	
PLANT	THRO	rare plant inventory	P/A & Relative Abundance	
HERPS	WICA	targeted supplement of snakes	P/A & Abundance	
PLANT	FOLA	supplemental species inventory (early/late season and wetlands)	P/A & Abundance	
MAMMALS	JECA	supplemental small/medium mammal inventory	P/A & Relative Abundance	
MAMMALS	SCBL	targeted mammal inventory	P/A & Abundance	
HERP	FOLA	general herp inventory	P/A	
MAMMALS	FOLA	supplemental small mammal inventory	P/A	
TAXA	PARK	PROJECT	LEVEL OF DETAIL	COMMENTS

MAMMALS	AGFO	general inventory of bat species	P/A	
BIRDS	JECA	supplemental breeding bird inventory	P/A & Abundance	
HERPS	KNRI	targeted herp inventory (turtles/snakes)	P/A	
PLANT	DETO	rare plant inventory	P/A & Abundance	
BIRDS	KNRI	targeted inventory (owls?)	P/A & Abundance	
MAMMALS	KNRI	bat inventory	P/A & Relative Abundance	
MAMMALS	BADL	supplemental small mammal inventory	P/A	
MAMMALS	AGFO	targeted supplement of medium mammal inventory	P/A	