

# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

November 2002

**Northern Great Plains Network Annual Meeting:** It's official, the next Northern Great Plains I&M Network Meeting will be February 12, 2003 in Rapid City (exact location to be determined). The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fire Program meeting (scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup>) and the NEKOTA administrative group (scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup>). Additional information, including a draft agenda, will be forthcoming.

**Technician Position:** The announcement for the Network data technician is open until Friday December 6. The job is being filled under the Computer Assistant series. I hope this series draws a large pool of applicants proficient in databases, specifically MS Access. The job announcement number is CTKB-3-160666

**Mt. Rushmore Office:** My computer is now hooked up and I have an office phone (605 574-3193). Thanks to the Rushmore staff. And thanks to Jewel Cave NM for making some furniture available.

**Voucher Storage:** I am now in a position where I can accept the voucher specimens you've been temporarily storing at your park. I plan to buy a small freezer and Bruce Weisman --- curator at Mt. Rushmore --- has made space available. So if you'd like to get rid of those small mammals taking up space in your lunchroom refrigerator, or any other biological specimens you have, let me know and we'll make arrangements. (Yes, I need to get back to working on a permanent repository for these specimens.)

**Forest Service Building:** The latest on the building is that the Forest Service has an option on the land; however, funding for the building is now in the hands of congress. There's a chance the building may be somewhat smaller than originally envisioned, but I've been told that the downscaling doesn't effect us.

**Amy Symstad – BRD Plant Ecologist:** Amy Symstad --- the new plant ecologist from BRD-Northern Prairie Science Center --- is scheduled to arrive at Mt. Rushmore at the end of this month. I don't know what her immediate tasks will be, but I encourage parks to keep her in mind as they develop Service Comprehensive Call proposals.

**Motion Sensing Wildlife Cameras:** A reminder that I have available motion-sensing cameras designed for wildlife studies. Some are film and use flash, others are digital and use an invisible infra-red flash (these examples are from the digital camera at night and during the day). I won't be using these between now and next April so please contact me if you'd like to use them.



(As an aside, I saw at The Wildlife Society Conference in Bismarck a demonstration of how you can connect a digital camera to a standard spotting scope and get great pictures of little critters far away, at a fraction of the cost of film SLR cameras. You can actually handhold the camera to the eyepiece and take the pictures, although adapters are available that make for a more professional setup. The technology has potential for getting photo vouchers. Contact me if you have questions or see the web page <http://www.digibird.com/>.)