



# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

September 2003



**Field Inventories:** Herp inventories are still continuing at the Niobrara NSR and the Missouri NRR, although they should wrap up in late September (they will continue at these two parks only in FY04). Plant inventories are wrapping up for this year at Fort Union Trading Post NHS and Fort Laramie NHS. The automated wildlife cameras for documenting mammals are currently at Devils Tower NM. Once again there's been some exciting finds such as six rare plant species being documented at Fort Laramie NHS, as well as a species being found that was last found in Wyoming in 1872! Other useful information includes the determination that two threatened plant species are almost certainly not at the park.

**NPSpecies:** Marcia is busy cleaning up the NPSpecies database (no easy task!). She may be in touch with you to resolve issues. In the past month Penny Knuckles and Mike Wiles have or will apply for an NPSpecies login and password. I believe about half of the parks in the Network have access to the database. I encourage all parks to use NPSpecies to record noteworthy wildlife observations.

**Data Manager Position:** The position is now advertised on USA Jobs (finally!) in the Ecologist, Biologist, Physical Scientist, and Geographer series at the 9/11 level. It is open to all sources. Applications must be postmarked by October 17. Please spread the word.

**Development of the Vital Signs Plan:** Amy Symstad, Marcia Wilson, and myself have begun holding park scoping meetings for purposes of developing our network Vital Signs monitoring plan. So far we have had meetings at Theodore Roosevelt NP (plants only), Jewel Cave NM, Fort Laramie NHS, Scotts Bluff NM, and Devils Tower NM (a meeting was conducted at Agate Fossil Beds NM last year). We have scheduled October meetings at Badlands NP, the Missouri NRR, and the Niobrara NSR. November meetings are scheduled for Knife River Indian Villages NHS, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, and Wind Cave NP. We will establish a date for Mt. Rushmore NMEM as soon as possible.

**Network Technical Committee:** I have heard from many of the Technical Committee members in regards to a fall meeting and those I heard from were unanimous in that they would like to defer our first meeting until this winter. Therefore, plan on a winter meeting, most likely in combination with the NEKOTA meeting.