

GREATER YELLOWSTONE  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE



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# 2005 Annual Report





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National Park Service  
Yellowstone Center for Resources  
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming  
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On the cover: View from the Gravely Mountains looking toward the Madison Range. Photo by Mary Maj.

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MARY MAJ



*Alpine meadow in the Teton Mountains.*

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# INTRODUCTION

One can trace clean, though sometimes irregular, lines that discern Yellowstone National Park from the Gallatin, Custer, Shoshone and Caribou-Targhee National Forests; where Grand Teton National Park shares boundaries with the Bridger-Teton, Shoshone, and Caribou-Targhee National Forests, and Yellowstone National Park is connected by the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway; where the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge sits remote in the shadows of the Centennial Mountains and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Caribou-Targhee National Forests; and where the National Elk Refuge shares elk, trails, and mountains with the

Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. The outer line of these federal lands accounts for nearly 14 million acres and contributes significant public land resources to the Greater Yellowstone region.

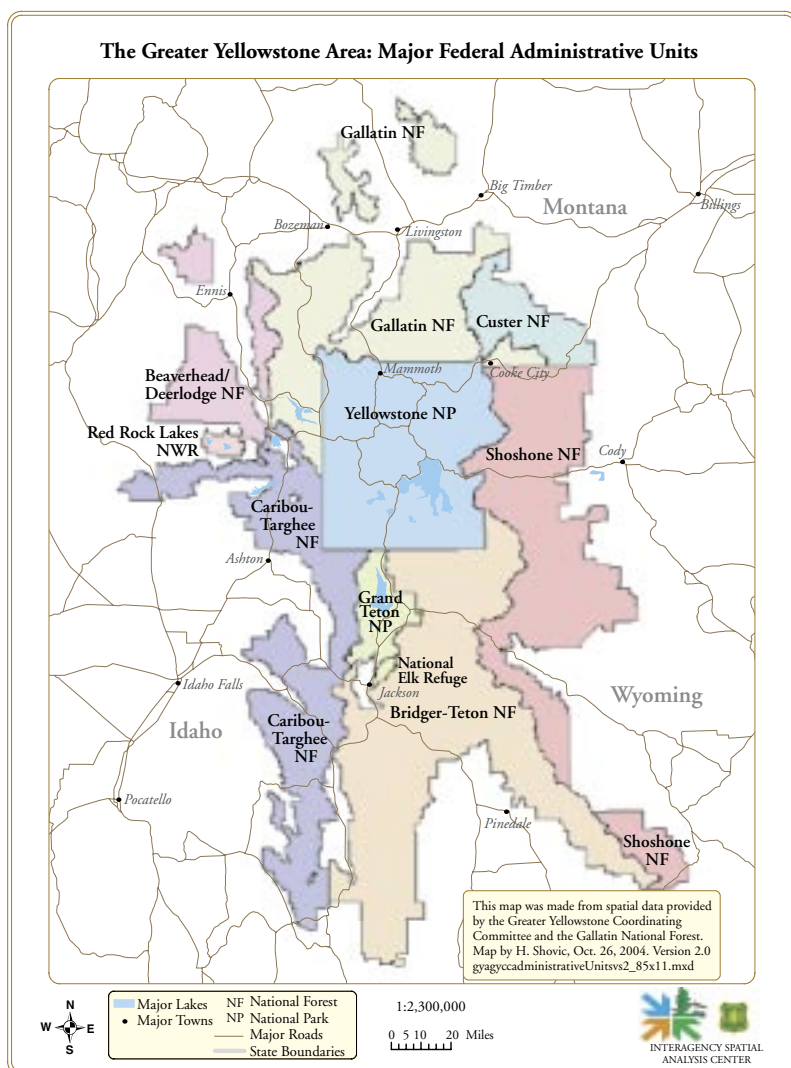
In a year's time, these 10 public land management units benefit from the extraordinary coordination, leadership, and support of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC). The GYCC assists the parks, forests, and refuges with a wide variety of resource priorities including:

- land patterns
- information acquisition, sharing, and management
- watershed management
- recreation management
- invasive species
- whitebark pine conservation
- native cutthroat trout conservation
- sustainable operations
- air-shed management

## BACKGROUND

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee started in 1964 with National Park Service superintendents from Yellowstone and Grand Teton and forest supervisors from the surrounding six National Forests as members. In 2000, the National Elk Refuge and Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined.

Since the early 1980s small groups of resource specialists started to work together on public land issues such as fire, weeds, and wildlife. Over time many of these groups formalized into subcommittees that continue to work together today with an even broader list of participants. For example, the Greater Yellowstone Invasive Species Working Group includes vegetation and invasive species specialists from Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana counties, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, local ranchland groups, federal and state agencies, and universities. In 2000, GYCC units pooled funds for use in coordinating work that



addresses eight resource priorities: land patterns, watersheds, invasive species, native cutthroat trout, whitebark pine, recreation management, Threatened and Endangered species, and coordinated information and data management.

This report presents the accomplishments of the GYCC, their staff, and many Greater Yellowstone Area-wide subcommittees dedicated to coordinated resource priorities. These priorities do not always represent the most pressing and immediate challenge but they do represent resource challenges that just make sense to work on together across agency boundaries.

Many of the projects reported have comprehensive documentation of methods, findings, results, and referenced materials. Appendix A summarizes all projects that received GYCC funding in 2005 and includes contact information for each project leader.

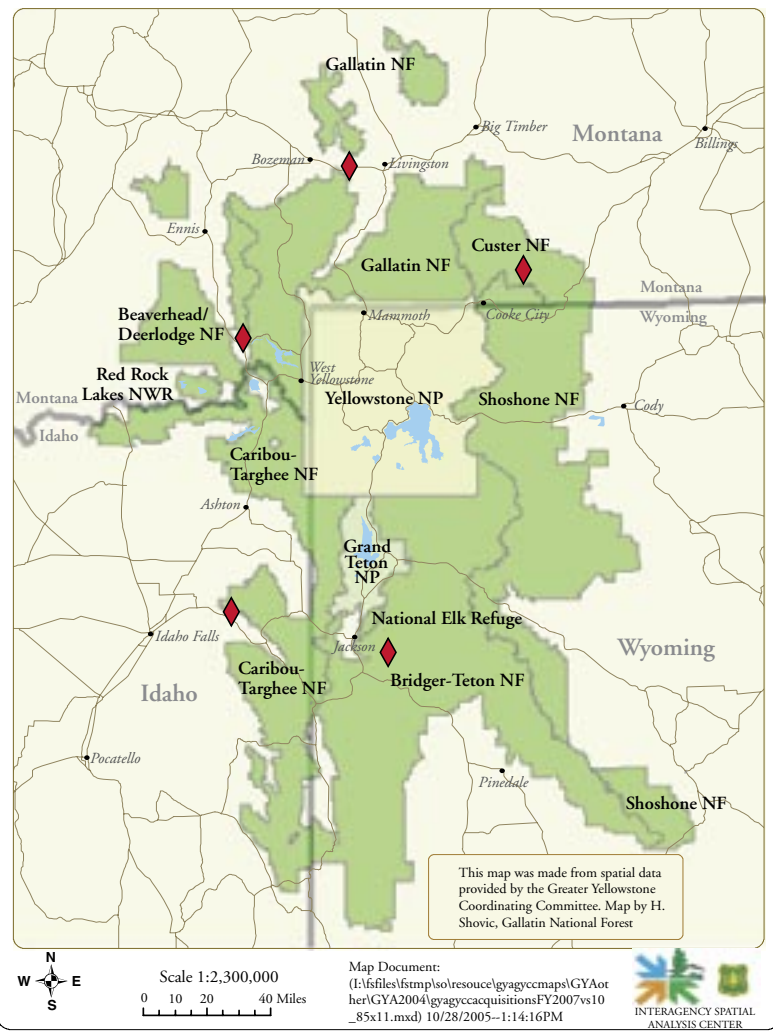
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Land Patterns

Between the 2000 Census and 2004 an additional 35,000 people moved into the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The richness of the natural amenities, proximity to public lands, and outdoor recreation opportunities draw people to the region. Technology and access to commercial air transportation allow people to make a living even if their work is derived outside of the region. The integrity of the public lands is no less dependent upon the integrity of the private lands of the region. The land patterns program looks at the mosaic of land ownership with attention to ecological integrity, retention of public access, and management efficiencies. Program goals of this resource priority are to:

- Establish logical and effective ownership patterns for public and private landowners.
- Protect critical habitat including big game winter habitat, rare and unique plant communities, and valuable riparian habitat.

**Fiscal Year 2007: Greater Yellowstone Land Acquisition Nominations (LWCF)**



- Protect critical open space, natural appearing landscapes, and recreation opportunities including access to public lands.
- Share information, build programs, and assist with development of partnerships that help protect critical habitat and open space.

There is no specific GYCC subcommittee working on land patterns in the GYA. Each agency has land specialists involved in projects that become the focal point of coordination with other interested parties. Since 2000, the GYCC has compiled a notebook of priority land projects. These projects involve landowners with an interest in conserving the unique values





*Ollife Ranch, Madison County, Montana. Looking north with the Taylor Hildegard Mountains in the background.*

**Air quality in the GYA remains generally excellent, as the GYA is largely undeveloped, with limited emissions sources, and predominantly robust dispersion.**

of their land. The notebook was last updated in October 2004. This product has proven useful for conveying the collective picture of GYA land priority projects with partners interested in collaborating in land conservation throughout the region.

Greater Yellowstone National Forests received \$3,451,000 of fiscal year 2005 Land and Water Conservation Funds for land projects. These funds were used to complete or contribute to phased conservation work on the Duck Creek wetlands, Taylor Fork–Ward Property, Ollife Ranch and Reese projects. Combined, these projects resulted in 1,814 acres protected for their public values through easements and deed transfers.

In 2005, the GYCC submitted a “Greater Yellowstone” project proposal for fiscal year 2007 Land and Water Conservation Funds. The proposal included select land projects on the Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Custer, Gallatin, and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. These projects were submitted as one proposal, with a request of \$10,140,000 that would be applied to stewardship management, conservation easements, and land purchases.

## Clean Air Partnership

The Greater Yellowstone Area Clean Air Partnership (GYACAP) consists of air resource program managers and specialists from the National Park Service, U.S. Forest

Service, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Quality in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, and the Idaho National Energy Lab. The GYACAP serves as technical advisors on air quality issues to the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, provides a forum for communicating air quality information, and regulatory issues, and coordinates air quality monitoring between states and federal agencies in the GYA.

In 1999, the GYACAP prepared an Air Quality Assessment, identifying air quality issues, conditions, pollution sources, and monitoring sites. In 2005, the GYCCAP updated the Air Quality Assessment (1999) focusing on the current primary air quality issues within the GYA. These are

- urban and industrial emissions,
- oil and gas development in southwestern Wyoming,
- prescribed and wildfire smoke, and
- snowmobile emissions.

Air quality in the GYA remains generally excellent, as the GYA is largely undeveloped, with limited emissions sources, and predominantly robust dispersion.

A copy of the full report, which addresses each of the four primary air quality issues within the GYA, is at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/resources/air/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/resources/air/index.shtml).

## Watershed Management

Water may very well be the most valuable resource produced in the GYA. In 1990, an ad hoc group of professional hydrologists formed a Greater Yellowstone Hydrologists (GYH) Subcommittee. This subcommittee coordinates watershed management across GYA federal units and serves as technical advisors on watershed issues to the GYCC. In 2002, the GYH Subcommittee completed the “Watershed Management Strategy for the Greater Yellowstone.” The strategy focused on coordinated implementation of effective stewardship practices for GYA watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. In 2005, the GYH updated the original strategy. This update will be



completed in 2006 and builds on the original strategy by adding focus to the current five most important regional watershed issues:

- water rights and water supply
- water quality protection and compliance
- watershed, riparian area, and geomorphic integrity
- interagency cooperation on a watershed scale

In addition, the GYCC awarded \$12,000 in 2005 for projects related to watershed condition monitoring and inventory. The GYH continues to use the Reference Stream Reach Program, which includes hydrologic and geophysical information from 81 reference stream reaches of the GYA. This information is used by hydrologists as a gauge or reference of desired condition against which watershed management practices, watershed assessments, and restoration are measured.

## Invasive Species

The Invasive Species Working Group (subcommittee) first met in 1993 after a core group had developed the “Guidelines for the Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds in the Greater Yellowstone Area” in 1991. Over the past 15 years the working group has built a broad base of cooperators in the fight against invasive terrestrial species in the GYA.

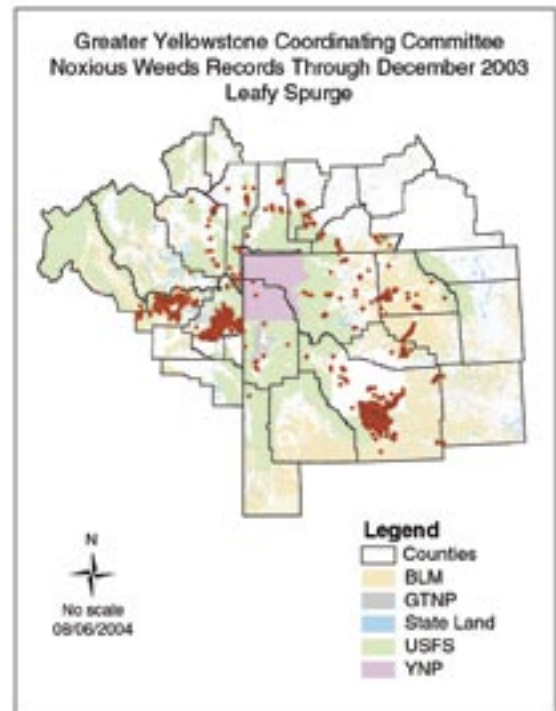
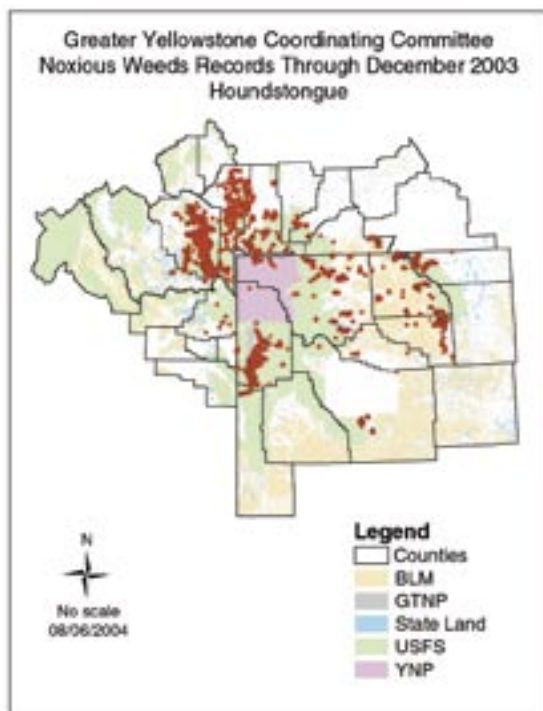
A second assessment of invasive species programs was conducted in 2005 to recheck the status of invasive species management programs. Invasive species managers noted the continued spread of some invasive species, even at low but dispersed densities, and reported on the control and containment of other infestations. There continue to be new occurrences of invading weed species yearly, requiring heightened and persistent attention. With nearly 78 percent



SUSAN MARSH

*Wind River Range, Wyoming.*

The third year of mapping priority invasive weed species in the GYA was completed in 2005.



of the GYA public lands managed as remote backcountry, the Invasive Species Working Group is diligent in its attention to invasive species infestations. An invasive infestation that moves into the backcountry could become a logistics and economic battle not easily won.

The third year of mapping priority invasive species in the GYA was completed in 2005. Fremont County, Wyoming, compiles annual weed occurrence data provided by GYCC units, states, and counties. Mapped occurrences and corresponding inventory data are summarized annually. Currently the program holds 202,000 weed occurrence records. Managers use the maps to prioritize species for treatment, assess risk and needed prevention efforts, and coordinate public awareness regarding impending weed spread.

The Invasive Species Working Group completed a “Why Should I Care” brochure in 2005. This brochure speaks to hikers, fishermen, hunters, ranchers, farmers, and landowners on the importance of their behavior and engagement in fighting the spread of invasive species.

Best Management Practices were developed for sand and gravel pit inventories of invasive weeds in 2005. Fremont County, Idaho,

and Park and Teton Counties in Wyoming tested these inventory, reporting, and data management protocols.

GYCC funds were used for development of a portable vehicle washer available for use around the GYA; inventory and monitoring of back- and front-country invasive species; support of three new Cooperative Weed Management Areas; and the development and installation of weed-free hay signs.

## Native Cutthroat Trout Conservation

Achievements in the conservation of native cutthroat trout in 2005 start with the completion of the DVD titled: “Rising from the Shadows: The Return of the Cutthroat Trout.” The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society, along with GYCC and other contributors, developed this 30-minute documentary. The documentary starts with the historical distribution of the cutthroat trout and ends with information on the cutthroat’s current range and status in the West. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is developing a teacher’s guide to accompany the documentary. The

documentary was developed for television and has been shown on Montana Public Broadcasting Station (PBS).

With the assistance of GYCC funding five major fisheries projects were completed in 2005. They include fish passage restoration along an irrigation system for Bonneville cutthroat, inventory and distribution mapping of Snake River Yellowstone cutthroat, planning for restoration of native Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat habitats and populations, an inventory of fine-spotted Yellowstone cutthroat, and an assessment of all native cutthroats in the upper Yellowstone River.

Habitat and population data collected through these projects will be included in the 2005/2006 Yellowstone cutthroat trout database update and 2006 status assessment, both supported by the GYCC. The assessment was initiated in 2005 with the development of data collection and synthesis protocols, and garnering funds and partners to complete this work across the range of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout. The 2006 Yellowstone cutthroat trout status assessment will update the last report completed in 2001. Mapping workshops and data synthesis will be completed in the spring and summer of 2006. The status report will be completed in the fall and winter of 2006.



*Upper Yellowstone River.*



*Contemporary fish barriers.*

The 2006 Yellowstone cutthroat trout status assessment will then be used to evaluate the potential for a native cutthroat trout campaign. The status report will provide a visual representation of where additional habitat and population information and restoration needs exist. It will also help in identifying potential partners and where they can contribute to the conservation of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the GYA.

## Threatened and Endangered Species

This resource priority emphasizes assistance to on-going efforts that address federally listed species and species that have a special agency designation such as sensitive or globally rare. GYCC contributions often take the form of management and communication coordination, additional funding, and sharing data and expertise. In 2005, with GYCC support, Yellowstone National Park initiated a collaborative project with USGS to summarize the park's 74-year long trumpeter swan population data set. A series of quantitative population and habitat ecology analyses will be conducted, which will then be used to conduct further mathematical modeling to identify key stressors on the population and the probability of local extinction. A decline in Yellowstone





*Trumpeter swan nesting habitat.*

**Preliminary project results indicate that the occurrence of white pine blister rust is widespread throughout the GYA region (80 percent of all transects had some level of infection).**

trumpeter swans of 60 percent since the mid-1980s is of concern and the impetus for this project.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest, with GYCC support, contributed another year of funding to the Wildlife Conservation Society's wolverine project conducted on the south and west sides of the GYA. As the first long-term ecological study of wolverines in the GYA, the project is attaining information on population demographics, critical habitat, and movement, and assessing the effects of human activities on wolverines. The study team conducted additional winter recreation monitoring in the backcountry of the Teton, Madison, Snake River, and Centennial Mountains.

Eleven of 26 wolverines captured during the study use a portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. One of two dens sites is located on the forest. Mean home ranges of adults and subadults have been calculated, and mortality has been documented for nine individual wolverines. This project is not completed. Additional information and update reports can be obtained by contacting the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest has been implementing a bear-safe food storage program on the Madison Ranger District with funding support from the GYCC. The Shoshone National Forest in partnership with Wyoming Game and Fish and the Draper Museum of Natural History (Buffalo Bill Historic Center) developed a grizzly bear exhibit on how to avoid human conflicts. And the Gallatin National Forest continued to monitor human activity in bear country of the Absaroka-

Beartooth Wilderness. This project is unique in gathering information on bear movement around humans present in the backcountry seasonally from spring to fall. GYCC funds were awarded to Grand Teton National Park for assessing human recreation impacts on black bears in the context of an expanding grizzly bear population. Though most of these projects are multi-year and therefore not completed, their results are given consideration in the adaptive management of public land resources as they become known.

## Whitebark Pine Conservation

The Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Cooperative (subcommittee) is instrumental in advancing the GYCC priority of whitebark pine conservation. This subcommittee is comprised of federal land management staff, university and agency researchers, and non-governmental groups interested in the long-term viability of whitebark pine. A partnership with NPS, USGS, and Montana State University, completed the second year of whitebark pine monitoring across the GYA in 2005. The project objective is to monitor the health of whitebark pine relative to blister rust and to a lesser extent mountain pine beetle. Between 2004 and 2005, a total of 127 transects were established and 100 whitebark pine stands were surveyed. Preliminary project results indicate that the occurrence of white pine blister rust is widespread throughout the GYA region (80 percent of all transects had some level of infection). Severity, measured as the proportion of trees infected and the number and location (tree branch or bole) of cankers, was considerably less. An estimated 25 percent of trees in the GYA were identified as having some level of infection. This project and its results will be used to inform future whitebark pine restoration in the region. Whitebark pine is a keystone species in the subalpine ecosystem and a high-energy food source for species such as red squirrels, Clark's nutcracker, and the threatened grizzly bear.

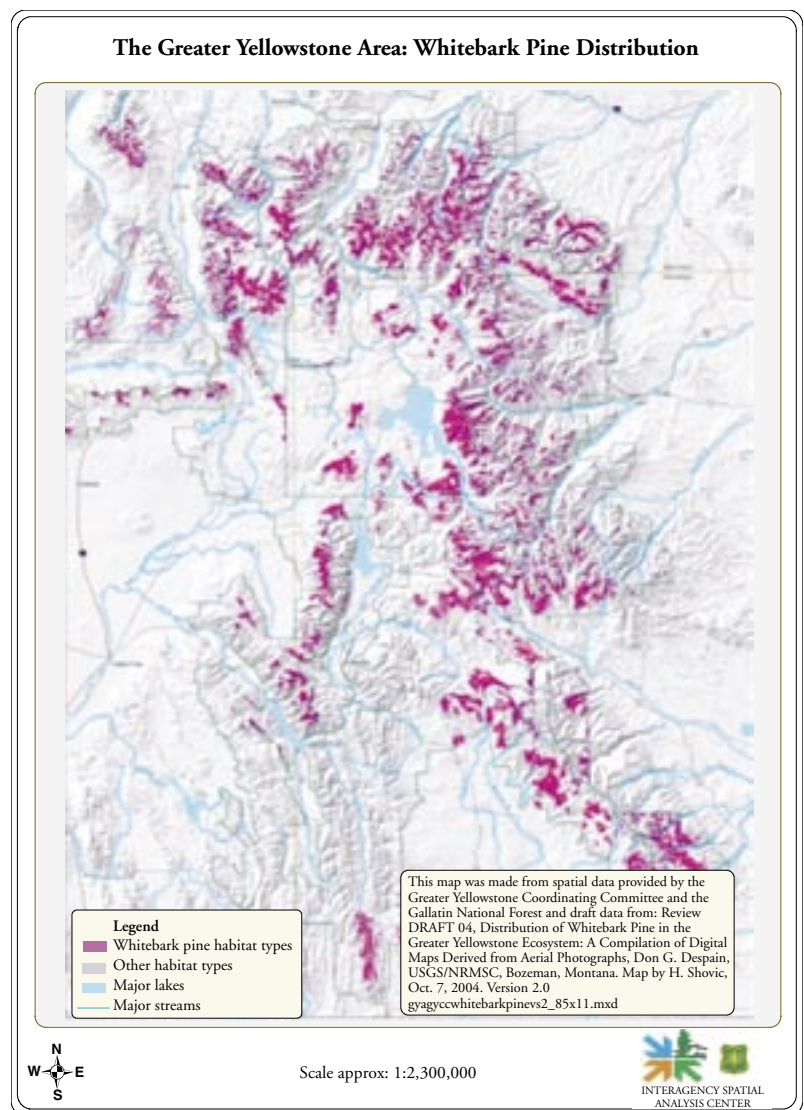
GYCC funding was awarded to the

Shoshone National Forest for continued selection of “plus trees” and cone collection from rust-resistant trees. Cones are collected over multiple years and their seeds are grown in a nursery for use in future restoration planting.

The Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine Cooperative focused early on producing a map depicting whitebark pine distribution across the GYA. Mapping started with use of data from the Grizzly Bear Cumulative Effects Model completed in the 1980s. In 2003, the USGS initiated a whitebark pine mapping project using remote-sensed imagery. An accurate map relies on ground-plot data for referencing images and informing models. The Bridger-Teton National Forest had identified an area in the Wyoming Range with extraordinary whitebark pine. Though inventoried, mapping had not been completed for this area. In 2005, GYCC funds were provided to the forest for production of a geo-referenced digital map layer. This information will be made available for use in completing the map of whitebark pine distribution in the GYA.

## Recreation Management

Winter recreation visitor use has been monitored for six consecutive years (1999–2005) with GYCC support. Monitoring sites were strategically identified on the six national forests of the GYA. One monitoring objective was to identify shifts in recreation users between national parks and national forests. Each of the six national forests is to provide a five-year summary report in 2006. These six reports will be compiled into a single GYA-wide summary. There is no compelling evidence from the data collected that visitors have made a significant shift in use from the national parks to the surrounding forests. User trend data is very inconsistent around the GYA in some years. Much of the growth in winter visitor use appears related to proximity to large population centers with easy day access, groomed trail systems, commercial guiding, and proximity to multiple recreational activities. Importantly, and of no surprise, winter visitor use varies considerably



*Map depicting whitebark pine distribution prior to 2005. D. Despain.*

with local weather conditions and even the weather and snow conditions in places like the Midwest, from which many winter visitors to this region originate. There remain two challenging questions—where do people go once they have left the parking lot and passed the trail counter, and what are the affects of winter recreation uses on resources such as moose, wolverine, and lynx, and on other visitors?

GYCC funding was awarded for increased monitoring of summer, motorized vehicles. The objective of these projects is to provide for a variety of uses while reducing resource damage.

A significant accomplishment in 2005 was the completion of a Greater Yellowstone Area Outdoor Recreation Interagency Report and

**A significant accomplishment in 2005 was the completion of a Greater Yellowstone Area Outdoor Recreation Interagency Report and Technical Guide.**

Technical Guide. Both documents describe the current and projected public land base available for summer (non-winter season) recreation, and recreation use trends. Both works draw upon the expertise of 10 agency recreation managers, published data, and national to local visitor use data. These works provide a GYA-wide picture of recreation use that can inform other resource and project analyses.

With the help of GYCC funding the Gallatin National Forest completed 100 percent re-inventory of Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness campsites. Data on invasive species, wildlife, whitebark pine, and campsite conditions were also collected. This monitoring data will be used in updating the 30-year old Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Plan, revise the draft Limits of Acceptable Change opportunity class maps, and identify critical management issues that need more immediate attention.

## **Fire Management**

A 2004 GYCC grant funded the creation of a vegetation data layer that could be used in the Fire Behavior Fuel Model. Existing vegetation data such as USFS timber stand information and remote sensed imagery along with other available data sets were used. The project continued into 2005 with GYCC support. One project goal the second year is to incorporate disturbance information. Completed in 2005, testing, refinement, and implementation will start in 2006. The fire managers continue to develop a fire atlas for the Greater Yellowstone. The atlas includes information on the date of a fire, fire severity and perimeter. When integrated with current vegetation data this product will be useful in landscape restoration projects, wildlife habitat assessments, and the general understanding of vegetation succession.

## **Data and Information Sharing**

The objective of this priority is to collaborate in the collection and management of resource data that enhances and facilitates coordination;

gather better representative information for a particular resource or management question (sensitive to scale); and efficiently manage information throughout the Greater Yellowstone region. To this end the following steps were taken to advance this priority in 2005: (1) collaborate with NPS, Forest Service, USGS, and Montana State University in developing a central repository for GYA data; (2) create a GYCC web page to serve time-sensitive information and communication needs; (3) initiate creation of a vegetation plot data catalogue; and (4) develop two Remote Sensing Application Center grants to identify newer technologies and methods for identifying dead whitebark pine and unique vegetation communities (aspen, mountain grassland, and shrubland types) in the GYA.

The Fremont County, Wyoming, invasive species mapping project is another example of creative data acquisition and management. More information on this initiative was reported under Invasive Species.

## **Sustainable Operations**

The GYCC Sustainable Operations Subcommittee was created in 2005 to advance the implementation of sustainable practices in the day-to-day operations of each GYCC unit. In 2005, the subcommittee developed an action plan which looked at waste-stream reduction; use of alternative fuels; fuel, fleet, and transportation management; purchase and use of bio-degradable materials; increased energy efficiency; communication, public outreach and interpretation; footprint reduction and facility sharing; and increased use of technology that is energy wise and effective. Working across 3 federal agencies and 10 units, this group is becoming a model for the practical application of sustainable practices. The collective capacity in outreach and education, purchasing power, energy use, and waste stream reduction, and the smart sharing of resources are quickly becoming a hallmark of this group and the ideas they are promoting.

# APPENDIX A. GYCC 2005 PROJECTS

Unit	Project	Description	Benefits	Partnership Leverage	Contact
<b>Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF</b>	Bear-safe food storage implementation. Addresses emphasis on spring, summer and fall visitor seasons	Multi-year project to improve food storage practices in the backcountry. Install structures that facilitate bear-safe food storage, including patrols and education outreach.	GYCC priority. Safe food storage practices are significant to human safety and grizzly bear conservation. Given the controversy of this work a success model is beneficial.	Gravelly Range Grizzly Project; Defenders of Wildlife; Tread lightly; A.B. Schultz Foundation; Ruby-Madison Grizzly Team	Dale Ragain Madison Ranger District 406.682.4253
<b>Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF</b>	Madison River watershed noxious weed project	Integrated weed management in the Madison watershed. Focus from Quake Lake to Ennis. Includes education workshops, treatment, and monitoring on public and private land.	GYCC priority. Treat weeds through integrated practices along a significant watershed and waterway.	MT DOT; FWP; Madison County Weed Coordinator; GNF partners	Kevin Suzuki Madison Ranger District 406.682.4253
<b>Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Dale Ragain Madison Ranger District 406.682.4253
<b>Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Confluence information center	Host visitor center in Alpine, Wyoming, conveying information on rules and regulations, public lands, and opportunities pertinent to regional visitors.	Important portal into the southern GYA. Provide important public land use information, permits, and guidance.	Alpine, Wyoming; Lincoln, Colorado; Star Valley Chamber of Commerce; BOR; Grays Lake NWR; Grand Teton NHA	Karol Larson Greys River Ranger District 307.885.1313
<b>Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Yellowstone and Snake river cutthroat—distribution mapping	Complete surveys in Snake River headwaters, the only sub-basin where both subspecies are present.	GYCC priority. Information and work vital to USFWS management status of species. Informs management decisions.	Yellowstone NP; WGFD; In-kind support from WGFD; Coldwater Cons. Fund	Joe Neal 307.367.5730
<b>Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Greys River ranger district travel management and travel plan revision	Conduct public outreach and motorized use compliance to assist with travel plan revision. Create data and GIS products.	Trained Forest Protection Officer assist with Travel Plan compliance, which results in protection of watersheds, wildlife, and soils.	WY State Trails; Other Bridger-Teton NF district staff in-kind	Sid Smith Greys River Ranger District 307.885.1327
<b>Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Whitebark pine map—digitizing survey data	Digitize half of the forest's timber survey maps that contain important whitebark pine information. Complete other half in 2006.	GYCC priority. This is the remaining data needed for a GYA-wide whitebark pine map. Data also useful to forest for planning and project management.	USGS—Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center; USGS; Forest Service	Liz Davy Bridger-Teton NF 307.739.5562
<b>Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Susan Marsh Bridger-Teton NF 307.739.5516
<b>Caribou-Targhee NF</b>	Thomas Fork safe fish passage	Construct screen and bypasses that would allow safe passage of Bonneville cutthroat trout in the Thomas Fork of the Bear River.	GYCC priority—native cutthroat trout conservation. Proactive project to conserve subspecies under judicial review regarding ESA listing. Sensitive Species, Idaho Species of Concern.	Trout Unlimited; Cost Share Funds; BOR; Monsanto; Fish America Foundation	Jim Capurso Caribou-Targhee NF 208.557.5780



Unit	Project	Description	Benefits	Partnership Leverage	Contact
<b>Caribou-Targhee NF</b>	Certified weed free forage signs	Purchase and install 70 “Weed free forage” signs for use along roads on the Montpelier and Soda Springs Road in southeastern Idaho.	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Weed free livestock forage is a forest requirement. Important public information campaign.	Highland Coop. Weed Management Area	Vic Bradfield 208.547.4356
<b>Caribou-Targhee NF</b>	Greater Yellowstone wolverine study	Capture and radio-instrument wolverines to determine distribution, habitat use such as denning sites, population trends, and impacts of winter recreation on wolverines.	GYCC priority—TES species, already collaborated across 4 GYA units, contributing significant data for winter visitor use monitoring in GYA; useful information for species conservation.	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF; Caribou-Targhee NF; Gallatin NF; Grand Teton NP; Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks; IFG, Wyoming Game and Fish; numerous private foundations, Wildlife Conservation Society, private individuals	Mark Orme Caribou-Targhee NF 208.557.3437
<b>Caribou-Targhee NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Lisa Klinger Caribou-Targhee NF 208.557.5790
<b>Custer NF</b>	Beartooth Front off road noxious weed control	Monitor, map, and treat weed infestations along the Beartooth Front. Important in preventing spread of weeds away from main travel ways that could move into remote backcountry.	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Improvement to watershed and elk winter range habitat.	Private landowners and allotment permittees —in-kind and soft dollars	Terry Jones Beartooth Ranger District 406.446.2103
<b>Custer NF</b>	Landscape level mapping—aspen, sagebrush and Montana grasslands dominance types	Create resource maps of aspen, conifer/aspen mix, sagebrush, and grassland types using remote sensing and GIS applications. Test methods applications for use over the entire GYA.	GYCC priority—TES wildlife management (important habitats), information sharing, and watershed management. Useful for forest planning and methods application could be expanded to other adjacent forests.	Northern Region Geo-spatial Support Services, Gallatin NF, and universities in the GYA	Jeff DiBenendetto Custer NF 406.657.6205 Ext. 226
<b>Custer NF</b>	Upper Stillwater River corridor noxious weed treatment	Fund crew of 5 to treat, monitor and map Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge across 7,500 acres including private and public lands in the Stillwater River corridor.	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Improves erosion and watershed, bighorn sheep winter range and other wildlife habitat. Access point into GYA region.	Beartooth WMA; Stillwater Mining Co.; MFWP; Stillwater County; private landowners	Terry Jones Beartooth Ranger District 406.446.2103
<b>Custer NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Jeff Gildehaus Beartooth Ranger District 406.446.4584
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Portable vehicle wash station	Purchase portable self-contained wash station to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic and weed species. The equipment will be available for all federal and state agencies within the GYA. Focus use at recreational visitor sites.	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Improves erosion and watershed overall, and important wildlife habitat. Focus on access points into Yellowstone NP/GYA region.	Madison Beaverhead Resource Advisory Committee; Pacific Power and Lights; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Susan Lamont Hebgen Lake Ranger District 406.823.6976
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Cutthroat population restoration projects	Remove non-native brook trout as part of westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout restoration strategy in Cherry, Deer, and Soda Butte creeks.	GYCC priority—native cutthroat trout conservation.	Turner Foundation; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Yellowstone NP	Scott Barndt Gallatin NF 406.587.6711

Unit	Project	Description	Benefits	Partnership Leverage	Contact
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Beartooth Weed Management Area	Continue support of recently developed Cooperative Weed Management Area that serves private and public lands around Cooke City, Upper Clark Fork, and Silver Gate communities. Focus on treatment, education, and mapping noxious weeds.	GYCC priority. Integrated weed management program along All American Highway, which is traveler's conduit into Yellowstone NP, Shoshone NF, Custer NF, Gallatin NF. Priority work identified by CWMA.	Beartooth Alliance; landowners; Yellowstone NP; Park County; Shoshone NF	Patrick Hoppe Gardiner Ranger District 406.848.7375
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Grizzly bear distribution in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (outside of PCA)	Extend use of existing field crew to collect data on grizzly bear presence and distribution using tracks and scat. Create map of surveyed area and bear distribution.	GYCC priority—Threatened and Endangered species management. Information important to management and delisting of grizzly bear in northern GYA.	Volunteers; IGBC; 3 Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness forests	Marion Cherry Gallatin NF 406.587.6739
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Weed control in Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness	Fund crews and purchase herbicides for noxious weed treatment over much of Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (across multiple forests and districts).	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Coordinated approach to weed management in remote backcountry where prevention of spread is critical to control success.	Rocky Mt. Elk Fnd.; Sikes Act; Fnd for NA wild sheep; Hells-a-roaring outfitters and Silver Tip Ranch in-kind; volunteers	Kimberly Schlenker Gallatin NF 406.587.6739
<b>Gallatin NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Kimberly Schlenker Gallatin NF 406.587.6739
<b>Shoshone NF</b>	Whitebark pine blister rust Plus Tree program	Begin selection of blister rust resistant trees for "plus tree" restoration programs.	GYCC priority—whitebark pine conservation. Part of GYA-wide effort.	FS Nurseries; RMRS; State and Private Forestry; volunteers	Ellen Jungck Wind River R.D. 307.455.2466
<b>Shoshone NF</b>	ATV trail use monitoring	Monitor and document ATV use and identify resource damage from ATV trails.	GYCC priority. Important assessment of watershed conditions.	Bridger-Teton NF; State ATV trail crews	Skip Shoutis 307.332.5460
<b>Shoshone NF</b>	Grizzly bear exhibit	Create a world-class museum exhibit that provides information on grizzly-human interactions with focus on avoiding conflicts.	GYCC priority. Human and bear safety which relates to bear conservation. Information need to serve the entire GYE.	Draper Museum; BBHC; Wyoming Game and Fish; local landowners	Lynette Otto Shoshone NF 307.578.1233
<b>Shoshone NF</b>	Shoshone invasive species project —WMA support	Continue to provide technical and financial support for 7 CWMA's, working on noxious weed management across the Shoshone NF area.	GYCC priority. CWMA's have proven to be most effective means of weed management across public and private lands.	Private landowners; BLM; Wyoming Game and Fish; state parks, Yellowstone NP; WYDOT; Park County Weed and Pest	Kent Houston Shoshone NF 307.578.1242
<b>Shoshone NF</b>	Forest winter visitor use monitoring	Continue to monitor winter use, following the protocol established for this effort. Winter 2004-2205 is the fifth season of monitoring.	GYCC priority. Useful in determining change in use and also how FS uses relate to adjacent NPS management.	All GYCC units. Wildlife Conservation Society conducts many aerial-surveys of the region documenting winter visitor use.	Burns Davison 307.578.1216
<b>Grand Teton NP</b>	Jackson Lake spring snail — current distribution assessment	Explore factors that may control the current distribution of the Jackson Lake spring snail and New Zealand mud snail. Information part of watershed management in the Snake Headwater Basin.	GYCC priority—watershed, native cutthroat trout conservation and invasive species management.	Washington State University; NPS	Susan O'Ney 307.739.3666

Unit	Project	Description	Benefits	Partnership Leverage	Contact
<b>Grand Teton NP</b>	Assessment of recreation impacts on black bear habitat use and implications for grizzly bear expansion in the southern Tetons	Continue study contrasting effect of high versus low use recreation use areas and grizzly bear-occupied versus grizzly-free areas on black bears in the southern portion of Grand Teton NP.	GYCC priority. Important for adaptive management of grizzly bears, black bears, and recreation in the southern GYA.	IGBST; Wildlife Conservation Society; USGS; NPS NRPP	Steve Cain 307.739.3485
<b>Yellowstone NP</b>	Assessment of native cutthroat trout in the Upper Yellowstone	Continue surveys of native cutthroat trout distribution, ecology, habitat, and species health, above Yellowstone Lake.	GYCC priority. Baseline information for cutthroat trout conservation strategies.	YNP Foundation; USWFS; FS; WGF	Todd Koel 307.344.2281
<b>Yellowstone NP</b>	Yellowstone trumpeter swan assessment	Conduct a comprehensive, quantitative assessment of Yellowstone NP swan population data to determine probability of extirpation in near future.	GYCC priority—Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species, rarest bird species in the GYA.	Yellowstone NP; NPS Intermountain Region	Glenn Plumb 307.344.2225
<b>Yellowstone NP</b>	Inventory of Yellowstone and Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout in the Upper Snake River	Describe the seasonal distribution of Yellowstone cutthroat trout and fine-spotted cutthroat trout in the Upper Snake River drainage and remote headwaters in Yellowstone NP. Final year of 2-year study.	GYCC priority—native cutthroat trout. Baseline information for cutthroat trout conservation plans.	NPS Intermountain Region Inventory and Monitoring program; NPS Center for Resources	Todd Koel 307.344.2281
<b>NER</b>	Jackson Interagency Habitat Improvement Project	Conduct vegetation mapping for all Jackson Interagency Habitat Improvement (JIHI) projects, a cooperative interagency approach to the management and restoration of critical big game habitat in Jackson, Wyoming.	GYCC priority. Interagency approach to management and restoration of vegetation areas and critical wildlife habitat.	NER; Grand Teton NP; Bridger-Teton NF; Wyoming Game and Fish; and Teton Science School	Eric Cole 307.733.9212
<b>GYA</b>	GYA air quality assessment update	Update 1999 GYA Air Quality Focus on 4 major air quality threats—snowmobile emissions, forest service smoke management, oil and gas fields, and motor vehicle emissions.	Important for compliance of Clean Air Act.	USGS; INEEL; Montana, Idaho and Wyoming DEQ; all GYCC Units	Mark Story Gallatin NF 406.587.8573
<b>GYA</b>	Spring, summer, fall recreation assessment	Complete final development of assessment of recreation assessment for GYA. Pays salary and travel for 12 core team members.	Chartered by GYCC in 2004. Expected completion 2005.	Yellowstone Business Partnership; Wildlife Conservation Society	Mary Maj GYCC 406.522.8575
<b>GYA</b>	Test and implement GYA sand and gravel pit inspection program	Test sand and gravel pit inspection program of 6 counties in the GYA. County weed staff will conduct weed inspections of all permitted pits.	GYCC priority—noxious weed management. Sand and gravel pits used on roadways of GYA—weed control at pits (source) is most effective approach to reducing spread of weeds.	Madison, Gallatin, Park (Montana and Wyoming); Teton and Fremont county weed staff	Craig McClure Yellowstone NP 307.344.2168
<b>GYA</b>	Fire/fuels vegetation database for GYA	Enhance the fuel model layer and fire history databases by incorporating disturbance information. Conduct FARSITE fuel model workshop and upkeep of fuels data for GYA.	Original development of FARSITE fuel model vegetation data chartered by GYCC in 2003. Work has strengthened cooperation around GYA.	All GYCC unit staff; GYA Fire Management Officers; Yellowstone NP	Teri Seth Gallatin NF 406.522.2539
<b>GYA</b>	Maintenance and update of GYA-wide weed maps for 52 species	Annual update of 52 priority weed species maps that cover the entire GYA. Funds used to solicit new data and maintain and serve existing weed inventory data that has been synthesized for the GYA.	GYCC priority. These maps serve to inform managers of status of existing and approaching invasive species for use in prioritizing each unit's control and prevention work.	All GYCC units; 21 counties; all GYA-CWMAs; Fremont County, Wyoming, Weed District	Mary Maj GYCC 406.522.8575

