

Black Hills Area Ecologist & Botanist Workshop

March 11, 2003

9:00 – 9:30	Coffee and Bagels	
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and Introductions	Wienk & Zacharkevics
9:45 – 10:50	Presentations and Discussion	Deisch, Ode, Griebel Mark Gabel Cody Wienk
10:50 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:00	Presentations and Discussion	Sandee Dingman Audrey Gabel Cheryl Schmidt
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:15	Presentations and Discussion	Katherine Zacharkevics Beth Burkhart Reed Crook Mary Lata
2:15 – 2:25	Break	
2:25 – 3:15	Presentations and Discussion	Dan Licht Jack Butler Dave Siemens
3:15 – 3:30	Wrap-up and Comments	Wienk & Zacharkevics

Beth A. Burkhart

Sept. 2002 to present: working for USFS R2 Regional Office as botanist for Species Conservation Project with duty station at Black Hills NF; work split 80% Species Conservation Project (plant species assessment contracts oversight) and 20% Black Hills NF botany projects (Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation review; participation in plant monitoring program evolution; and botany field work).

1999-2002: USFS Range Specialist/Botanist for Fall River Ranger District (Hot Springs, SD), Buffalo Gap National Grassland/Nebraska National Forest

1999: Black Hills NF, USFS seasonal botanist 1998: The Nature Conservancy - Black Hills Community Inventory, seasonal botanist

1996-1998: M.S. in Botany (Floristics) from University of Wyoming, Laramie

Previous: 15 years federal employment as Natural Resource Specialist/Biologist, Environmental Specialist, or Park Ranger for U.S. Department of Energy, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation.

Jack L. Butler

I am a broadly trained biologist (wildlife, botany, range science) with research experience in a wide variety of environments. My primary interest is in the area of plant ecology at several levels of resolution from autecology to landscape ecology. For the past 10 years, much of my research efforts have been directed toward evaluating the ecology and management of invasive plant species. I also have considerable experience with the National Vegetation Mapping Program. Primary research goals include:

- Develop strategies for the early detection of invasive species and rapid response to small, localized infestations with the goal of preventing initial establishment.
- Evaluate the impact of invasive species on the structure and function of native species and communities (plants and animals), including TE&S species.
- Identify the role that management practices (e.g. grazing or burning) may play in the establishment and spread of invasive species while concurrently evaluating the potential role of management in controlling/containing invasive species.
- Develop long-term monitoring techniques that evaluate the efficacy of control methods, restoration/rehabilitation efforts, and potential for re-invasion.

Reed W. Crook, Ph.D.

BS in Botany - Brigham Young University, MS in Plant Developmental Morphology - University of Georgia, PhD. in Plant Systematics - University of Georgia.

I participated in floristic and TES plant surveys at the Fort Stewart Military Reservation - Georgia, Stone Mountain State Park - Georgia, and Callaway Gardens - Georgia while I was a graduate student. Much of my other field experience was spent in the wetlands of south Georgia-north Florida, and in the dryer Sand Hills. I have experience in DNA sequence comparisons, isozyme work, plant secondary products, morphology, and traditional taxonomic methods and field work. I managed the University of Georgia Herbarium for about 1 year.

My current work started in 2000, and includes collecting baseline data and monitoring sensitive plant species on the Black Hills National Forest. I also work on the database for the information collected, and in creating maps for a various uses.

On weekends, I spend much of my time photographing wildflowers found in the Black Hills and adjacent areas.

Shelly Deisch

I have been employed with SD GFP now for 4 years but have been the Liaison for 2 of those years.

1. Responsible for compiling and writing SD Division of Wildlife comments on all Forest Service System Land projects in South Dakota (Regions 1 and 2).
2. Division of Wildlife also develops cooperative funding and habitat improvement projects on Forest Service lands, such as the aspen project presented today.

Audrey C. Gabel, Ph.D.

B.A in biology; M.S. in Botany/Plant Pathology; Ph.D. in mycology/botany

On biology faculty at Black Hills State University teaching mycology, biology, microbiology and invertebrate zoology.

Recent research has been surveying macrofungi, lichen and slime molds in the Black Hills. A field guide to mushrooms and other fungi of the Black Hills is in preparation. Several manuscripts to be submitted to scientific publications will be prepared from this ongoing research. Previous research focused on fungal plant pathogens to include a study of an endophyte on bracken fern and leaf diseases of prairie grasses.

Mike McNeill

Experience and Education:

1. Range Conservationist, Mark Twain National Forest – Tall grass prairie and mixed hardwood ecosystems (2 years)
2. Range Conservationist, Sheyenne National Grassland – Tall grass prairie ecosystem (7 years)
3. Resource Assistant, Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest – Great Basin and Snake River ecosystems (11 years)
4. Range Ecology Program Leader, Dakota Prairie Grasslands – Tall grass and mixed grass prairie ecosystems (3 years)

BS – Range Ecology (Concentration in Surface Mining Rehab) from Colorado State University

Current Responsibility:

Line Officer responsible for management activities on the Fall River Ranger District, Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

Cheryl A. Schmidt

A non-game mammalogist, with particular interest and experience in working with bats and rodents. Current projects include conducting mammal inventories for the National Park

Service's Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring program and establishing a research program addressing knowledge gaps for bats in South Dakota. Park holdings being inventoried are in Wyoming, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. South Dakota parks include Mount Rushmore, Jewel Cave, and Wind Cave. The bat research includes gathering baseline data on bat diets and foraging habitat, with a long-term goal of elucidating the impacts of fire (both wildfire and prescribed burns) and invasive species on bat habitat use. Other research goals are:

- Elucidation of habitat use by bats across the northern plains (i.e. outside the Black Hills influence)
- Migration corridors used by bats
- Identification of primary factors affecting bat abundance in the northern great plains region

Amy Symstad

Amy Symstad is the sole member of the new USGS-BRD (Biological Resources Discipline) Black Hills Field Station, located at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Her responsibilities are to help thirteen National Park Service units in the Northern Great Plains address resource management issues through research and technical assistance. Her interests lie in the overlap between plant community and ecosystem properties and processes. She is particularly interested in invasive species, fire, and ecosystem restoration. She also has a continuing interest in the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. She started with USGS just a couple of months ago so she is still learning the ropes and in the process of developing projects. Before coming to the Black Hills, she was with the Illinois Natural History Survey for 4.5 years, where she was the prairie restoration ecologist at a former military base trying to become a National Wildlife Refuge. Prior to that, she completed her Ph.D. in ecology at the University of Minnesota and her B.S. in environmental engineering science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Cody Wienk

B.S. – Biology, South Dakota State University, 1997

M.S. – Renewable Natural Resources Studies, University of Arizona, 2001

I've been working in the Black Hills since 1997 and with the National Park Service since 2001. I work with 10 National Park units in the Northern Great Plains. My main responsibilities include:

- Supervise fire effects monitoring team
- Manage NGP fire effects data: collection, input, analysis, interpretation
- Assist with planning documents
- Assist with execution of prescribed burns
- Coordinate fire-related research projects
- Maintain NGPA Fire GIS database

Katherine Zacharkevics

Over 10 years field experience w/FS (Wyoming and Arizona); in the Black Hills for 4 years; working on overseeing and inspecting botanical surveys contracts, Forest-wide databases (access and GIS coverages), writing BE's and specialist reports, and an occasional good botanical find!