Missouri River Watershed Coalition
Fall 2012 Meeting
Thursday, November 15, 2012
10:00 am – 1:00 pm MST

Draft: 11/16/2012

Web-linked meeting. A full recording of the meeting is available at: www.weedcenter.org/mrwc/meetings.html

Meeting facilitators: Andrew Canham and Liz Galli-Noble
Minutes by: Emily Rindos (transcribed from audio recording)

See Attachment A for meeting agenda.

Prior to the MRWC fall meeting, a MRWC-EDDMapS training webinar was held. A full audio recording is available at: www.weedcenter.org/mrwc/meetings.html. Participants included 50 people from 17 states (see Attachment B: Webinar Participant List).

A short electronic poll was conducted at the end of the training, and generated the following responses from participants:
1. Did you find this training helpful? Yes: 43; No: 0
2. Do you need additional MRWC-EDDMapS training(s) before you’d feel confident using the system? Yes: 8; No: 34
3. Do you plan to use the system in the upcoming field season? Yes: 31; No: 3
4. We have the opportunity to expand the MRWC-EDDMapS to include the reporting of additional invasive species taxa. If available, which of the following invasive species taxa would you report (on the job, while recreating, etc.)? Plants: 17; Animals: 0; Insects: 2; Aquatics: 1; All of the Above: 19

Attendance
The states of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming participated in this meeting. North Dakota was not represented.

Meeting Participants
Scott Bockness, CISM (MT)  *Steve Ryder (CO)
*Dave Burch (MT)  Kelly Sharp (SD)
*Andrew Canham, MRWC President (SD)  Kitty Weiss, CISM (MT)
*Karie Decker, MRWC Vice President (NE)  Jan Bruhn (NE)
*Slade Franklin (WY)  Jim Hoge (KS)
*Liz Galli-Noble, CISM (MT)  Joanne Grady (CO)
*Scott Marsh (KS)  Ken Bazata (NE)
*Ron Moehring (SD)  Ned Brady (UT)
Kristi Paul (NE)  Patrick Lawrence (MT)
Emily Rindos, CISM (MT)

*I MRWC Executive Committee member

I. Introduction, Meeting Overview, and MRWC Announcements

Andrew Canham, MRWC President, opened the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda (Attachment A).

Motion: Poll to approve minutes from the MRWC summer meeting June 13-14, 2012 (conducted via the Adobe Connect window): 8 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed. The minutes were approved.

Financial Report
Liz Galli-Noble reported on the MRWC program budget and briefly went over funding and expenditures by source, grant applications submitted and rejected, and pending grant funding (Attachment C: Fall 2012 Financial Report).
**MRWC Announcements**

Andrew Canham made the following announcements:

- As of July 2012, Kansas officially joined the MRWC. Scott Marsh, State Weed Specialist, will represent Kansas on the MRWC Executive Committee. Scott says he's looking forward to participating in the Coalition and reaping the benefits of being a member.
- Karie Decker, the current MRWC Vice President, will be taking a new job with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as an assistant division administrator working in research, analysis, and inventory for wildlife. Karie has brought enthusiasm, experience, and commitment to the Coalition. She said she would be willing to stick around in her role as Vice President, and will investigate the possibilities of moving up to the role of President, as Andrew’s term will expire at the end of the summer. Karie said that she is looking forward to bringing the Coalition into her new role, and incorporating things like EDDMapS into the work her division is already doing. Karie begins her new job at the end of November 2012.

**Outreach Workgroup Update**

Liz Galli-Noble provided an update and summary of Outreach Workgroup activities over the past five months:

- *Sportsman’s Guide to Invasive Species*: Emily Rindos wrote and designed a follow-up publication to the hunter education booklet (*Protecting Wildlife Habitat: Sportsman’s Guide to Noxious Weeds*). We printed and delivered 30,000 copies (20,000 to WY; 10,000 to MT). Other states are able to download that product and have it printed. If you wish to print it, contact Emily. The publication is available in CISM’s online store. Feedback has been tremendously positive. It’s a great, broad approach that combines terrestrial weeds with aquatic species for sportsmen (hunters and fishermen). CISM staff are talking about creating several similar products that vary the message slightly and target private landowners, and gardeners/homeowners. They would like to move forward on this over the next six months.
- Liz Galli-Noble (CISM/MSU) signed a contract with Wild Dakota in October to produce the second installment of the *Sportsman’s Fight Against Invasive Species* video series. Wild Dakota will begin production this winter and continue into the spring. The main focuses for the videos will include: aquatic invasive species, Fight Five (in conjunction with South Dakota and the Montana Weed Control Association), EDDMapS, certified weed free forage and big game hunters, and general impacts of invasive species.
- Liz encouraged meeting participants to contact their state or county people, or CISM, if they wish to hold an EDDMapS training. CISM would be happy to help in any way it can.
- Other projects: the Outreach Workgroup is gathering existing awareness and outreach products and adapting them for the states. Liz also shared with the group the Executive Committee’s project ideas that pertain to outreach and education. The group hopes to focus on a few new projects in the first part of next year.

**II. Conservation Innovation Grant Project Update**

*Scott Bockness, Project Field Leader*

Scott Bockness gave a 20-minute presentation on the CIG project (see PowerPoint presentation and audio recording at: www.weedcenter.org/mrwc/meetings.html). He covered the following topics during his presentation:

- MRWC CIG project justification, objectives, and timeframe
- Project site selection and locations
- Pre-treatment vegetative sampling and site surveys
- Saltcedar management activities (completed in September)
- Russian olive treatment activities (currently underway)
- Bioenergy feasibility testing
- Project website (www.weedcenter.org/mrwc/cig)
III. Round Robin Session: MRWC State Updates

Update from MRWC President Andrew Canham
The *Sportsman’s Guide to Invasive Species* is hugely popular; anybody who sees them wants them. The guide could potentially be expanded into a series, with one specifically for homeowners, gardeners, etc. The horticulture industry could really use some good information from us. Private landowners would also be a really good target audience.

Wild Dakota TV show. That has really raised awareness among sportsmen of invasive species, and the problems they cause, identification, prevention, and reporting. This is a great way to garner support from agencies and states, as well as the people who use private and public lands. Wild Dakota’s range just expanded to include Minnesota, which means that the show now reaches 1.2 million people.

Liz sent out a list of project ideas generated by the Executive Committee. We still need more; we need ideas not just from the coordinators, but from the membership too. Liz, Emily, Kitty, and Scott have done a really great job with coordination, the website, outreach products, etc. We can all agree that they are very professional looking. Liz will help write grants and facilitate the projects, and I don’t think you’ll find a better deal anywhere else.

We all know that we have a national deficit in this country and one way or another we’re going to have to deal with it. We need to think about how we can work together and how we can make this group rise to the top. We’ve got a proven track record of getting effective, efficient products out there. We’ve got the local groups and states on board with us, and a well proven CISM staff to help get us to where we need to be. Keep coming up with ideas and keep thinking of what we can be doing. Whatever you’ve got, we can find a way to make it happen.

Colorado Update
Steve Ryder, Colorado Department of Agriculture

- Russian olive: we’ve been working on tamarisk for a number of years and this is where the *Diorhabda* has done a fantastic job over on the Colorado Basin and has just been established over in the Arkansas Basin. So that’s doing an awful lot of work for us. Tamarisk has been a listed species for quite a while, as has Russian olive. We’re starting to work on our statewide management plan for Russian olive this year and we know that this is going to be a big expense and long-term project for folks who primarily deal with weeds and not woody invasives. We’re going to focus primarily on riparian areas to begin with. We know that Russian olive is probably going to be one of the more controversial species that we’ve dealt with in a little while because there is a contingent of supporters of the species for a number of reasons. One thing that has been very helpful for us is that the Colorado Conservation Board has been running a...and just in the last end of this special session of this legislature they got an appropriation of $1 million to continue this project. The applications are going to be due in the next few weeks for the first $500,000, and these are multi-year projects. The other $500,000 will probably go out in the next two or three years.

- Colorado’s economic impacts study (primarily being conducted by the Ag Econ folks at Colorado State University) is focusing on six or seven key species. We should have a draft report by the end of the year. It’s going to be a working draft and that the numbers will need to be adjusted a bit, but it’s important to get it out there. We’re hoping this report will be of long-term value to us and to other folks in the region.

- We’re in the idea stage of forming an initiative on *Phragmites* in the state. According to the PLANTS database we have it in 30 or our 60 counties. But there’s no indication of whether it’s native or invasive; we have a lot of both. So we’re going to try and involve the counties in assessing the bigger populations and trying to get a handle on the native/invasive strains to see what kind of issue we have with it.

- As far as budgets go, we’re pretty flat at the state level. But we have confidence in the recovery, so we’re not going to be approaching the legislature for anything this year. We’re going to set the stage and plan that for 2014. The Colorado Weed Management Association is in the queue for state income tax donations which they will use for outreach and education, though it’s hard to tell what the funding level will be at this point. They will get that funding for a few years, if not more.
State and Private Forestry took about a 60% cut last year and we're hearing that it's going to be flat if not a bit lower.

**Montana Update**  
*Dave Burch, Montana Department of Agriculture*

- We've got a book for small acreage landowners called “**TIPS for Fighting Weeds On Small Acreages in Montana**.” It's a popular book that could easily be adapted for other states, so we don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- We just started the process of revising our state weed plan. We're doing it in-house, so it will be done before December 2013.
- We've sent out petitions for new weeds to be added to the state list. We sent out an explanation of that process to the county people and Extension. We may have an update to our list in the next year or two.
- I talked to John Cantlon of HHC this morning about the new congressional bill they're pursuing. We're pretty optimistic about that; if it gets appropriated, there will be some funding there, so that's exciting.
- Our legislative session (every other year) is coming up in 2013, and there will be a few issues that come up about weeds, especially about aquatics.

**Kansas Update**  
*Scott Marsh, Kansas Department of Agriculture*

- My number one priority right now is trying to get into the law and update it. It hasn't been touched in close to 20 years; it needs a lot of updating. The big issue there is our weed list is in the law itself, so it's very hard to keep that up to date. So I'm going to try very hard to get the weed list pulled from the law and into regulations so we can keep it up-to-date and current.
- I'm working with our 105 counties to keep up with their regulatory work and educating the public. I can't push any money their way from the state, so they rely on the funding they get from the county and therefore what the county tells them they can do. Therefore, they're restricted to working on just the listed weeds; any others are “hands off.” Like Steve, I'm going to be looking at a tax check off; none of this will likely happen until the 2014 session.
- We're trying to expand our educational program and biocontrol program with little funding.

**Nebraska Update**  
*Karie Decker reporting for Mitch Coffin, Nebraska Department of Agriculture*

- In April or May of this year, we got legislation through to officially recognize a Nebraska Invasive Species Council. The group is now up and running. The bill also included laws that prohibit the transport and possession of specific aquatic species, and allows us to make additional laws to go along with all of that. To help with a lot of the citizen science and reporting efforts, we developed cross-taxa watch lists based on Nebraska's four ecoregions. They are designed to help people to encourage species sightings.
- Two folks in Nebraska have been trained to use the USDA's weed risk assessment. The training was conducted over the summer in North Carolina. Working with the Council, we ran *Sericea lespedeza* through the assessment and we were very surprised that the ranking turned out as high as it did. We used the documents that came out of the process as evidence for adding the species to our state noxious weeds list.
- Through the Council, we produced several planning and management documents. We now have a cross-taxa invasive species rapid response plan now that provides us with guidelines for the process when we identify a new species in the state. It also includes contact information for all the assistance we might need, and sort of follows the incident command system. Last year we focused on developing an aquatic invasive species prevention protocol for all of our field staff. Along those lines, we developed something similar for terrestrial systems and directed at field managers.
- In terms of outreach, we've had a lot of media releases. The *Sportsman's Guide* has been extremely well received in Nebraska. We were able to get funds together to print about 5,000 copies and those are going out to all of the Games and Parks Commission field offices and will be distributed further from there. We're hoping to get more of those printed soon. We have a video developed by the Games and Parks Commission that further explains all of the messages included in the *Sportsman's Guide* and links right up to all of the Wild Dakota videos as well. We have also updated and incorporated more information into our invasive
species field guides. These have been up online for a while and we realized a lot of the information was about 3 to 4 years old and needed to be updated.

- The Nebraska Weed Control Association and Dept. of Ag. did a lot of aerial surveys and flights using GPS cameras and mapping, focusing on *Phragmites*.
- We're looking at developing species-specific rapid response plans, including one for zebra mussels that can be used in different infested water bodies.
- NE Dept. of Ag. has been developing a weed mapping program that all of the county officials can use and look at, similar to what we have in place with EDDMapS, but more localized. They’re nearly finished with that, and are traveling around conducting trainings on the program.
- We have a Weed Management Area summit coming up in January.
- We have some invasive species ID workshops tentatively planned but they may need to be bumped back by a month or two given my change in position.
- The Nebraska Weed Control Association has its annual conference coming up in February.

**South Dakota Update**

*Ron Moehring, South Dakota Department of Agriculture*

- We recently got the *Sportsman's Guide* printed; I delivered 4,000 copies to SD Game, Fish and Parks and a bunch to the Forest Service. It’s going over very well.
- I presented my EDRR watch list to the state; got a few comments but not a lot of suggestions for weeds to add. We’re working on getting something like the *Sportsman's Guide* together with our watch list species that we can hand out at trailheads, and other areas. Right now the list only includes weeds, but I’d like to work with folks to include additional taxa. We’re expanding more and more to include additional taxa.
- Our country grants are due tomorrow; we’re granting out $660,000, $300,000 of which will go out to the counties as a basic grant. The rest will go out as competitive grants.
- We just had our first report of purple loosestrife in SD; it showed up on the islands out near Pierre. The Corps of Engineers said they don’t own the islands, Game, Fish and Parks said the same, and they won’t let any private citizens own the islands, so I worked with Corps and GFP and we spent a day spraying it. We then surveyed the river upstream and downstream and didn’t find more purple loosestrife; however, we did find a lot of *Phragmites*, both the native and the invasive. We’re going to have to get something done on that. The county isn’t really interested in it, neither is the Corps. So we’re going to have to work really hard to convince them that *Phragmites* is going to be a problem in SD.
- We’re also working on some big problems with prairie dogs.

**Wyoming Update**

*Slade Franklin, Wyoming Department of Agriculture*

- This past year, we have probably spent more time talking about cheatgrass than we have in the past 7 or 8 years combined. We’re trying to pull together agencies to figure out what to do, along with a cheatgrass task force. We’re coming up with a proposal that prioritizes areas in our state; we’ve been working with University of WY to map where cheatgrass is our biggest issue.
- We had a lot more issues this year with infested hay moving into our state. We talked with some of our counties about possibly quarantining areas just because the hay was so infested with noxious weeds. Growers were doing whatever they could to sell the hay that they had.
- We are going through some budget cuts at the request of the governor (8% cuts to each of the agencies). 42% of the cuts from the WY Dept. of Ag. came out of noxious weed budgets.
- Regarding Russian olive, we’re still getting a lot of questions about whether removing it leads to wildlife habitat loss. Reclamation is still necessary; if we don’t revegetate those areas where Russian olive is removed, the new are damaging wildlife habitat.
- We recently found moth mullen at a reclamation project along the interstate. It showed up in an area that was reclaimed just two years ago, so we’re in the process of trying to see where the straw came from to get a better idea of where the moth mullen came in from.
**Center for Invasive Species Management Update**

*Liz Galli-Noble, Director*

- This past spring, we conducted a five-day invasive species workshop for the Department of Defense in Portland, Oregon. That was a follow-up to one we did in Phoenix, Arizona in 2009. We’re hoping to follow it up with a similar workshop in a webinar format next year.
- We continue to host lots of websites and listservs for our partners regionally and nationally.
- CISM staff and partners are working on a new marketing strategy for the Center.
- As many of you already know, CISM just expanded from an invasive plant management focus to a broader, invasive species management focus and mission. It was a very good idea and we’ve received a lot of very positive feedback.
- We just signed a contract with DuPont to conduct a webinar series this spring.
- We’re working with the Fort Belknap Indian Community to write a weed management plan, and would like to help out other tribes region-wide.
- We continue to work with the North American Invasive Species Network, and were very involved with the last Weeds Across Borders conference. We’ve been asked to help with the next conference in that series in 2014.
- We continue on a daily and weekly basis to do a lot of things with the CIG projects, and I continue to write a lot of grants in support of the MRWC.

**IV. Meeting Wrap-up**

The date and place of the next meeting will be solidified through the Executive Committee. It will likely be in South Dakota in April.

Regarding MRWC–EDDMapS trainings, we can do as many as people need. Contact Liz Galli-Noble for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm MST.
Missouri River Watershed Coalition Fall Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 15, 2012 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Mountain Time

10:00 – 11:00 am  EDDMapS Training
Andrew Canham, Liz Galli-Noble, and Chuck Bargeron

11:00 – 11:10  Break

11:10 – 11:15  Introductions, Meeting Overview, and MRWC Announcements
Andrew Canham

11:15 – 11:45  Conservation Innovation Grant Project Update
Scott Bockness

11:45 – 12:55 pm  Round Robin Session  (MRWC state updates; MRWC member updates)

12:55 – 1:00  Meeting Wrap-up
Attachment B: MRWC–EDDMapS Training Webinar Participants

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# MRWC Program Budget

**November 15, 2012 MRWC Fall Meeting**

**Amounts as of October 31, 2012**

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<th>Date &amp; Grant Description</th>
<th>Funded Activities/Subcontracts</th>
<th>Estimated Budget Amount</th>
<th>Spent</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
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<td>MT NWTF &amp; USFS</td>
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<td>Contracted Services:</td>
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<td>● Equip Purchase: $30,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;992&gt;</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Spent in these categories; no funding originally budgeted = $1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;214&gt;</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Purchase</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDCs</td>
<td></td>
<td>116,087</td>
<td>34,259</td>
<td>81,828</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIG Project Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>261,448</td>
<td>738,552</td>
<td>Not budgeted for = $1,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/21/2011 – 10/31/2013</td>
<td>MRWC Program Coordination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT NWTF &amp; USFS</td>
<td>● Personnel (salaries + benefits)</td>
<td>23,946</td>
<td>3,309</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project began 9/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#MDA-2012-701</td>
<td>● Travel</td>
<td>4,054</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4W3766</td>
<td>● Communications</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>36,409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Award: $40,000</td>
<td>● Supplies</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Other</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Contracted Services: Wild Dakota Videos Part II = $6,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sportsman’s Guide Printing = ~$3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Period</td>
<td>Grant Period</td>
<td>Grant ID</td>
<td>Grant Award</td>
<td>Grant Description</td>
<td>Project Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2011 – 9/2012</td>
<td>WY Dept Ag &amp; USFS</td>
<td>#4W3802</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>MRWC Program Coordination: Personnel (salaries + benefits), Supplies, IDCs</td>
<td>9,880 120 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established: 4/2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>Android App Dev + Other MRWC projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. MRWC-EDDMapS Android App Dev; Project Cost = $15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Sportsman’s Guide to IS</td>
<td>2,250 2,250 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2012 – 9/2014</td>
<td>MT NWTF &amp; USFS</td>
<td>#MDA 2013-702 #4W4265</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>MRWC Program Coordination: Personnel (salaries + benefits), Travel, Communications, Supplies, Contracted Services, Other</td>
<td>8,400 1,000 250 200 100 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOSED GRANTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/2008 – 2/2010</td>
<td>MT NWTF &amp; USFS</td>
<td>#MDA 2009-702 #4W2185</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>MRWC Program Coordination: CIPM personnel, travel, communications, supplies, etc., Outreach Program ($1,000), Projects</td>
<td>86,786 86,786 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JHS, Inc. – Saltcedar Mapping Project</td>
<td>13,124 13,124 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2009 – 9/30/2012</td>
<td>MT NWTF &amp; USFS</td>
<td>#MDA 2010-703 #4W2809</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>MRWC Program Coordination: CIPM personnel, travel, communications, supplies, etc., Outreach Program ($9,000-Hoopes), Projects, Database Project (~$3,000), Lab testing ($2,666)</td>
<td>59,007 76,332 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JHS, Inc. – Yellowstone River Aerial Mapping Project 10/2009 - 9/30/2011</td>
<td>24,625 7,300 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CISEH – EDRR Project (EDDMapS) 12/2009 - 12/2010</td>
<td>16,368 16,368 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CIPM Staff, MRWC Base Operations, Program/Project Admin & Coordination = CIG $120,000 + ~$35,000**
Pending Grant Funding
- $300,000: $150,000 for MRWC – 2013 Western S&PF Competitive Resource Allocation Multi-state Grant (submitted: Sept 13, 2012); Greg Sundstrom, CO; general MRWC support funding (Contact: Liz Galli-Noble)
- $300,000: $200,000 for MRWC – 2013 Western S&PF Competitive Resource Allocation Multi-state Grant (submitted: Sept 14, 2012); MT DNRC, saltcedar/Russian olive, biomass project focus (Contact: Scott Bockness)

2011-2012 Rejected Grant Funding:
- $72,950 – NFWF America’s Great Outdoors/Land Stewardship Program: Capacity Building for MRWC (Proposal rejected 9-20-2012)
- $30,000 – NFWF PTI Grant: Protecting Wildlife Habitat: Sportsman’s Guide to Invasive Species (Preproposal rejected 6-2012)
- $15,000 – NFWF PTI Grant: Expansion of the Wild Dakota Invasive Species Video Series (Preproposal rejected 6-2012)
- $86,350 – APHIS Farm Bill 10201 Suggestion: Plant Pest Outreach & Ed in the MRWC states (rejected, 5-2011)
- $55,000 – NFWF PTI Grant: Plastic Weed Model and ID Card Production (Proposal rejected: 3-2012) + $15,000 CIPM cash match + $6,000 committed by GYCC to fund a 5th species model.