

Project Information for the Crayfish Inventory Project

Project Details

Principal Investigator: Zachary J. Loughman

Project Description: Inventory of crayfish of the park

Project Dates: **Start Date:** 1/1/2011 **End Date:**

Protocol: Sites determination was non-random and determined through access to the stream, river, or wetland sampled. Crayfishes were collected with 8' x 4' seines, dip nets, and by hand. In situations where seining proved futile in large streams due to high velocity water, crayfishes were captured by hand while snorkeling. If procured, ten specimens from each species encountered at sites were vouchered in the field with 80 % ethanol. Geographic information taken at each location included latitude, longitude, stream name, specific location, and elevation. Notes were also taken on key aspects of each species natural and life history. Specimens collected with this effort are currently maintained in West Liberty University's Astacology collection under a long term loan agreement with the National Park Service.

Project Notes: This inventory represents the results of a project funded by Discover Life in America to perform the first comprehensive survey of crayfish diversity within GSMNP with the primary objective of documenting the parks crayfish fauna and describing undescribed crayfish diversity occurring within the parks borders. Past crayfish work was mostly incidental samples and observations taken during fieldwork targeting other organisms.

Summary: Collection efforts led by crayfish specialist.

Project Details

Data Summary

Data Collection Year(s): 2012 to 2013

Number of Sites Sampled:	96
Number of Samplings:	97
Number of Orders Identified:	1
Number of Families Identified:	1
Number of Species Identified:	10
Number of Specimens Identified to Species:	125
Number of Specimens not Identified to Species:	0
Total Number of Individuals Counted (actual or estimated):	576
Number of Genera Identified:	2
Percentage of Major Watersheds Sampled:	45 %