

Chris — Larry Peterman  
Helena

**Montana Department  
of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Project Title:** Montana Rivers Information System (MRIS)  
**Project Number:** BPA 38573, MDFWP 3874-7 and 3874-9  
**Project Manager:** Janet Decker-Hess *JDH*  
**Project Biologist:** Gael Bissell *GB*  
**Report for the Month:** July 1990

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**1. Summary of significant results.**

Completed cross-referencing of interagency fisheries water codes with EPA River Reach Numbers (RRN) using mylar overlays. Arranged and attended meetings in Helena to discuss Montana Rivers Information System (MRIS) data base updates. Met with NRIS staff, Natural Heritage staff, and MRIS staff to receive demonstration on Heritage's query system and discuss the updating of the wildlife and natural features data base. Met with NRIS staff to review MRIS needs for FY91. Met with George Holton (former FWP administrator/interagency fisheries data base coordinator) and Jim Senkler to review interagency data base structures, what fields to eliminate/normalize, and to discuss other problems involved with the conversion of the fisheries data base to EPA RRN system. Bob McFarland was unable to attend. Prepared lengthy memo to outline changes suggested for interagency fisheries data base and sent to McFarland, Senkler, and Holton. Created cross-reference file for imputing fish serial numbers and recreation water codes to RRN. Received problem list (45 problems) from Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) data manager. Reviewed and sent back answers.

Attended NWPPC meeting in Kalispell to hear discussion and passage of protected areas amendment. Passage was unanimous for amendments. Met with Terri Wilner and Mark Reller (NWPPC) and Chris Hunter in Helena to discuss work outline on determining hydro-potential on Montana's streams protected through the NWPPC protected areas program. This hydro-potential study was initiated by the NWPPC Montana members. Received budget request from BPA.

**Recreation:** Completed cross-reference of streams with recreation data to EPA RRN using mylar overlays. Began reviewing recreation data structures from other states and review of pertinent literature.

**Wildlife:** Initiated interagency discussion of MRIS wildlife conversion to EPA reach and 1991 update with several groups. On July 18, met with Dave Genter and Margaret Beer (Heritage), John Sesso, and Jim Senkler (NRIS) to discuss program for conversion and update of MRIS wildlife data base. Suggestions included: evaluate MRIS applications/needs/improvements; wait for GIS to incorporate Heritage data on statewide basis; test the wildlife data conversion and update program before going statewide. On July 19, met with Dale Harms and Rob Hazlewood (USFWS) to discuss long-range wildlife program. Hazlewood to be MRIS contact.

Discussed MRIS program and concept of statewide game species data base with Glenn Erickson and Heidi Youmans of Wildlife Division (July 19). Glenn agreed to participate in interagency MRIS wildlife committee. Also contacted Bob Haburchak (BLM) and Paul Hansen (MRA) and sent preliminary information on wildlife and habitat data structures.

Drafted 1991 work plan and budget. Met with Stan Allen in Kalispell on wildlife data file structures. Reviewed Washington State's Priority Habitat and Species Program for its application to MRIS and Wildlife Division's data management mapping programs. Redrafted MRIS wildlife data structures based on input from Idaho and Washington Heritage programs. Designed example of elk report from related game and harvest data bases for Helena and game managers. Planned presentation on MRIS update and game species data bases for August 9 game managers meeting. Completed mapping of wildlife units on 100 k maps.

**NRIS:** Completed USFS mailing. Met Mike Darling of the USGS. Will obtain copies of his AMLs for MRIS and NAWDEX. Will have to generate some base coverages to make them work with Montana data set.

New load ups:

July 11, 1990: Terry Egenhoff, Lolo National Forest, Fort Missoula.

No follow-up contacts this month.

MRIS data requests:

Stacie Scott from Poore, Roth & Robinson Information on hunter skill success rates.

Chris Garhart, USSCS

Fisheries data for Yellowstone Park--referred to McFarland.

**2. Brief discussion major problems encountered, changes in work plan, or schedule deviations.**

None.

**3. Short description of planned activities for the following month.**

Enter water codes for fish and recreation cross-reference to EPA RRN. Submit budget request to BPA. Take vacation from August 14 to August 30. Discuss with other state and federal agencies coding system for various attributes in MRIS.

**Wildlife:** Attend game managers meeting at Wall Creek WMA August 9-10. Finalize 1991 budget and work plan. Discuss MRIS wildlife update with Forest Service personnel. Work with NRIS on users evaluation of MRIS. Prepare abstract for MRA poster session in September. Meet with Hansen and others on habitat fields for MRIS update.

**NRIS:** Follow up calls to FWP load-up users. Write report summarizing follow-up calls. Duties as outlined in July 19 meeting. Continue work on programming needs for interagency fisheries data base.

4. Itemized listing of each non-expendable item greater than \$1,000 and each designated sensitive item.

None.

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c: Tom Pansky, BPA (3 copies)      Peter Paquet, NWPPC (Portland)  
Dave Genter, Natural Heritage      Jim Stimson, NRIS  
Larry Lockard, USFWS      Dan Hinkley, BLM (Billings)  
Joe DosSantos, CSKT      Bob Haburchak, BLM (Billings)  
Paul Hanson, U of M      Terry Lonner, R-3  
Don Bartschi, USFS (Missoula)      Don Childress, Pat Graham, Fay Moore  
Howard Johnson, Larry Peterman      John Fraley, Gael Bissell  
Al Elser, Mike Aderhold