

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



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FISH & WILDLIFE DIV.

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*
Recreation Technician: Denise Davies *DD*
Report for the Month: November 1990

1. Summary of significant results.

Completed draft of MOU language between USFS and our department concerning interagency fisheries data base. Talked with Rick Stowell, Region One USFS Fish and Wildlife Coordinator, concerning update of fisheries interagency data base. Sent memo and interagency structure to Dick Kramer and Bruce May, USFS biologists, for review. Prepared and presented fisheries and MRIS update to Region One USFS fisheries project managers in Missoula. Met with Paul Hansen and Keith Boggs, Montana Riparian Association, and Mark Jensen of USFS ECODATA to discuss MRIS habitat file and what data they have that could be used.

Continued to work on Fish Division data and information needs assessment and data base inventory in preparation for meeting in Missoula in December.

Updated MRIS work plan and included new recreation and wildlife plans. Received a new draft of interagency fisheries data structure from Senkler, including changes made at October meeting. Began printing out full fisheries reports on stream reaches that have boundary problems when they are cross-referenced to EPA number. Discussed further changes with Duane Anderson, NWPPC data manager, and sent further explanation of problem areas. Reviewed MRIS user's survey in preparation to send.

Wildlife: Contacted regional wildlife staff of USFS in Missoula about MRIS update plans. May have opportunity to make presentation at the USFS's Fish and Wildlife training session in February (Kalispell). Completed final draft of MRIS users questionnaire and sent out for final test and review. Prepared comments for next GIS task group meeting in Missoula, December 4.

Recreation: Created new recreation data structures and appendices. Mailed copies to committee members for review; will be returned by January 1. Had initial meetings in Missoula with advisory committee members, Tom Donahue of the USFS and Stephen McCool of the University of Montana. Reviewed literature received from McCool and began to re-edit data

structures. Compiled new outline of recreation update project for use in MRIS work plan. Sent follow-up letter to all federal recreation managers/planners who never responded to initial letter/questionnaire; included MRIS brochure and outline of tasks involved. Received information from National Park Service about Rivers and Trails Assistance Program; began to design application to request assistance. Composed letter to private river user organizations introducing MRIS and requesting lists of members for use in public survey.

NRIS: NHP intern cannot complete data entry task, will build in intern position into upcoming contract. Working with Jon, JES, and Janet Decker-hess to develop work tasks and budget for coming year.

Gave presentations on NRIS to the Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau. Focused mainly on the Water Information System Services, MRIS, and on the QSAR data base, November 7. Briefed Granite Mountain Elk GIS working group on the MRIS cross-reference effort and the EPA River Reach Numbering System, November 7. It does not appear that they will adopt the system. Gave presentations on NRIS services and the MRIS to the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and the Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) in Billings November 13-17.

NRIS now has access to the State's mainframe and to a high speed communication line to EPA STORET, October 29. Attended meetings between the Montana DHES and EPA concerning the development and/or overhaul of the DHES water quality data bases. The finished product will make it easier to obtain DHES Water Quality data in machine readable format. Briefed the Legislative Water Policy Committee on increased use of the Water Information System and the various data bases being accessed to provide data, November 9. Included user profile and examples of typical requests. I've included the briefing packet for you to peruse. Submitting abstract to the American Association of Petroleum Geologist (AAPG) to present a paper or poster on NRIS, MWIS, NHP, GIS, MRIS at the groups Rocky Mountain Section meeting in Billings, July 28-31, 1991.

New Load Ups

<u>Requester</u>	<u>Request Details</u>
Eileen Jones, Teacher	Requested copy of the Rivers data base and the manuals.
Donna Kim, USFS	Needs all available information for Barker/Hughesville area, Carpenter Creek, Beatrice Mine, Justice Mine, Ontario Mine, and Solar-Silver Mine.
Gerhard Knudsen, DNRC	Information concerning Fork Peck Lake and the drought. Is working on a response to a GAO questionnaire.
Denise Doza, DHES	Needs all available data for T3N R8W SW sec. 25, SE sec. 26, NE sec. 35 and NW sec. 36. Also requested NW sec. 12, T2S R5E. Rune MRIS request at least 15 miles downstream.
Margie Peterson, DFWP	Information on Calamity Jane Creek.

Bob Levitan, DNRC	Full rivers report for Reese Creek in Yellowstone Park.
Chris Phelps	Needs all available information for the Double D Ranch, Winnecook Range, Kiser property, Rose property, Freeman property, Woodgerd property, Rothstein property, Dodge property, and Sphinx Mountain Ranch.
Mat Moughamian	Needs surface water, rivers and climate data for Patty Canyon, Missoula.
Val Jaffe	Requested data on Nellie Grant, Powell County Limestone, Upper Blackfoot, York Mining District, German Gulch, and Big Rattlesnake Gulch.
Frank Pichett	Requested ten years record of USGS qs data for Hebgan, Ennis, below Canyon Ferry, below Hauser Dam, Lake Helena, Holter Lake, Sun River and anything above Black Eagle and below Moroni.

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

None.

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

Receive final EPA River Reach Numbering System for Montana from Duane Anderson. Send Senkler final review of interagency data base structures. Finish checking fisheries reach boundary problems. Cross-reference existing fish, recreation, and wildlife data to EPA code.

Complete contract with NRIS for 1991. Prepare for and meet with GIS Task Group/Data Needs Assessment Committee in Missoula. Begin tasks given at meeting.

Wildlife: Mail users evaluation questionnaire and make follow-up phone calls. Redraft habitat structure for MRIS. Meet with GIS Task Group and attend GIS conference in Missoula on December 4-6.

Recreation: Quality check EPA tabular file. Re-cross recreation data with new tabular file. Meet with committee members and NRIS programmer in Helena.

NRIS: Create mailing list for survey. Duties as outline in July 19 meeting. Handle requests. Download NRIS data requests and assist in creating the survey mailing list.

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

None.

c: Tom Pansky, BPA (3 copies)
Dave Genter, Natural Heritage
Larry Lockard, USFWS
Joe DosSantos, CSKT
Paul Hanson, U of M
Rick Stowell, USFS (Missoula)
Howard Johnson, Larry Peterman
John Fraley, Gael Bissell

Peter Paquet, NWPPC (Portland)
Jim Stimson, NRIS
Dan Hinkley, BLM (Billings)
Bob Haburchak, BLM (Billings)
Terry Lonner, R-3
Don Childress, Pat Graham, Fay Moore
Chris Hunter, Jim Domino
Dan Vincent, Mike Aderhold