

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

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*Chris Hunter
Helena*

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/ss*
Project Biologist: Gael Bissell
Recreation Technician: Denise Davies
Report for the Month: February 1991

1. Summary of significant results.

Project Management and Fisheries: Completed sending stream lists for interagency fisheries update to regions 6 and 7 biologists. Made follow-up calls to regions 1-5 biologists and received stream lists back from all but three. Checked EPA RRN file against interagency fisheries file and found 100 streams that had not been cross-referenced. Discussed fisheries data structure with Jim Senkler and reviewed report writing software.

Reviewed MRIS users survey summary document and made comments. Reviewed recreation, wildlife and habitat data base structures and recreation application for grant from the National Park Service.

Met with westside Region One USFS biologists concerning MRIS stream characteristic data structure, where the interagency data base fits in and discussed the EPA RRN system. Gave presentation and computer demo on MRIS update to Region One USFS fish and wildlife biologists meeting in Kalispell on February 26.

Attended Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society meeting in Missoula week of February 5.

Wildlife: Completed follow-up calls to MRIS wildlife technical committee to obtain input/concerns with wildlife data base. Most all members will require more time to review package. Met with Flathead Forest wildlife and GIS staff to discuss wildlife update on Flathead using GIS. They were very supportive of project concept. Flathead Forest personnel will be digitizing deer/elk winter ranges this winter. They would like to be able to use EPA RRN hydrography layer as soon as its available. Many other wildlife or habitat layers may be available as well.

Attended 3-day Arc/Info training session at MSU. Also presented MRIS poster at USFS fish and wildlife training. Completed final report of MRIS users evaluation for distribution.

Recreation: Completed data structure; sent to Jim Senkler, MRIS programmer. Reviewed data for input into recreation data base. Prepared EPA maps of new, unlocated river reaches for Duane Holmes, NWPPC.

Prepared National Park Service River and Trails Conservation Assistance application requesting assistance with a statewide recreation survey. Created list of special river events in Montana for American Rivers' (Washington, D.C.) "National Calendar of Events."

MRIS: Received copies of MRIS Reach file (MTNEWALL) and the 250K (enhanced version) DLG file. With assistance of Mr. Senkler, the two files were compared with the following results: (1) Stream Reaches present in the Reach file but not found in the DLG file = 3200; (2) Stream Reaches in the DLG file that must be split = 200; (3) Lat/Long problems between the two files for the same reaches = 2800. I've been in contact with Bruce Fisher to obtain the 100K hydrography GIS coverage for Montana. It may be useful for creating a MRIS GIS coverage. Assisted finalizing the recreation data base structures. Finalizing the water code/reach number conversion.

Abstracts to the American Association of Petroleum Geologist (AAPG) were accepted. I'll give poster sessions on both NRIS and MRIS at the July 29-31 meeting.

Requests for Montana Rivers Information System Data:

F-BLM. WHAT IS WANTED: Subset of the Rivers database for Beaverhead, Madison, Silverbow, Granite, Broadwater, Powell, Jefferson and Lewis & Clark. Manual and the assessment guidelines also included.

S-MSL. WHAT IS WANTED: Rivers and qw search for an area by Gold Creek, trib. to the Blackfoot River east of Missoula.

P-PC. WHAT IS WANTED: Needs data on wildlife resources, critical habitat, endangered species. Check Rivers and the index.

P-PNP. WHAT IS WANTED: MRIS and water quality data for the Kootenai River below the dam. Other sites on the Kootenai would work if the dam site is not available.

P-PNP. WHAT IS WANTED: All data types for the Rock Creek area, HUC 17010202 (by Missoula).

DNRC. WHAT IS WANTED: Any data on wetlands in Montana.

P-PC. WHAT IS WANTED: Needs a copy of the Rivers database, along with the manual, assessment guidelines and final report. Also wants copy of the Datadir.

F-BLM. WHAT IS WANTED: Search for the Lower Big Hole River and for the Madison River.

S-NWPPC. WHAT IS WANTED: Rivers reports for the Kootenai River below the dam to the border, Hungry Horse, and the Flathead down to the Clark Fork River.

S-DNRC. WHAT IS WANTED: Rivers database for the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission.

M-DHES. WHAT IS WANTED: Copy of the Rivers Manual.

P-PC. WHAT IS WANTED: Needs rivers, USGS, EPA, index and Butte data on wildlife and plants, fish and recreation, well location and qw, EISs etc., surface flow and qw. Two areas; Belt Mountains area, T19N R5E sect. 36, and Stockette area, T29N R5e sect 36 and T18N R5E sect 14.

M-DHES. WHAT IS WANTED: Fisheries data on reference streams.

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

None.

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

Project Management and Fisheries: Find errors in fisheries cross-reference file and fix EPA cross-file. Print out streams for Swan and begin collecting data. Organize new research aide' time on fisheries and update other duties. Create form for data to be taken off 1:100,000 maps including land and bank ownership, recreation data, and other physical information. Reorganize trait look-up table and categorize comments.

Wildlife: Gael Bissell will be temporarily assigned to another position for the next 3-4 months. Some of her duties will be assigned to technician.

Recreation: Will input old recreation data into new structure and will create recreation data reports for state and federal recreation managers to review. Will begin imputing new recreation data into MRIS.

NRIS: Examine MRIS Line file and outline steps needed to do the update. Duties as outlined in July 19 meeting. Fill data requests.

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, Denise Davies