

Hunter

**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*  
Recreation Technician: Denise Davies *DD*  
Report for the Month: October 1991

**1. Summary of significant results.**

**Project Management and Fisheries:** Finished checking cross-reference file between EPA River Reach Number System and fisheries serial numbers and entered data into files using entry screens. Sent files to Jim Senkler for final cross-reference. Sent another set of adds and changes to EPA tabular file to Duane Anderson in Portland. Finished data entry forms for fisheries screens locating what fields are in what databases. Sent to Senkler. Continued conversations and provided input to Gael Bissell and NRIS on proposals for GIS software and hardware. Collected further information on fisheries GIS projects from Helena and Region One. Received resumes from three interested parties for technician position. Started FVCC workstudy student who is working on wildlife. Received new contract from BPA.

**Wildlife:** Continued literature review to obtain data for MRIS update. Continued entering white-tailed deer population density data from maps into river reach data base. Copied big game distribution data from Flathead Forest maps onto 1:24,000 overlays. Used big game distribution maps to update new wildlife data base in the North Fork. Continued to coordinate acquisition of GIS work station hardware/software with vendors, other agencies, other states, and DFWP personnel.

**Recreation:** Designed a data entry form for use by recreation managers and for completion of entry screens by MRIS Programmer Jim Senkler. Nearly completed linking EPA number to recreation data for Region Two. Measured land ownership of 250 rivers for Missouri River Reservation process.

**NRIS:** Continuing work on the Stream and Lake database as reported by Jim Senkler. Allan Cox met with WSEO personnel during GIS Conference in Seattle (10/14-18). Proposal and budget are acceptable to WSEO except that for logistical reasons, they requested the proposal be divided and resubmitted as three separate proposals. NRIS will modify the existing proposal accordingly and provide drafts for the Kalispell FWP staff to review and edit. John Jarvie completed a preliminary check of the USGS stream reach coverages. There are a number of potential problems with the coverages including: (1) differences in stream density between quads; are all the streams present?; (2) line breaks related to edge matching errors, some hydrologic units are not edge matched internally; (3) open polygons; (4) streams in the wrong hydrologic unit due to clipping errors. Arrangements are made to present a poster session on MRIS and

the River Reach Project at the GIS Conference in Bozeman, December 3-6. Arrangements are made to present a paper and poster session on NRIS products and projects, including the MRIS, at the Montana Library Association Conference in Bozeman, April 26-29.

Allan Cox will give a presentation on the NRIS GIS program, GIS software/hardware, and related issues to the DHES WQB, November 20, at 10 a.m. Talks are continuing with DHES WQB to cooperatively evaluate software to convert township/range to latitude/longitude. State Water Plan Steering Committee Meetings on groundwater and surface water quality are slated for October 24-25 and October 30, respectively. Jim Stimson will attend both meetings.

#### **Requests for MRIS data:**

- A-MSU WHAT IS WANTED: MSU student doing a study of the mine tailings in the Rimini area, Ten Mile Creek. Needs all data types.
- F-BLM WHAT IS WANTED: The Butte office of the BLM is working on a management plan for the Beaverhead area (Beaverhead and Madison counties). They need to know what is available from NRIS, all data types, especially those in GIS format.
- F-EPA WHAT IS WANTED: Triangle Park Office: general inquiry on RRN project. Sent information.
- S-DHES WHAT IS WANTED: Needs water quality and MRIS data for the Yellowstone River, from Laurel to Huntley. Specifically needs data on biochemical oxygen demand and total organic carbon.
- S-DHES WHAT IS WANTED: Needs standard request for area in Missoula. Has to do with the pollution of the aquifer by a dry cleaning firm.
- S-DNRC WHAT IS WANTED: Needs tour of the NRIS system. DNRC Water Rights Bureau needs to know what NRIS does, in hopes it will help in the processing of new appropriations, both surface and groundwater. Also interested MRIS, NAWDEX, and any water quality data sources that may become a very important component of water right evaluation in the future.
- S-DNRC WHAT IS WANTED: Needs Rivers reports for three rivers in the Beaverhead area, Big Sheep Creek, West and East forks of Dyce Creek.

#### **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:** Finish odds and ends data collection in fisheries for Regions Five, Six and Seven; input bioeconomic data and fishing regulation data; and create structure for stream characteristic file. Receive preliminary data input screens from programmer. Finish trait look up file from old fisheries comment data and send to Jim Senkler.

**Wildlife:** Complete entry of white-tailed deer data into MRIS wildlife data base. Complete big game data entry for North Fork and other hydro units. Work with Jerry Brown on developing reliable big game critical range maps for his portion of Region One. Continue review of literature. Send in field requisition for GIS hardware. Continue coordination with NRIS, WSEO, BPA, DFWP on GIS work station acquisition. Hire/train part-time wildlife technician.

**Recreation:** Will hopefully input recreation data for Regions One, Two, and Three, when the screens are finalized. In the meantime, will begin assigning an EPA River Reach Number for recreation data in Region Four.

**NRIS:** Continue work on the proposal to BPA. General administration and promotion. Duties as outlined in revised time estimates. Handle requests and assist in the GIS projects.

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

None.

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

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