

**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 *[Signature]*
Project Biologist: Gael Bissell *[Signature]*
Recreation Technician: Denise Davies *[Signature]*
Report for the Month: August 1991

1. Summary of significant results.

Project Management and Fisheries: Completed fisheries update on Region 4 and went back through Region 1 to finalize update. Went through Region 1 files for streams identified needing an update. Called Region 4 and 5 biologists to find out where new data was on certain streams. Continued discussions with Gael Bissell and other Region 1 employees concerning GIS needs and acquisition. Furthered discussed GIS with NRIS staff and potential to work with GENRIS (Generating Resource Information System - BPA).

Wildlife: Returned to MRIS staff mid-August from regional wildlife biologist position. Continued coordination of R-1 proposed GIS purchases and plan with DFWP Helena, BPA, and NRIS. Initiated literature search for wildlife reports to be used in MRIS wildlife update. Sent information to Jim Senkler to perform MRIS wildlife cross-reference to river reach system.

Recreation: Finished tagging EPA River Reach Number to new recreation data for Region 3. Nearly completed linking new recreation data to EPA RRN for Region 1.

NRIS: Continuing work on the stream and lake database as reported by Jim Senkler. Prepared for September 18 meeting. Created a second GIS coverage from USGS River Reach files. Retrieved fishery, geologic, and wildlife data from MRIS for import into INFO. Will experiment with linking the MRIS data to the USGS River Reaches. Allan Cox, NRIS GIS Coordinator, traveled to Portland for talks with BPA/WSEO personnel. Jon Sesso, Jim Stimson, and Mr. Cox are continuing talks with BPA on future work related to the eastern Montana River Reach project and the possibility of having NRIS assist with adding stream names and quality checking the existing DLGs. Arranged for poster session at the Montana GIS Conference in Bozeman, December 4-6.

The new GIS interface (GDI) is being used to produce coverages and maps of data collection sites for presentations at the Legislative Water Policy Meeting (Sept. 20) and the Montana GIS conference (Dec. 4-6).

Requests for MRIS data:

EPA All data for area in northeastern Montana.
FWP All data types for area T10N R05W section 34.
o Fisheries data for Yellowstone near Glendive, Miles City; Powder River at Locate.
PC All data types for area south of Flathead Lake to Clark Fork River.
P All data types for area around Blackleaf Canyon and Blackleaf 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 fisheries update including all available data transferred to data sheets, new streams added to data base and send to Duane Anderson with NWPPC. Update cross-reference file and send to Jim Senkler. Meet with NRIS GIS staff to discuss next year's activities.

Wildlife: Continue literature review and propose results or maps for MRIS update using existing river reach overlays. Continue coordination of R-1 GIS plan with NRIS, BPA, and Helena staff. Update other agencies as to status of MRIS wildlife program. Meet with USGS/BPA staff in Portland to review 100K hydrography and with Lea Knutson (Washington Rivers Info. System and GIS Coordinator) in Olympia to look at GIS and wildlife systems.

Recreation: Will finish linking Regions 1 and 2, and upon completion of entry screen programs by Jim Senkler, MRIS programmer, will enter new recreation data for Regions 1, 2, and 3.

NRIS: Jim Stimson will continue work on the RRN GIS coverage for eastern Montana and write proposals for BPA/WSEO projects. Jim Senkler will continue on duties as outlined in revised time estimates. Peter Langen will 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.

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| 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, Kalispell | |
| Don Childress, Pat Graham, Fay Moore, Howard Johnson, Larry Peterman, Chris Hunter, Jim Domino | |
| John Fraley, Gael Bissell, Dan Vincent, Denise Davies | |