

# Montana NRIS Advisory Committee

Issue Action Form

For Meeting date 03/13/02

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Provide a brief action statement:

**Agree to implement 90-15-201 MCA, Duties of the Committee, in the manner described in the attached document; and,**

**Recommend that persons selected to represent member agencies possess the characteristics described in the attached document.**

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Provide a brief narrative describing the issue:   X   See Attached

**At the January 23, 2002 meeting of the NRIS Advisory Committee, discussion of the functions and duties of the Advisory Committee took place. After much debate it was decided that the duties as listed in the current statute are not consistent with current needs. The committee agreed that appropriate duties today would include duties 1 through 4 and 8 from the list set forth in 90-15-201 MCA, and the following: Assist NRIS in developing on-going program support; provide strategic planning input and advice; act as liaison between NRIS and agencies; and provide input and advice on policy issues and take policy issues to policy-makers. The issue of whether these changes would require modification to the statute was debated but not resolved. The attached document is suggested as a means to serve current needs through the existing statutory language.**

**Discussion also took place regarding the characteristics of Committee members that will best serve the needs of the Committee. Formal recognition by the Committee that these characteristics are desirable will provide guidance to agency directors and others responsible for designating Committee members.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Submitter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member if different than submitter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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### This portion to be completed by the Chair

Committee Action:

voted to approve

voted to deny

no action

other (describe below)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NRIS Advisory Committee Action: The NRIS Advisory Committee agrees to implement 90-15-201 MCA, Duties of the Committee, as follows:**

<b>Statutory Mandate - The committee shall examine the following matters and make recommendations to the library concerning:</b>	<b>Advisory Committee Implementation</b>
(1) criteria for the categories and types of data to be collected for a natural resource information system;	Ongoing
(2) criteria for the format of data collection;	Ongoing
(3) identification of existing sources of relevant data in the public sector;	Ongoing
(4) identification of data acquisition, storage, and retrieval methodologies that are economical and efficient, that minimize or eliminate the duplication of data bases, and that utilize computer networking;	Limit Advisory Committee involvement to policy issues regarding data acquisition, storage, and retrieval methodologies.
(5) probable costs to agencies furnishing required data and probable costs of managing the data;	Related to implementation; no longer an Advisory Committee issue.
(6) probable benefits to be realized by the establishment of a natural resource information system;	Related to implementation; no longer an Advisory Committee issue.
(7) operation of the Montana natural heritage program;	Limit Advisory Committee involvement to policy issues.
(8) other items the committee considers of importance to the establishment of a natural resource information system.	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assist NRIS in developing on-going program support;</li> <li>➤ Provide strategic planning input and advice;</li> <li>➤ Act as liaison between NRIS and agencies;</li> <li>➤ Provide input and advice on policy issues;</li> <li>➤ Report on policy issues on behalf of NRIS to agency management, the Governor and the Legislature.</li> </ul>

**In order to enable the Committee to effectively carry out the duties outlined above, the Committee recommends that persons selected to represent member agencies should possess the following characteristics:**

- Understands the information needs of their respective agencies and can communicate those needs to NRIS;
- Understands the role of NRIS in providing services that address agency needs and can explain NRIS' role to their respective agencies;
- Has the authority to speak for their agency on matters of concern to the Committee, particularly with respect to strategic planning, policy and fiscal matters;
- Can speak for their agency to the Governor's office and to the legislature, or has the ability to communicate directly to those in their agency who do so; and,
- Understands and can communicate the overall role of NRIS as it relates to the role of other state agencies; the university system and the Department of Administration regarding the functions, duties and issues of concern to NRIS.