Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)

September 22, 2004 – November 17, 2004

Goal 1: To fulfill its mandate to be the source for natural resource information in Montana, NRIS acquires, integrates, maintains, and documents natural resource data and information needed for understanding, managing and utilizing Montana's natural resources, and environment.

NRIS completed and posted a number of new data offerings:

- We completed acquisition and posting of the final data gaps in the statewide DOQQ (aerial photo) layer.

- We have posted new county-based Wind Power and Wind Speed maps in the Map Library application http://nris.state.mt.us/gis/gisdatalib/mtmaps.aspx.

- The Dept of Administrations GIS Bureau, via funding from the Homeland security grant has completed a new MT Schools layer, now available at NRIS.

- The USGS MT office, via has completed a new MT airports / heliports layer. It is now available at NRIS.

- We have completed the initial phase of a project with the DEQ remediation bureau to regularly update and make available several remediation datasets from DEQ including underground storage tanks, remediation sites, and abandoned mines. This data is currently available via the Digital Atlas under the Environmental tab and is updated weekly.

- We have made our regular quarter update to the GWIC wells database.

- We are now posting the new high-resolution imagery for cities via the NRIS internet map service.

- We hosted an 'imagery summit' meeting to kick off the coordination and possible partnerships needed to acquire new statewide imagery as soon as next year.

- Met with Department of Administration staff to work toward incorporating Stewardship data into the State of Montana's Cadastral database. This would effectively merge the Heritage Program's public land ownership information with the State's private land parcel information.

- NHP staff completed data collection projects for 2004 and began processing new data into the program's information system. There will be a major push this winter to expand and update the NHP's Biotics database with information on species occurrences; initial efforts have concentrated on adding sage grouse leks and black-tailed prairie dog colonies.

Goal 2: A broad range of user groups can easily locate data in effective formats. Users find that this information is augmented with related datasets to increase its value. Potential NRIS users are well informed of information available through the clearinghouse and trained in the use of NRIS tools. Staff assistance is available when needed to assist users in locating and utilizing data.

Web Use and Requests: Jul 2004 – Oct 2004

	Jul-Aug FY04	Jul-Aug FY05	% Change
Mediated Data Requests			
Total Active Users*	1181	1106	-6.8%
NRIS State Requests	405	427	5.4%
NHP Requests	193	170	-11.9%
Web Services			
NRIS State			
Static Page Views	812,829	934,046	13.0%

Dynamic Page Views	831,258	1,170,679	29.0%
GIS Files Downloaded	128,713	363,898	64.6%
Visitor Sessions	200,450	289,559	30.8%
NHP			
Static Page Views	63,819	71,318	10.5%
Dynamic Page Views	47,435	91,352	48.1%
Visitor Sessions	46,592	50,370	7.5%

* An active user is defined as one who has made a request within two years prior to the last month shown in the column heading.

Services:

Continued updates and maintenance of the MT drought monitoring page, attended monthly drought monitoring meetings.

Added new Land Stewardship page to the heritage program web site to help highlight and provide better access to statewide information/maps on land management and ownership maps.

Outreach:

Gave NRIS data access presentation to the MT Drought Monitoring Committee.

Provided GIS training to Disaster and Emergency responders at conference in Polson.

Gave NRIS data access presentation to the MT Drought Monitoring Committee

Provided GIS training and data access presentation to the Montana Environmental Health Association Fall conference in Butte.

Made presentation on imagery coordination and EPHT project work at fall MAGIP technical conference

Held data coordination meetings with the US Forest Service on Goshawk surveys, Lemhi Penstemon, Long-styled thistle, Water Howellia and on overall sensitive species data use/coordination and access.

Heritage staff contributed to a variety of meetings and coordination efforts, including Montana Bird Conservation Partnership, Wetland Council, Wetland Monitoring and Assessment working group, and MGIC Land Cover I-Team (co-chair)

Gave NRIS data access presentation to the USFS Region 1 geospatial group in Missoula.

Planned for and presented at GIS Day, November 17, 2004.

Worked on Legislative 'Highlights of Your District' presentation to be mailed to Senators and Representatives.

Goal 3: In order to fulfill its mandate as described under Issues 1 and 2, NRIS secures adequate and stable funding.

NHP submitted FY06 proposals to BLM for funding of cooperative data development projects and information services.

Personnel Notes:

Kristina Gurrieri, NRIS GIS analyst, resigned her position effective mid-October. Her husband has taken a position in Utah.

Aaron Mook, MSL Systems Administrator, resigned his position effective mid-October. Aaron has taken a position with the Montana State Fund.

Kathy Martin and Scott Blum joined the Heritage Program staff as short-term Biological Information Specialists. Bryce Maxell was hired as Senior Zoologist, to begin in January.

Wetland Ecologist Marc Jones resigned his position with the Heritage Program effective December. His wife accepted a university faculty position in British Columbia.

Duane Anderson, GIS and Information Systems Manager with the NRIS program announced his intent to resign at the end of November.

We've hired Tim Metcalfe to work with the NRIS program - assigned mainly to work with the Department of Public Health and Human Services in completing their Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) project. The EPHT is a relatively new initiative intended to investigate possible links between environmental data and public health. DPHHS is excited to make use of the wealth of information collected by NRIS, and has contracted with the program to provide support in doing so.

Tim has been on hand for a while, working through Express Services, so many of you have had a chance to meet him. We're very happy to have Tim officially aboard.