MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 24, 2006

TO: Darlene Staffeldt, Jim Hill

FROM: Sibyl Govan, NRIS Projects Manager

RE: NRIS 2006 Web Survey Results

The survey was conducted online from May 1, 2006 to June 15, 2006.   The survey instrument consisted of 17 questions focused primarily on Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) services *other than those provided by the Natural Heritage Program*. The first two questions required an answer; the remaining could be skipped, so respondent totals vary from question to question.

Montana State Library conducted this survey to:

- Find out who patronizes NRIS and for what purposes.
- Gather feedback regarding current NRIS websites and services.
- Inform decisions about possible future NRIS service offerings.

Marketing efforts for the survey targeted certain groups as follows:

- General Users - We posted a prominent link on our website for 6 weeks. We also drew attention to it via our "What's New" area on the website and sent a notice out to our list of people who have signed up for communications from the library or NRIS.
- GIS Community - We sent a note out to the MAGIP list
- State Agencies - We contacted the agency directors of each of our core funding agencies to ask if we could send a link out to their employees DEQ - yes, to all FWP - yes, to Wildlife, Information Services, Fisheries, and Field Services Divisions DNRC - Forwarded to supervisors, who could forward if they chose MDT - no response, and I think they did not forward it to anyone

There were a total of 407 responses.   The actual survey results can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=209005061645.   The online report allows you to look at both the summary level and the detail, and allows you to see all of the answers for a particular respondent or group of respondents.

Attached please find a summary of the survey results and a complete, unfiltered report of written comments.

RESPONDENT AFFILIATION
  52.3% (213) State government
  13%   (54)   Private for-profit
  8.8%   (36)   Federal government
  6%   (25)   K-12 or higher education
  3.2%   (13)   Other
  2.9%   (12)   Private individual
  2%   (8)   Private non-profit
  0 .5%   (2)   Tribal government

TOP USES FOR INFORMATION FROM NRIS
  52.4% (205) Research
  45.8% (179) Planning
  41.4% (162) Resource Management
  37.3% (146) Presentations
  32.5% (127) EIS/EIA
  30.2% (118) Conservation
  29.2% (114) Outreach
  27.4%   (107) Permitting

HOW RESPONDENTS ACCESS NRIS INFORMATION
  72.7% (282) Primarily web-based services
  23.7% (92) Combination of NRIS web and NRIS staff services
  0.5%   (2)   NRIS staff services
  3.1% (12)   None of the above

OVERALL VALUE OF NRIS TO BUSINESS OR PERSONAL USE
  51%   (198) Essential
  33.5% (130) Valuable
  14.7% (57) Helpful
  0.8%   (3) Not Useful

Note: 68% of private business users rated NRIS "essential" to their business

WEBSITE CHANGES (STATE TEMPLATE)
  88% report that the change did not cause disruption to their use of NRIS
  60% think the site is the same or better (organization, content, ease of
  use, visual appeal)

CURRENT NRIS SERVICES
Respondents who report using these primary services at least a few times per month

  49% Geographic Information Clearinghouse
  48% Topofinder I
  42% Montana Maps
  46% Digital Atlas
  44% Topofinder II
  37% Water Information System

In general, people would like to see these applications updated and made more user-friendly.

PROPOSED NRIS SERVICES
Percentage of respondents who think these proposed NRIS services would be "Very Useful"

       51% Easier to use web mapping tools
       50% "Single Search" for GIS data, maps and other media
       48% Historical aerial photography (non-georeferenced)
       43% Easier to use data summary and analysis tools
       36% Natural Resources documents and reports
       30% Natural Resources articles and journals

GIS USERS
73.5% (274) of respondents consider themselves GIS Users.

CURRENT GIS SERVICES
Percentage of GIS Users who report using these data or services

      33.1% (88)   Data Bundler
      46.2% (123) Data List
      58.6% (156) Digital Atlas Shapefile Downloads
      35.7% (95)   Web Raster Service
      69.9% (186)   2005 NAIP Color Orthophotos
      68.8% (183) Other Orthophotos
      90.2% (240) Topographic Maps
      52.3% (139) Digital Elevation Models
      60.5% (161) Land Use/Land Cover
      54.5% (145) Hydrologic Units
      32.3% (86)   Government Units
      45.5% (121) Transportation
      77.1% (205) Cadastral Data
      39.1% (104) National Hydrography Dataset
       3.8% (10) Other:

NEW OR EXPANDED GIS SERVICES
Percentage of GIS Users who think these expanded data services would be "Very Useful"

      28% (60)   Montana Metadata Portal
      27% (61)   Forums for dicusssion of GIS topics
      30% (68)   Metadata Training and Assistance
      28% (58)   Additional Web Feature Services
      32% (70)   Additional Web Raster Services
      70% (171) 2005 Color Infrared Orthophotos
      67% (168) Satellite Imagery Archive
      34% (77)   Spatially enabled bibliography
      23% (45)   Time-series archives of data