<u>Summary of Observations by Ken Adams (Montana Shared Catalog Director) following his attendance at the Evergreen Users Conference in Athens, Georgia
May 20-22, 2009</u>

<u>What is Evergreen?:</u> Evergreen is an open-source, integrated library system (ILS) developed specifically for larger library consortia.

<u>The Conference:</u> The first ever, Evergreen user's conference was held at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. May 20-22, 2009. The conference was well attended by current Evergreen users (around 80), future Evergreen users (about 30 mainly from British Columbia, Indiana and Michigan) and others (about 20) plus a small contingent of vendors and the main purveyor of Evergreen support and development – Equinox Software.

The fundamental message of the keynote address centered on "the commons" and how open source fits so well into library technology and where it needs to go to meet future requirements. By a huge majority, the two main factors in libraries choosing Evergreen were functionality and the perception of little or no cost. Data control was a third consideration, for some.

<u>Evergreen Pluses:</u>
• Potential cost savings by not paying licensing fees.
• Designed in the beginning with large consortiums in mind.
• Highly customizable, clean looking user interface that integrates well with web browsers, news aggregators, search engines and social networking.
• Staff client is web-based using the Mozilla framework. Requires less workstation resources to run. Includes a Standalone/Offline interface.
• Supports MARC21, Dublin Core, CSDGM, MODS, RSS and MFHD formats
• Vibrant and active open source community. Frequent updates and upgrades.
• Modular framework allows for updates/upgrades without bringing the system down.

<u>Evergreen Negatives:</u>
• No reports interface. Users must access the database and use SQL queries to retrieve and view data using the "reports builder" function.
• Consortiums with multi-type libraries and widely varied policy structure require multiple Evergreen instances (British Columbia model). PINES members are all public libraries and adhere to standard circ policies and rules. This requires a distributed or "cluster" server environment and a lot of bandwidth.
• No acquisitions, serials or reserves modules (being worked on)
• No NCIP capability and no current plans to implement.
• No ILL module (planned for next year)
• No Ephemeral records