

State Librarian's Report

July 31 to September 29, 1998

My report is consolidated under the goals and objectives of the MSL's Long Range Plan.

Library Development

Goal 1. Objective 1.1. The Montana State Library will seek broad-based support and use information from many sources when planning to improve and enhance the delivery of electronic library services.

Activities:

- ◆ Provided material for the Networking Task Force. Arranged and participated in one meeting at the University of Montana in Missoula.
- ◆ Sent a letter soliciting opinions about the proposed resource-sharing project to all Montana libraries.

Goal 1. Objective 1.2. By December 1998, all Montana public libraries will have either direct or dial-up access to the Internet.

Activities:

- ◆ Coordinated the collection of data for the Gates Foundation Grant; wrote most of the narrative with significant help from LDD.

Goal 1. Objective 1.3. Montana public libraries will be eligible for telecommunication discounts from the Federal and State Government.

Activities:

- ◆ Actively monitored the implementation of the programs. Provided updates on Wired-Mt.

Goal 1. Objective 1.5. By July 1998, 25% of school libraries, 70% of public libraries, and all academic, college, and special libraries will offer full-text, electronic periodical databases.

Activities:

- ◆ Defended EPP issue for Governor's consideration.
- ◆ Met with MLA's lobbyists to arrange budget defense

Goal 1. Objective 1.6. By December 1999, Montana citizens will be served by at least 16 regional networks of multi-type libraries. These networks will share information electronically and through other document delivery system.

Activities:

- ◆ Solicited opinions from the library community about the proposed resource sharing project.

Objective 2.3. By 2000, all academic and 50% of all public library catalogs will be available for searching through remote access.

Goal 4. Objective 4.1. By 2002, 50% or 41 public libraries will be funded at 85% of the national average for library funding.

Activities:

- ◆ Met with the Law Revision Task Force.
- ◆ Met with two Madison County Commissioners and the Madison County Library Board to discuss the Library Improvement Project.
- ◆ Designed and presented trustee workshop to Teton County-City Joint Library Board and South Central Federation Trustees.

Goal 4. Objective 4.3. By 1999, Montana library boards will use a revised "Montana Public Library Standards" to advocate for increased local support.

Activities:

- ◆ Kept standards process on-track.

Information Services

Goal 1.1. Increase State employees' use of State Library services by 50% by January 1998 and 25% per year thereafter.

Activities:

- ◆ Met with Program manager to find solutions for the replacement of the networking administrator & the revision of the department's long range plan.

NRIS

Goal 1. Objective 1.1. Provide timely and effective service to requests for information on Montana's biological resources, emphasizing rare or endangered plant and animal species and biological communities through the Natural Heritage Program (NHP).

Activities:

- ◆ Worked with the Governor's Budget Office to devise stable and secure funding for the NRIS program.

Goal 2. Objective 2.1. Serve as liaison and coordinate among agencies that collect, manage, or use the same types of natural resource information to prevent duplication of effort and promote information sharing.

Activities:

- ◆ Facilitated one meeting of the Coordination working group
- ◆ Attended the NRIS advisory council meeting

Other activities:

- ◆ Visited the MSU-Billing campus and Library
- ◆ Visited the Big Horn County Public Library
- ◆ Visited the Parmley-Billings Library
- ◆ Attended the Talking Books Library Anniversary Celebration

Other Activities

ILL Rule Amendment

Currently developing language for response to the comments received. The notice of adoption of this rule will be published on October 22, and the rule will become effective July 1, 1999.

Gates Library Foundation

In the middle part of August, MSL received a letter from the Gates Foundation notifying us that Montana's public libraries were eligible for Round II of their Library Project. Attached to this notification was the grant application and supplemental material.

In brief, the foundation will provide at least one workstation, set of software, and printer for each public library building in Montana. The number of such setups increases according to a predetermined formula based on population. Also, libraries that serve communities with a poverty level of 10% or more are eligible. This requirement makes 7 of library buildings in Montana not eligible. Besides the computer setup, the Foundation will also offer training on-site and through regional workshops.

No library, including the state library, will receive direct dollars from the Foundation. Each library must apply individually at some point in this process; however, the statewide grant is the first step. We completed the grant application a week before the deadline for the Governor's signature. I will bring copies of the application with me.

The Foundation expects to announce the successful State Partnership grants by the end of 1998. However, actual implementation in the individual states will not begin until August 1999 (and be completed in the Spring of 2000), with the local libraries Grant Workshops beginning in March 1999. The implementation schedule for the states will not be determined until after the Foundation has received, evaluated, and approved their grant application, and following a period of preliminary planning with each state.

State Librarian's Report - Statewide Library Resources

July 31 to September 29, 1998

Our report is consolidated under the goals and objectives of the MSL's Long Range Plan.

Montana Talking Book Library

(Report submitted by Briggs and Staffeldt for Blanton, Briggs, Gebhardt, Madison, Meier, Merrin, and Staffeldt)

Goal 1. Objective 1.2 Finalize plans to reorganize circulation area, including mailroom stacks, and machine room by September 1997

Activities:

- ◆ Machine room reorganization is complete and older excess machines shipped out.
- ◆ Placed MTBL back on the National Library Service list to receive new machines on a regular basis.

Goal 2. Montana residents will receive the best possible service from the Talking Book Library.

Activities:

- ◆ Received the National Audio Theater's audio plays (39 total). These are being reviewed for addition to our collection.
- ◆ Added two music videos to our descriptive video collection. They have been well received by patrons.
- ◆ Met weekly with new supervisor and new volunteer coordinator.

Goal 2. Objective 2.2. By the end of 1998, the TBL will comply with 80% of the standards in the American Library Association's (ALA) "Revised Standards and guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped."

Activities:

- ◆ KLAS inventory control has been successful and modifications are being made to update and confirm the quality assurance of patron data.

- ◆ KLAS overdue notices have been tested successfully. Modifications were made and patron data is being updated.

Goal 2. Objective 2.4 Patrons easily understand current TBL procedures and services.

Activities:

- ◆ The patron application form is under revision.
- ◆ A patron handbook is being developed.
- ◆ The Descriptive Video Catalog has been updated and is being prepared for re-print.
- ◆ The Fall/Winter Issue of "Bits of Gold" newsletter will be sent out to patrons by the first week of November.
- ◆ The Montana Cassette Book (MCB) Catalog update will begin in October.

Goal 2. Objective 2.5. The efficiency of the selection and mailing of materials will increase by 50% by 1998.

Activities:

- ◆ Performing troubleshooting duties for our new KLAS program.

Goal 2. Objective 2.8. Improve the quality of the Montana Cassette Recording Program by January 2000.

Activities:

- ◆ The recording program completed the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Hunting and Bow Manuals; the newly revised Driver's Manual and the Voter Information Pamphlet for Montana citizens, and particularly our patrons.
- ◆ Approved two new narrators to the recording program and trained one in both narrating and monitoring.
- ◆ Currently training one new reviewer.
- ◆ Three books were completed: "Becoming An Outdoor Woman," "Queen of the Legal Tender" and "When You & I Were Young, Whitefish."

Goal 3. There will be sufficient funding and staff to offer the best possible patron service.

Activities:

- ◆ Obtained two new computers for the MTBL and will change-out the two oldest machines.

- ◆ The Volunteer Recognition Event was September 29th in the Capitol Rotunda and was well received by volunteers and considered to be very successful.
- ◆ Developing work plans for Gebhardt, Briggs, and Meier.

Library Development

(Report submitted by Finn and Staffeldt for Finn, Gunderson, Jackson, Malone, and Staffeldt)

Goal 1. Objective 1.1. The Montana State Library will seek broad-based support and use information from many sources when planning to improve and enhance the delivery of electronic library services.

Activities:

- ◆ The statewide cooperative purchase of WLN's LaserCat is near completion. 121 libraries are participating and 113 copies of the September issue were mailed out.
- ◆ Received LaserCat training in Lacey, WA, in order to provide technical support for libraries participating in the statewide purchasing of LaserCat.
- ◆ Participated in one meeting of the Law Revision Task Force.
- ◆ Attended and presented material at the Montana State Library Commission meeting.
- ◆ Provided material for the Networking Task Force. Participated in one meeting.
- ◆ A technology inventory of the public libraries in the state was started 9/12 and completed 9/28. This information was used in the application for the Gates Library Foundation grant.

Goal 1. Objective 1.2. By December 1998, all Montana public libraries will have either direct or dial-up access to the Internet.

Activities:

- ◆ A letter describing Phase II of the LSTA Internet Connectivity Project was sent to 14 libraries. These libraries currently have dedicated, dial-up access and Phase II will assist them in upgrading to dedicated, direct access. As of September 27, four libraries have responded that they are interested and one library has said that it cannot participate.

- ◆ Four new libraries have been added to LSTA Phase I: Broadus, Ekalaka, Fairfield, and Manhattan. These four bring the total participating libraries in Phase I to 21.
- ◆ Consulted with Ft Benton, Broadus, Fairfield, Dillon, Ekalaka, Belt, Stevensville, Valier, Manhattan, Sidney, Libby, Missoula, Sheridan, Dutton, Conrad, Philipsburg, and Harlowton on LSTA Phase I and Phase II projects for internet connections and other grant related issues.

Goal 1. Objective 1.3. Montana public libraries will be eligible for telecommunication discounts from the Federal and State Government.

Activities:

- ◆ Coordinated with Michael Hall/OPI a workshop from SLC on Oct 13 in Helena, to be broadcast via METNET to Miles City, Dillon and Kalispell.
- ◆ Letter was sent to public libraries informing them of the October 13 training opportunity and the September 28 nationally broadcast training opportunity for the next phase of E-Rate.
- ◆ Posted information on WIRED-MT concerning the Public Services Commission seeking comment on the State Universal Services Access Program.
- ◆ Prepared and shared brief presentation on public libraries and E-Rate for Carroll College's Information Technology Seminar.

Goal 1. Objective 1.4. Increase librarians' and trustees' understanding of the use of technological resources in libraries.

Activities:

- ◆ Conducted a Basic Internet and Email training session in Polson for 11 librarians.
- ◆ Conducted an all-day Email training for 15 Bozeman Public Library staff members.

Goal 1. Objective 1.5. By July 1998, 25% of school libraries, 70% of public libraries, and all academic, college, and special libraries will offer full-text, electronic periodical databases.

Activities:

- ◆ Completed negotiations with Ebsco Publishing for this year's statewide cooperative purchase of their suite of Online/CD-ROM Full text databases. 23 public libraries, 59 school libraries, 4 special libraries, and 8 academic

and tribal college libraries participated in this year's project. Overall participation more than doubled from last year's project and average price per library fell from just over \$2000 to under \$1500.

- ◆ Started work on an RFP for a statewide license of full text databases for the coming biennium. The RFP is presently in the draft stage.

Goal 2. Objective 2.3. By 2000, all academic and 50% of all public library catalogs will be available for searching through remote access.

Activities:

- ◆ Consulted with William Kohrs Library concerning automation programs for the library catalog.

Goal 2. Objective 2.4. Increase the ability of Montana's library workers to answer reference questions and to process interlibrary loan requests locally.

Activities:

- ◆ Interlibrary loan training, based on the revised protocols approved by the Commission, was provided in Butte, Billings, Polson, Great Falls, Miles City, and Glasgow. 151 librarians were in attendance. They represented public, school, special and academic libraries.
- ◆ Sent out 1999 Montana Library Directory forms to all the libraries in the state and also made the form available to download from website.

Goal 2. Objective 2.5. MSL's consulting division reflects the needs of the State's libraries.

Activities:

- ◆ Attended the Broad Valleys Federation meeting.
- ◆ Attended the Golden Plains Federation meeting.
- ◆ Attended the South Central Participating Area Libraries meeting and Federation meeting.
- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the Tamarack Federation on Email, Internet use, EbscoHost, and LaserCat use. Onsite visit made to Superior. Phone questions answered for Swan Valley, Missoula, and Hamilton.
- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the South Central Federation on Email and Internet use, collection development and weeding, using LaserCat and local automated system, and adding holdings to LaserCat. Onsite visits were made to Harlowton, Stanford, Columbus Harding, and Laurel.

- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the Sagebrush Federation on Email and Internet use. Onsite visits were made to Circle and Glendive.
- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the Pathfinder Federation on Email, Internet use, EbscoHost and LaserCat questions. Onsite visits were made to Valier, Conrad, Chinook, Harlem, and Havre HS.
- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the Golden Plains Federation on Email, Internet use, EbscoHost, and LaserCat questions. Onsite visits were made to Wolf Point and Malta. Phone questions were answered for Sheridan County Library and Roosevelt County Library.
- ◆ Consulted with libraries in the Broad Valleys Federation on Email and Internet use, collection development and weeding, using LaserCat and local automated system, and adding holdings to LaserCat. Onsite visits were made to Boulder, Belgrade, Manhattan, and Three Forks.
- ◆ Provided consulting to the following community libraries — librarians or trustees: Polson, Deer Lodge, West Yellowstone, Stanford, Valier, Three Forks, Sheridan, Choteau. Topics covered via consulting include but not limited to: legal certification, bylaws, librarian's job descriptions, mill levy process, friends of libraries, collection management, weeding, city/library cooperative efforts, minor abuse of Internet, book sales, and planning for library services in a community.
- ◆ Distributed state aid checks to public libraries and federations.
- ◆ Working on work plan for Cooper, Gunderson, and Jackson.

Goal 3. Objective 3.1. By June 1998, MSL will offer Montana librarians and trustees a comprehensive, professionally planned schedule of continuing education options.

Activities:

- ◆ Continued preparing for public library trustee training in September and October, based on the survey results received this Spring.
- ◆ Presented brief public library trustee training for new Teton joint city/county library Board.
- ◆ Attended Montana Library Association Board meeting.
- ◆ Two of six trustee training sessions have been presented in Billings and Helena as of September 27.
- ◆ Traveled to Olympia, Washington, August 27-28, to participate in the Continuing Education Coordinators Forum meeting sponsored by the Washington State Library. This was a good opportunity to meet other state library consultants and learning training techniques.

Goal 3. Objective 3.4. The use of MSL's collection of professional materials by librarians and trustees will increase by 10% each year.

Activities:

- ◆ Promoted and encourage use of the MSL professional collection when consulting with public libraries, specifically on creating a Friends of the Library group, writing an Internet use policy, library space building and planning, and weeding.

Goal 4. Montana citizens know about and value the range of services provided by libraries.

Activities:

- ◆ Staffed a booth at the State Fair to promote libraries in Montana.

Goal 5. Objective 5.1. Annually, MSL will coordinate statewide plans and programs for libraries.

Activities:

- ◆ LDD meetings in Helena 8/3, 8/24.
- ◆ Attended IPEDS workshop for Academic Statistics in Washington, D.C.

Goal 6. All Montana citizens have access to library services.

Activities:

- ◆ Worked with public libraries to complete the legal certification process for all 79 legally established public libraries in Montana.

INFORMATION SERVICES

(Report submitted by Cornish, White, and Staffeldt for Cornish, Madison, Pepper-Rotness, Williams, White, Carlson, O'Connell, Smith, Meredith, Hill, and Staffeldt)

Goal 1. Objective 1.1. Increase State employees' use of State Library services by 50% by January 1998 and 25% per year thereafter.

Activities:

- ◆ Survey and instructions to access a free online method of obtaining journal tables of contents (CARL-UNCOVER) were sent to all current awareness patrons.

Goal 1. Objective 1.2. By December 1999, all State Library materials will reflect the needs of state government and the professional development needs of Montana's libraries.

Activities:

- ◆ Completed the weeding and barcoding processes in the 800's.
- ◆ Weeding and shifting of the federal publications collection.
- ◆ Continue to work on weeding and barcoding clean up process in the 300's.
- ◆ Ongoing work to clean up barcodes, which helps to more accurately reflect our actual holdings on WLN and Horizon systems.
- ◆ Consulted the WLN ILL statistical report to determine which periodicals we repeatedly borrow via ILL and need to consider purchasing.
- ◆ Instituted a statistical-gathering form to track periodical titles from which we repeatedly photocopy for our state employees and ILL and Reference requests to identify journals we need to keep.

Goal 1. Objective 1.3. Each year, library users and staff have access to easy-to-use, current information technology.

Activities:

- ◆ Accepted the resignation of Systems Administrator, Zach Hill.
- ◆ Worked with the temporary Systems Administrator and vendors and
 - a) Restored PAC access to FC-Search (a grants database) and ABD (American Business Directory).
 - b) Set up PAC access to Marcive, Library Literature, and the Law Library Catalog.
 - c) Set up modem access on PAC4 to the Federal Election Commission's database of election contributions.
 - d) Upgraded the Horizons MSL-PAC to version 4.2 and worked around new bugs in the circulation system.
- ◆ Experimented with and instructed patrons in use of free-trial subscriptions to various Internet-accessible databases (Poemfinder, IAC-Searchbank, \$Million Directory, Marcive, etc.).
- ◆ Established a "free-trial" section in Ref. Logbook to keep Ref. Staff aware of such databases and their passwords and expiration dates.

Goal 2. Objective 2.1. SLR will offer a coordinated schedule of continuing education for all staff.

Activities:

- ◆ Participated in planning work session and follow up contacts for the MLA/MPLA conference in June 1999.
- ◆ Reference Supervisor (also includes supervision of ILL, Circulation, and Shelving) and Circulation Clerk (includes ILL backup) attended ILL Workshop in Great Falls on 9/22/98.
- ◆ In September, Collection Management Librarian attended a workshop in Denver entitled "Planning for Digitization: Breaking Down Another Barrier to Access." This program discussed equipment, standards, collaborative efforts, funding and exhibited results of various projects, among other things.

Goal 2. Objective 2.2. All position descriptions, work plans, and performance appraisals are current.

Activities:

- ◆ Accepted resignation of shelver, Carmen O'Connell.
- ◆ Workplans completed for Madison, Pepper-Rotness, and Williams.
- ◆ Working on workplans for Carlson, Smith, and White.

Goal 3. Objective 3.1. To provide the best possible facility for the staff and users of the State Library services. The facility should be an enhancement to great service, not an impediment.

Activities:

- ◆ Air conditioning people came through SLR, resetting thermostats and attempting to re-direct air-flow from areas with too much (i.e Ref. Supervisor's office) to areas with too little air and cooling (i.e. System's Administrator's office).
- ◆ Signage activities included:
 - a) Replaced a sign on current telephone directories.
 - b) Kept signs on the PACs up-to-date with a list of databases currently-available on each.
 - c) Re-labeled all federal document fiche cabinet drawers (after weeding and shifting all fiche to accommodate ongoing new fiche).
 - d) Labeled all CD cabinet drawers (after moving all CD's from temporary storage on the back shelves and accurately filing them in the new CD cabinet.

e) Re-labeled all map cabinet drawers (after removing Wyoming maps and re-filing all remaining Montana/Yellowstone/BLM maps to allow for ongoing growth).

Goal 3. Objective 3.4. The use of MSL's collection of professional materials by librarians and trustees will increase by 10% each year.

Activities:

- ◆ Began to publish reviews/overviews of new professional materials at the State Library in the Big Sky newsletters.

Goal 4. Objective 4.1. To increase the cataloging, distribution, and use of State Publications.

Activities:

- ◆ In August, Collection Management Librarian attended a Folio infobase course in Salt Lake City. This training consisted of three components: a) using electronic reference information; b) building an effective infobase; and c) designing an effective infobase.
- ◆ In September, a survey was mailed to state document depository librarians requesting information on what agencies they wanted to receive publications from.

State Librarian's Report - NRIS

July 31 to September 29, 1998

Goal 1. Objective 1.1. Provide timely and effective service to requests for information on Montana's biological resources, emphasizing rare or endangered plant and animal species and biological communities through the Natural Heritage Program (NHP).

Activities:

- ◆ Eliminated backlog of species location records, and data management staff is ready to start processing results of 1998 field work submitted by staff and collaborators.
- ◆ Continued progress on consolidating information on areas in Montana under special management. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated it will be providing information on easement lands—which will fill an important information gap.
- ◆ Staff obtained additional training in relevant areas; Hinshaw attended advanced MS-Access training, and Lee-Chadde attended a workshop on ecological monitoring.
- ◆ Science staff continued with field work, including:
 - A Biological survey of Sheridan County
 - Wetland inventories in the Flathead drainage
 - Ecological surveys in the Beaverhead ecoregion
 - An ecological assessment of the Yellowstone River corridor
 - Reptile & amphibian surveys on BLM lands in the Lewistown and Miles City districts
 - Plant diversity inventory of the Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area
 - Bat surveys in abandoned mines
 - Surveys of Research Natural Areas on National Wildlife Refuges
 - Monitoring workshops for Lemhi penstemon & Ute Ladies' Tresses.
- ◆ Developing 1999 proposals and fall meetings held or scheduled with cooperators such as the Bureau of Land Management, EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USGS Biological Resources Division.
- ◆ Staff personally responded to an average of 65 requests per month, with state government and the private sector representing the majority of the requesters. In particular, customized species of concern maps were sent to county planners who requested this information on a regular basis, and maps were prepared for each district biologist at the Montana Department of Transportation.

Objective 1.2. Provide Montana Water Information System (WIS) and the NRIS Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services. NRIS inventories available GIS data and coordinates GIS data standards and sharing throughout the state.

NRIS Director

Activities:

- ◆ Wrote fourth quarter reports for all NRIS contracts.
- ◆ Completed final performance based budget report.
- ◆ Met with ISD personnel on three occasions to discuss ISD's new GIS program. Topics focused on ISD and NRIS's role in statewide GIS coordination, technical support to non-natural resource agencies, the cadastral project, and metadata.
- ◆ Gave NRIS presentation to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Division in Kalispell.
- ◆ Advertised GIS Manager position and NRIS System Administration position.
- ◆ Finalized quarterly work plans for the metadata coordinator, NRIS Program Specialist, Water Information Coordinator, and one GIS programmer/analyst position.
- ◆ Continued work on work plan for the Director position.

Water Information System

Activities:

- ◆ Duane Anderson started his new position as the Water Information Coordinator on August 24, 1998.
- ◆ Water staff revised and updated several web pages that provide access to water information.
- ◆ Requests for water information are consistent with last years in terms of number. The Water Information web pages are being accessed at an average rate of 2200 times per month.

Geographic Information System

Activities:

- ◆ Gerry Daumiller accepted an award from ESRI on GIS implementation for NRIS's at the National GIS Conference July 29, 1998.
- ◆ Receiving data requests at a steady rate.

- ◆ GIS staff taught several ArcView GIS workshops and seminars for personnel from the DEQ, FWP, and the DNRC.
- ◆ GIS staff acquired statewide Digital Raster Graphics (DRG) images. The DRG images are raster images of scanned USGS topographic maps and can be used in a variety of GIS map products.
- ◆ GIS staff completed complex analysis of the potential affects of underground fuel storage tank closures on rural communities. This is a contract project with the DEQ. Map products will be presented to the Governor during the week of September 28th, 1998.

Metadata Coordinator

Activities:

- ◆ Trained Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Public Instruction, and Lewis and Clark County personnel on metadata tools.
- ◆ Provided technical support to the Greater Yellowstone Area Data Clearinghouse, US Forest Service, and Coeur d'Alene Tribal GIS Project.
- ◆ Made presentations to the Montana GIS Technical Working Group and the Local Government GIS Coalition on the importance of Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata, and prepared for metadata presentation to Special Libraries scheduled for October 2.
- ◆ Attended the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Clearinghouse Implementors Workshop to determine how Montana could better serve GIS data to the public.
- ◆ Participated in the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Review of the International Organization of Standards (ISO) Metadata Standard from September 14 - 17. It's likely that the ISO Standard will replace the FGDC's Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata. The ISO Standard is expected to be in place by the summer of 1999.

GOAL 2. Objective 2.1. Serve as liaison and coordinate among agencies that collect, manage or use the same types of natural resource information to prevent duplication of effort and promote information sharing.

Activities:

- ◆ Jim Stimson provided a presentation to the Wildlife Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) on data available from NRIS and the use of desktop GIS.
- ◆ Water staff provided presentations to a group of state, federal, and private citizens interested in watershed management. Presentations included use of desktop GIS and specific GIS applications developed by the EPA.

- ◆ GIS staff and the NRIS Director met several times with DEQ personnel to discuss data services, specific contract projects, and continuing technical support.

Objective 2.2. Through the NHP, WIS, and the GIS programs, assist in the development of standards for the collection of natural resource information. NRIS staff continue to work with other agencies to develop and refine data standards for a wide range of projects and data types. The water staff continue working with DEQ and EPA personnel to obtain standardized data on wetlands, watersheds, and general water quality.

GOAL 3. Objective 3.1. Through the NHP, WIS, and the GIS provide technical assistance and consultation to state agency and other NRIS data patrons. GIS, Water, and NHP staff have provided technical assistance to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, DNRC, DOT, and others.

Objective 3.2. When appropriate, develop and make available the tools for the access and use of natural resource information.

Activities:

- ◆ GIS staff is working on several GIS applications for other agencies as reported previously.
- ◆ Water staff also has several active projects to create GIS and data base tools as reported previously.
- ◆ Heritage and Water staff began development of Web-based system for interagency sharing of statewide wetland assessment data. This work is continuing.