

## **Additional services possible with full funding of NHP core positions:**

### **NHP Office, Staffing and Coordination**

- More staff time/expertise for consultation and assistance to agency partners and other users.
- Aquatic Ecologist time and expertise for consultation and assistance to partners.
- Expand partnership and data exchange with inventory/research programs and agencies, such as NBII Northern Rockies node.

### **Database Development and Updating**

#### ***Species Data***

- Complete processing of data backlog and updating of occurrences for **all** plant and animal Species of Concern (SOC).
- More comprehensive “mining” of data from available sources, including published and gray literature, individuals, agencies, and collections for **all** Montana animal species.
- Implement inferred extent and predicted habitat documentation for **all** animal SOC.
- Conduct inventory work and/or monitoring of some of the highest-priority plant and animal SOC independent of special project funding.
- Document status ranks for **all** plant and animal SOC and add to field guides.
- Add available ecological and management information to the Plant field guide for **all** SOC’s.
- Expand management information in the Animal Field Guide, covering **all** SOC.
- Complete and begin implementation of statewide inventory and monitoring plans for all identified animal and plant groups.

#### ***Ecological Data***

- Identify funding opportunities and lead development of updated land cover mapping for Montana
- Establish a central vegetation plot (training) database at NHP, including agreement among agencies on a standard data system based on national standards. Integrate data from available sources and make it easily accessible.
- Expand aquatic ecosystem database statewide with maps and information available via the web; aquatic classification could be expanded statewide with full support for Aquatic Ecologist.
- Expand identification of ecologically significant sites and high quality community “occurrences” statewide.

### **Information Dissemination & Web Services**

- Provide **all** resource management agencies with on-line access to NHP data
- Improve web tools for searching and extracting maps, data and other reference materials.
- Expand links to other biological data sources for improved “one-stop-shopping.”
- More analysis of data and analytical products available via the web.

### **Other Services**

- Work with agencies to develop methods and standards for monitoring the condition of key species, species groups and habitats and work with partner to set up monitoring programs where needed.
- Conduct broader training, workshops and outreach to identify partners needs and how to meet them, and to inform/train users and potential users in accessing NHP data and services.

- Increase the presentation and publication of results from NHP activities, data analyses and field studies.

**STRATEGIES: Full funding of NHP core positions – with the above services – could be achieved through:**

- Appropriate levels of annual support from all federal agencies that regularly rely on NHP data and services.
- Supplementary annual funding (beyond current core) from state agencies, consistent with levels of use and reliance on NHP data and services.
- Increase in legislative budget for the NHP in the next biennium.