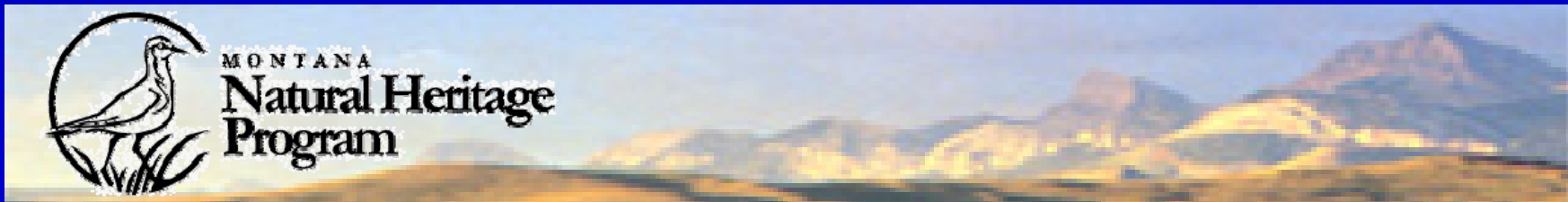


Financial Update: Issues and Challenges



MONTANA
**Natural Heritage
Program**



Three Primary Funding Types

- **State Core Contract**
 - Appropriation to State Library; from GenFund, RIT, DEQ, FWP, DNRC, MDT & Univ. System
- **Supplemental Funding for Core Services**
 - From Federal, State & private partners
- **Projects**

Purpose of Core Funding

Supports Primary Data Services

- Data & Info Capture & review/validation
- Data integration and management
- Analysis and products: ranking, field guides
- Information dissemination & services
- Expertise & Consultation

Cost of Core Services

- **Staffing**

- Scientists with expertise in major species groups and ecosystem types
- IT specialists with expertise in biological data management, GIS & web services
- Data processing and data request support
- Management and admin services

- **Operations**

- Supplies, equipment, travel, etc.

Core Funding Challenge

NHP Core Costs: \$633,000 - \$668,000

Current Core Contract: \$303,000

Other Funding for
Core Services (approx): \$125,000

Remaining need: \$205,000 - \$240,000

Results of inadequate core funding

- Must rely on projects for major part of core staff's salaries.
- Core staff must spend significant time fundraising, as well as working on and managing projects; prevents completion of core work & produces high stress-load.
- Inadequate or unreliable staffing for critical functions like data processing, web services.

Strategies for full core funding

- Increase appropriation for State Core Contract
- Increase funding from Federal agencies and others that rely on NHP services

**MTNHP
Current Annual Core Funding &
Proposed Goals
for FY 08-09 Biennium**

Annual MSL Contract Funding

- RIT: \$160,000
- DEQ: \$36,000
- FWP: \$28,000
- GenFund: \$28,000
- DNRC: \$20,000
- University System: \$18,000
- MDT: \$13,000

Current Annual Funding,
MTNHP Core Services:
Approx. \$430,000

Supplemental Core Funding

- BLM: \$55,000
- MT-Dept of Ag: \$7,500*
- BPA: \$5,000
- NatureServe: \$5,000 - \$15,000
- TNC: \$10,000
- MFWP: \$23,000*
- USFWS: \$5,000
- USFS: \$16,000?*

**Amount Needed for
Full Core Funding:
\$633,000 - \$668,000**

**Additional Need:
\$205,000 - \$240,000**

Current MSL Contract: \$303,000

**Proposed Goal:
Additional \$150,000**

Current Suppl \$: about \$125,000

**Proposed Goal:
Additional \$90,000**

- Notes:
- o \$10,000 retained by MSL for agency expenses
 - o Figures represent 41% of all sources to overall NRIS funding of \$742,000
 - o Reflects \$18,750 reduction from funding level in FY02-03 biennium.

* Increased since last summary in 8-05

Options for Increasing State Appropriation

- Increase agency contributions
- Increase General Fund contribution
- Increase RIT Fund contribution

Strategy for Core Contract Increase

Goal: \$150,000 increase, totaling \$453,000

Potential Strategies:

- Maintain RIT at current level of \$160,000
- Maintain University obligation at \$18,000 (seek future increases directly through UM)
- Divide \$150,000 increase between:
 - General Fund: currently @ \$28,000
 - Four agencies: currently totaling \$97,000

One Scenario...

If increase came half from the GF and the other half divided equally among the agencies, the result would be:

GF: Increase from \$28,000 to \$103,000

Agencies: Incr. from \$97,000 to \$172,000
resulting in equal contributions of \$43,000

Basis for Agency Contributions

- All “Source Agencies” rely heavily on NHP
- 2005 web survey: 80-100% of responding staff from *each agency* rated two or more NHP services as “Very Useful” or “Essential”
- Usage patterns vary: requests, web, consultation
- Source agency use differs more in form than quantity

Scenarios for Increase Request NHP State Core Contract

Source:	Current total NRIS Contribution	Current NHP Contribution	Option A: Obtain increase half from GF and half from agencies, shared equally	Other Options?
General Fund	\$68,000	\$28,000	\$103,000	
DEQ	89,000	36,000	43,000	
FWP	69,000	28,000	43,000	
DNRC	49,000	20,000	43,000	
MDT	32,000	13,000	43,000	
University System	44,000	18,000	18,000	
RIT Fund	391,000	160,000	160,000	
Totals	\$742,000	\$303,000	\$453,000	

Result of Proposed Increases

New Current Core Contract: \$453,000

New Supplementary Funding: \$215,000

Total NHP Core Funding: \$668,000

Next Steps

- Take forward a recommendation from NHP Partners Committee...
- Work with NRIS Advisory Committee to integrate into overall NRIS budget request.
- Work with Federal agencies and others to increase supplemental core by \$90,000.

Interim Strategies for FY07

Focus on Priority “Core Data Projects”

- NHIPortal - Web Data Delivery Project
- Animal EO & Range Mapping Project
- Field Guide Improvement Project
- Ecological Information Project

We need \$30,000 - \$35,000 in additional funding for each of these projects to generate great new resources for partners to use!

History of MTNHP Core Funding

MTNHP Annual Core Contract Funding

