

**90-15-305. Water information system.** (1) There is a Montana water information system, to be operated within the natural resource information system referred to in 90-15-301 and that is to be considered a part of the system.

(2) The Montana water information system shall make available and readily accessible, in a usable format, to state agencies and other interested persons, information on the state's water resources, out-of-state water resources that affect the state, existing and potential uses, and the existing and potential demand.

Overall goals for the Water Information System Manager position:

1. Coordinate efforts to improve hydrographic data and provide support to Water Information users throughout Montana with the goal of identifying opportunities to collaborate in order to make high quality water information available to all Montanans as efficiently and affordably as possible.
2. Manage the Montana Hydrography Dataset as a statewide water information reference dataset for Montana state agencies with the goal of providing a high quality state wide dataset available for use by state, local, and private interests as the best available hydrography data in the state.
3. Manage and maintain the Montana Water Information System web site as a discovery hub for Montanans to discover information about water in the state. This will include access to the Montana Hydrography dataset for use by GIS professionals as well as access to tools for the general public to access and visualize a broad range of water related information indexed to the Montana Hydrography Dataset.

Priorities for the FY14-15 Biennium to demonstrate the value of this position to the Executive and Legislature. These are tasks to be included in the Hydrography work plan with a scheduled completion date of June 30, 2015. Reports on the status of these projects will be provided to the Montana Hydrography Workgroup, the NRIS Advisory Committee, and/or the Water Policy Interim Committee.

1. Coordinate and staff the Montana Hydrography Work Group  
Measurable – Regular communication among the members of the Montana Hydrography Work Group  
  
Metric – Quarterly in face work group meetings  
  
Metric - Monthly communication with work group members through meetings, email, a newsletter or a video or traditional call.
2. Improve the quality of the features in the Montana Hydrography Dataset

Measurable – Outline and implement a process for updating the flowline and water body features for NW Montana (Clark Fork drainage) or another area identified as high priority by the Montana Hydrography Work Group.

Metric – All flowline and waterbody features in the area identified are aligned with data no older than the 2005 NAIP Imagery. Feature names will also be corrected during this process.

Measureable – Determine NHD Features of value to Montana partner agencies.

Metric – A published list of hydrographic feature types supported in the Montana Hydrography dataset.

3. Develop a transparent workflow for editing/maintaining the NHD within the state

Measurable – Work with the Hydrography workgroup including representation from the Montana State Library (MSL), Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to develop a workflow that meets agency business needs.

Metric – Workflow and workflow maintenance schedules are published to the Montana Hydrography Workgroup web site.

Measurable – Provide training resources (in person and web based) to ensure agency water professionals that may work with the Hydrography dataset understand and are able to use the defined workflow.

Metric – Offer at least three training sessions (1 each for DEQ, DNRC, and FWP)

4. Develop a versioning model to buffer state business processes from interruption to changes in the base data.

Measurable – Work with the Hydrography workgroup, including representation from MSL, DNRC, DEQ, and FWP to develop a versioning model that meets agency business needs.

Metric – The versioning model is published to the Montana Hydrography Workgroup web site.

5. Work with partner agencies to determine if there is a long term need for a dedicated Water Information System Manager.

Measurable – Work with the DNRC, DEQ, and FWP to identify and document ongoing maintenance needs for the Montana Hydrography beyond the FY14-15 biennium.

Metric – Produce a report for the Water Policy Interim Committee outlining the Montana Hydrography Dataset maintenance needs that includes a recommendation for how those needs could be met.