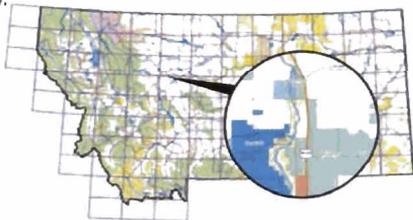


## What is the Natural Heritage Program?

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is the state's source for information on the status and distribution of our native animals and plants, emphasizing species of concern and important habitats such as wetlands. We collect, validate, and distribute information, and assist natural resource managers and others in applying it effectively. Established by the Montana State Legislature in 1983, the program is located in the Montana State Library, where it is part of the Natural Resource Information System.

Natural Heritage Program products and services include:

- Field Guides with extensive information on Montana's animals, plants, and habitats;
- The Natural Heritage Tracker - a new online application that provides easy access to wildlife distribution;
- Stewardship maps showing public and conservation lands;
- Link to NatureServe Explorer, with species information for North America;
- Wide variety of online publications on Montana's biological resources;
- Plus, expert biologists and data managers to answer questions and ensure information accuracy.



*Stewardship Maps show public, private, and conservation lands.*



Montana State Library  
Natural Heritage Program  
1515 East 6th Avenue  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Local: (406) 444-5354  
Fax: (406) 444-0581  
Email: [mtnhp@mt.gov](mailto:mtnhp@mt.gov)  
<http://mtnhp.org>



## Natural Heritage



**Your Source for Information  
about Montana's Animals,  
Plants, and Habitats**

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COUNCIL  
JANUARY 15, 2008  
EXHIBIT 19

## Montana Field Guides

The Montana Field Guides provide information on identification, habitat, ecology, and distribution of Montana's wildlife, rare plants, and ecosystems. Check out the Field Guides online to read descriptions, see range maps, view photos, and listen to animal calls. Field Guides include:

- Animal Field Guide
- Rare Plant Field Guide
- Aquatic Ecosystems Guide
- Communities Field Guide



## Publications About Montana

Visit NHP online to download detailed information on Montana's biological resources, including reports on:

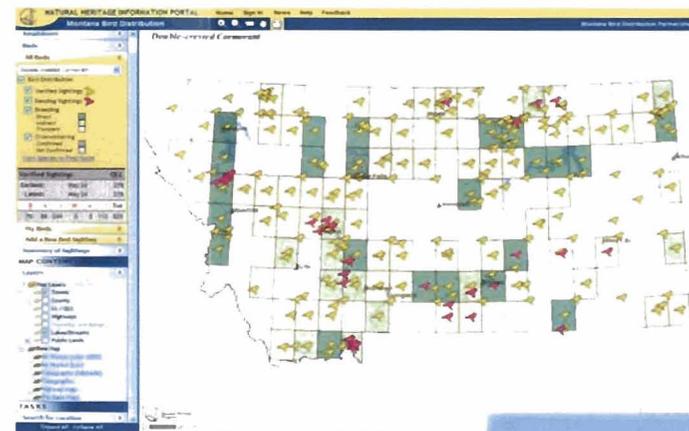
- Species of Concern
- Botany
- Aquatic Ecology
- Birds
- Fish
- Mammals
- Invertebrates
- Reptiles and Amphibians



## Natural Heritage Tracker

The Natural Heritage Tracker displays sighting locations for animal species at a statewide level, and allows users to manage and view their own observations. Users can:

- Enter precise locations for wildlife sightings in an easy-to-use, map-based interface;
- View detailed information on sightings they have entered, as well as general locations for all records statewide;
- View sightings on different base maps, including the state highway map, topographic and shaded relief maps, and air photos.



**Visit the Natural Heritage Program  
at <http://mtnhp.org> to discover  
these tools and more!**

## What is the Natural Information Resource System (NRIS)?

NRIS, created in 1985 as a division of the Montana State Library, is Montana's source for natural resource information. The goal of NRIS is to make information on Montana's natural resources readily available and easily accessible.

As Montana's source for natural resource information, NRIS works to record, acquire, store, and disseminate natural resource data. Through federal and state interagency data coordination and partnerships and cutting-edge programming, NRIS develops and maintains a vast collection of Montana's geographically referenced natural resource data. NRIS staff also provides technical assistance and develops information access, analysis, and interpretation tools. Some of NRIS' highlighted services include:

- A vast collection of geographically referenced natural resources data;
- Services are available online 24/7;
- Partnerships with many state and federal agencies;
- Contributions to national data collection efforts, such as GeoSpatial OneStop and the National Map;
- Information specialists to assist you in your research;
- Online Web applications that anyone can use to access, analyze, and interpret data from our collection and make customized maps.



Montana State Library  
Natural Resource Information System  
1515 East 6th Avenue  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Local: (406) 444-3115  
Toll Free: (800) 338-5087 in MT  
Fax: (406) 444-0266  
Email: [nris@mt.gov](mailto:nris@mt.gov)  
<http://nris.mt.gov/>



## Natural Resource Information System



*Montana's source for  
natural resource information*

## NRIS Service Goals

### Serve as Montana's source for natural resource information

NRIS accomplishes this through the inventory, acquisition, storage, and dissemination of information.

### Support interagency data coordination

To effectively operate and provide accurate data, NRIS promotes interagency coordination, sharing of information, and the development of data standards.

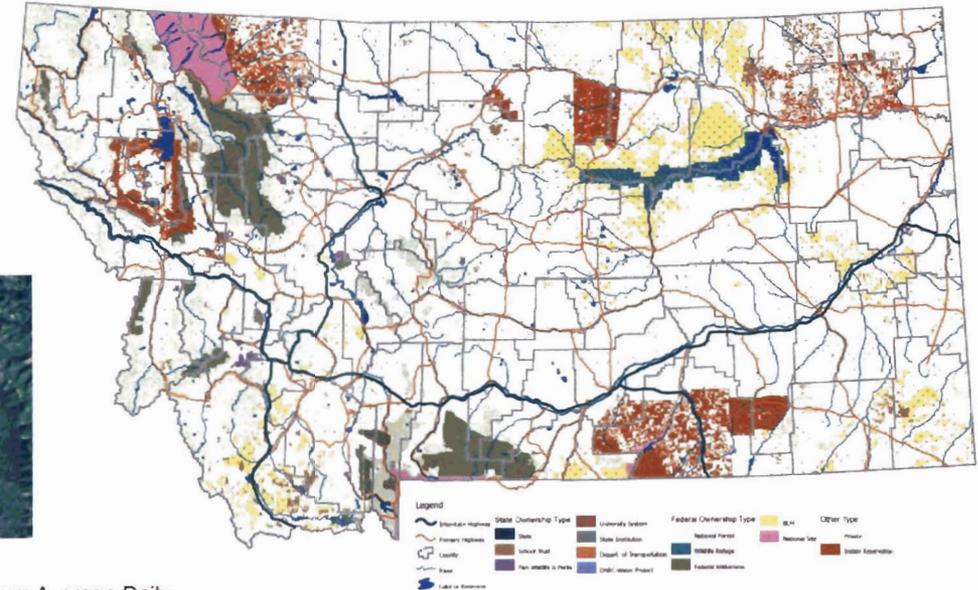
### Provide user support and tools

NRIS helps patrons make the best use of natural resource information by providing technical assistance and developing information access, analysis, and interpretation tools.

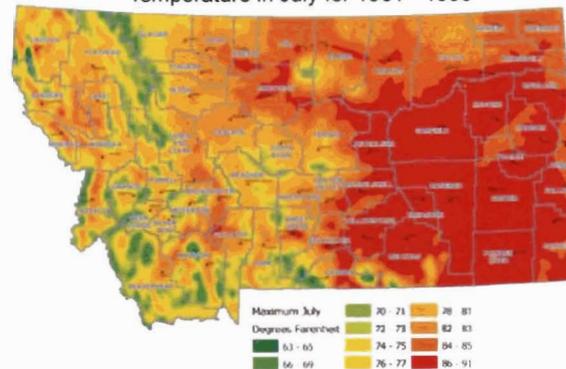
Flathead Lake  
color photograph



## Land Ownership Types within Montana



30 Year Maximum Average Daily  
Temperature in July for 1961 - 1990



Predominant Agricultural Use within Montana



**mt.gov**  
NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM

[Geographic Information](#) | [Natural Heritage Program](#) | [Water Information](#) | [Request Tracker](#) | [Library Home](#) | [NRIS Home](#)

- Digital Atlas of Montana**  
An interactive mapping tool for accessing a wide variety of information about Montana's counties, streams, towns, and watersheds.
- Topographic Map Finder (Topofinder)**  
Browse Montana's USGS topographic maps and automatically zoom to any point based on latitude/longitude, township/range/section, place name, or quadrangle name.
- Topofinder II**  
An alternate version of the Topofinder application. It incorporates a friendlier user interface and takes advantage of our seamless raster data coverages.
- Adobe's SVG Viewer plug in version 3.0 is required. You can download this from Adobe or our site. Both links are on our [Getting Started page](#).
- MontanaView**  
A consortium of universities, non-profit organizations and government agencies working within Montana to advance the availability and timely distribution of remotely sensed data.
- Montana Fisheries Information System**  
Detailed fisheries and stream information on over 4,500 streams and lakes.
- Montana Fishing Guide**  
Easy to use guide packed with angling and recreation information on Montana's fishable waters.
- Clean Water Act Information Center**  
CWAIC is the Department of Environmental Quality's public access clearinghouse for obtaining information on federal and state mandated 405(b)(1)(3)(d) water quality reports, public comment, water quality laws, and Montana's water quality programs.
- Water Right Query System**  
Query, report, and map Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Water Right Data.
- Water Rights**
- Montana Hunting Planner**  
Easy access to Montana hunting district maps, statistics, and regulations.

## The Three Components of NRIS

### User Services and Support

NRIS staff is available and ready to help patrons locate the natural resource information they need. Staff also provides training on how to use NRIS' many services, including data access, display, and analysis tools.

### GIS and Information Systems Development

NRIS Staff develop and manage Montana's primary distribution point for GIS data. NRIS staff also develop specialized information access, display, and analysis tools.

### Natural Heritage Program (NHP)

Our scientists collect, manage, and disseminate biological information emphasizing plant and animal species of concern and high quality natural communities, such as wetlands.