

# 2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

## Natural Heritage Program Overview

### From the Montana State Library

1515 E 6th Avenue  
Helena MT 59620-1800  
(406) 444-3115  
[msl.mt.gov](http://msl.mt.gov)



### SNAPSHOT #8

When siting a pipeline, utility corridor or power plant, The Montana Natural Heritage Program can save companies hundreds of thousands of dollars in environmental reviews. Housed within the Montana State Library, the Heritage Program provides comprehensive information on native species and habitats – emphasizing those of conservation concern – via easy-to-use websites.

The Heritage Program is the primary source of information on native animal and plant species, as well as wetland and land cover mapping for environmental reviews. Heritage Program staff work with and provide feedback to agencies including Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the University System, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

In 2016 alone:

- The program's customizable Montana Field Guide contained accounts for more than 7,200 species and 80 ecological systems in Montana. Each account includes, photos, information on distribution and conservation status, and more.
- The program's Field Guide, Species Snapshot, Map Viewer and other websites served more than 281,000 unique users in more than 378,000 sessions with more than 1.3 million page views.
- The program's websites received more than 20,000 hours of use, more than 80 hours of use per average work day.
- The program filled about 3,300 specialized requests for environmental review information requiring the expertise of botany, ecology, zoology, or information services staff.

# 2016 Montana Natural Heritage Program Website Use

| DESCRIPTION                    | MONTANA FIELD GUIDE | MAP VIEWER  | OTHER WEBSITES | TOTAL WEB USE    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Number of users                | 255,584             | 4,748       | 21,028         | <b>281,360</b>   |
| Number of sessions             | 331,909             | 9,728       | 36,755         | <b>378,392</b>   |
| Number of page views           | 1,150,432           | unavailable | 100,815        | <b>1,300,000</b> |
| Number of hours of use         | 14,014              | 4,146       | 1,848          | <b>20,008</b>    |
| Average hours use per work day | 56                  | 16.5        | 7.4            | <b>80</b>        |

