

Montana



Natural Heritage Information

**Natural Resource
Information System**

Water Information



Geographic Information



History

- ❑ Established in 1985 by the Montana Legislature, NRIS was designed to simplify the task of identifying and acquiring natural resource information.
- ❑ NRIS has evolved into a nationally-recognized information clearinghouse that is being used as a model by other states.



Mission

“Located in the State Library, NRIS provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources to all Montanans through the acquisition, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of that information in meaningful form.”

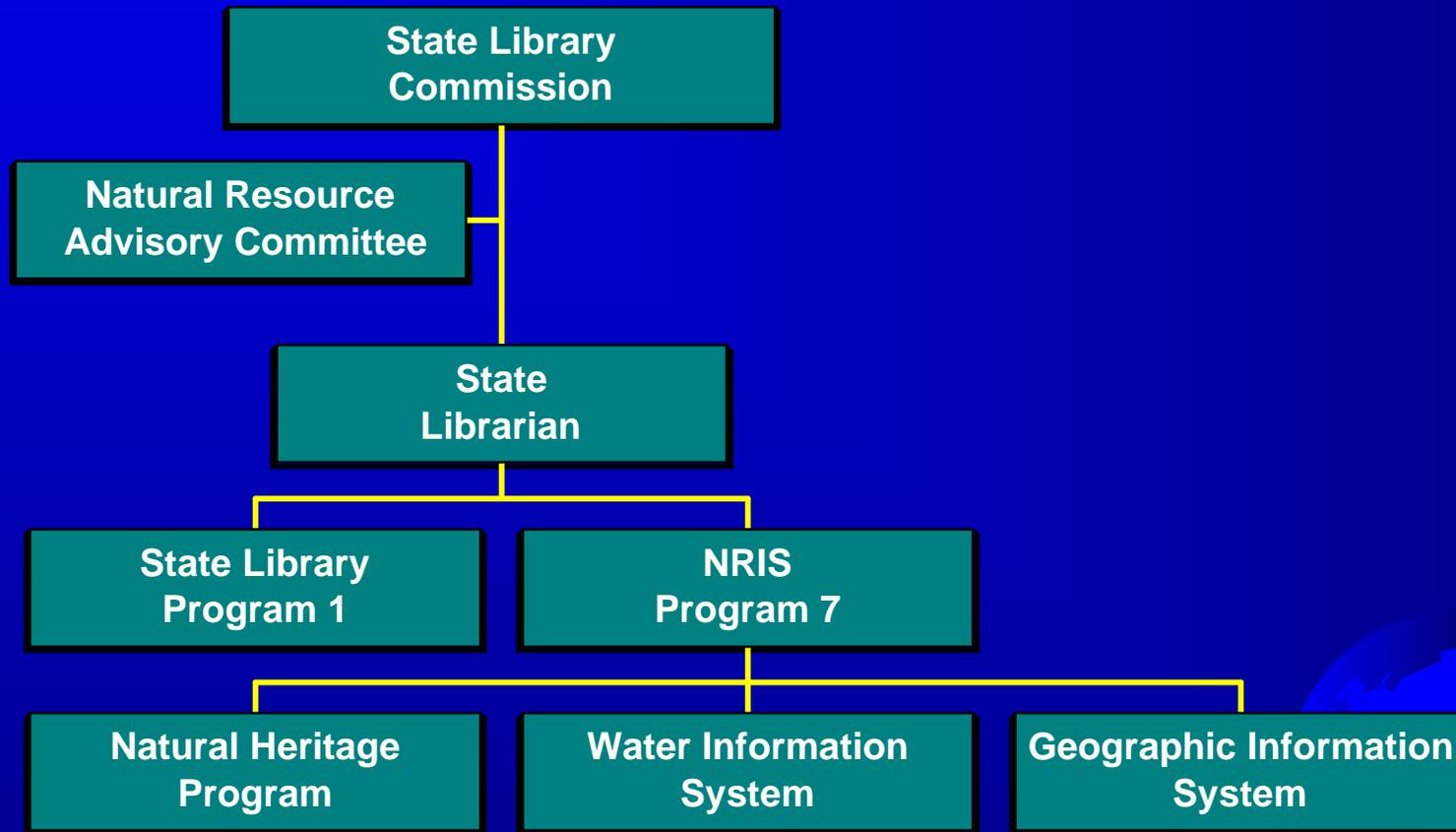


Goals

- ❑ Operate a Natural Resource Information Clearinghouse
- ❑ Support Interagency Data Coordination
- ❑ Provide User Support and Tools



Organization



Natural Heritage Program

The Natural Heritage Program focuses on biodiversity information: plants, animals and natural communities, emphasizing those that are rare, threatened or endangered.



Water Information System

The Water Information System is a starting point for persons needing to know about topics such as water quality, groundwater, surface water, water rights, climate data, and more.



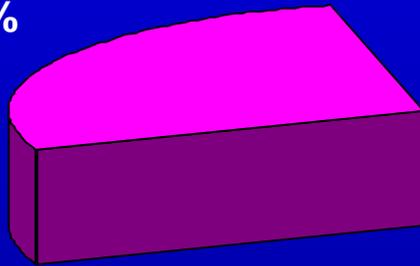
Geographic Information System

The Geographic Information System (GIS) provides maps, map data, analytical services, and technical assistance for the growing number of users of computerized mapping programs.

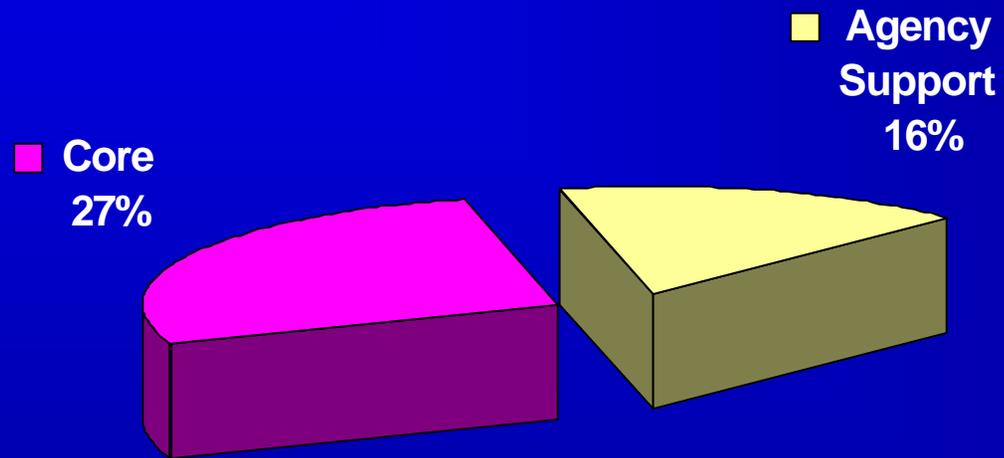


Funding

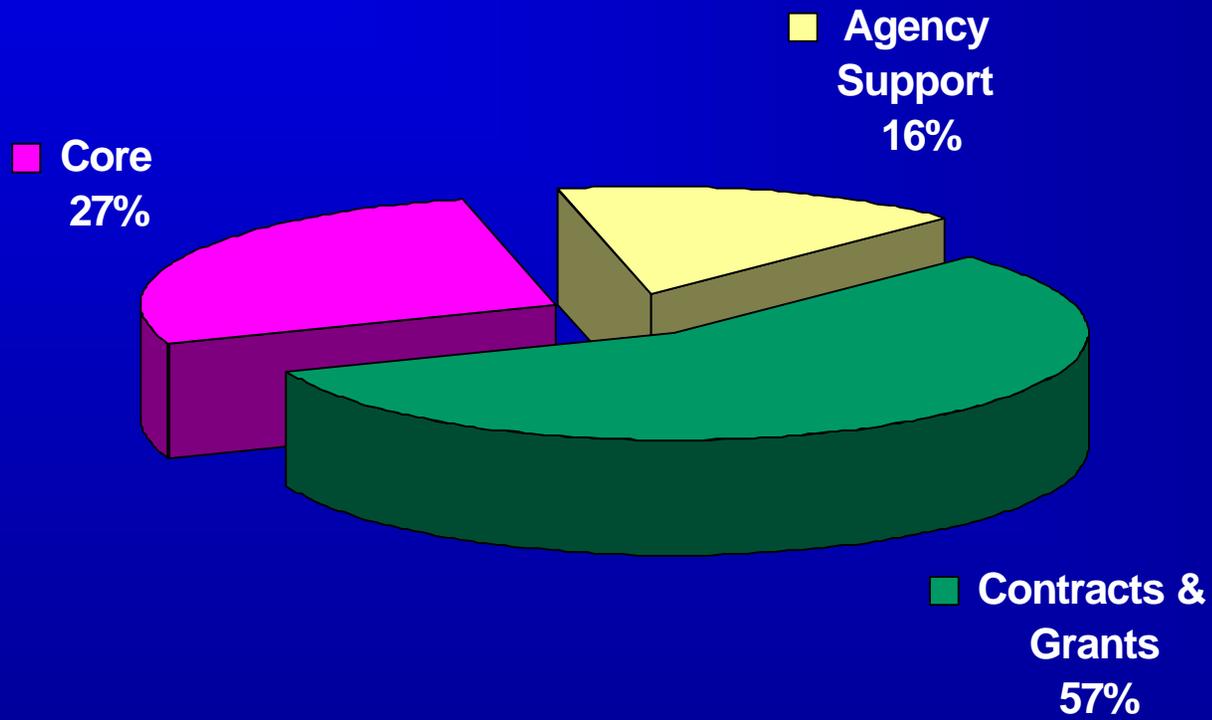
■ Core
27%



Funding



Funding



Conclusion

Collectively, NRIS programs have been a nucleus for interagency and private sector collaboration and information sharing -- saving considerable time and effort in development, planning and resource management.

