MONTANA WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORTATION

DATA AND INFORMATION WORKGROUP

9:00am – 1:00pm, Thursday, February 24th, 2022

Meeting Notes

Purpose: Debrief from PIT Crew on work of the SC, review revised datasets and limitations document, plan for beta testing of the mapping tool, coordinate and update January and February milestone tasks.

Objectives:

- Understand the progress of the SC and how the DI mapping tool fits into their work
- Review AJ's revised datasets and limitations and data needs/data gaps documents
- Begin defining beta testing parameters and questions for directed feedback
- Coordinate work for January and February milestone tasks

Attendees:

- D&I Work Group: Liz Fairbank (MSWP), Gabe Priebe (MDT), Paul Sturm (MDT), Brian Andersen (MDT), Adam Messer (FWP), Justin Gude (FWP)
- Planning and Implementation Team (PIT Crew): Deb Wambach (MDT), Nick Clarke (MSWP), Brooke Shifrin (MSWP), Linnaea Schroeer (FWP)

Agenda:

1. Introduction

2. PIT Crew provided a debrief on latest SC meetings and work progress.

    a. Discussed SC review of the DI Recommendations
    b. Discussed how the SC envisions the tool informing project identification and project selection
        i. SC noted that it was important for applicants to see the same information/ranking as SC
    c. Discussed current SC recommendations for the beta testing of the tool
        i. SC will work on naming the 'tool'

There continues to be questions and discussion within both SC and PIT Crew on the best way to display information within the tool and to properly prioritize sections and areas but also not drive the focus to western Montana.

- The scale of many wildlife maps is different from each other and some data are an artifact of the layers, and is too coarse to display as a % by road segment
- For most species, you won't have a different result a mile down the road
- Perhaps we could provide relative percentiles in big chunks—take that 38.1% and show it simply as 30-40% or even 20-40%
- Others in the group questioned that approach, asking if we have the information, why wouldn't we use it? The data used in animal movement and occurrence maps may be imperfect and not as clear-cut as crash data, but that information is still useful

Outcome: The group agreed to use 10 categories rounded up to the whole number, will keep discussing other prioritization and display of percentile ranking issues throughout Beta-testing process

3. Review AJ's revised datasets and limitations and data needs/data gaps documents
    a. Review and discuss the revised documents
    b. Determine any needed revisions and best layout for this information
    c. Identify leads for any remaining items associated with these tasks
    d. Determine how these documents are to be incorporated into product documentation and guidance

Outcome: Group decided to postpone this agenda item until AJ present

4. Begin planning for beta testing of the mapping tool
    a. Review and identify remaining cleanup and production tasks for the tool
        i. Data clean-up and organization
        ii. Metadata analysis and user-friendly display
        iii. Base layers
        iv. Product display options
        v. Instructions vs. guidance for use
            - General agreement that the tool should be self-contained and intuitive enough so that extensive explanations on use is not required. Landing-page paragraph should be rewritten
        vi. Access permissions or sign-on terms of use
            - SC to determine if this is desired. Legally, it has no real meaning. Would be more of an acknowledgement of understanding the intended uses of the product.
        vii. Other related items
    b. Identify who are the beta testers
        i. Staff within FWP, MDT, MSWP, plus land trust reps; SC and PIT Crew members
    c. Determine approach for and develop instructions and guidance for beta-test (use)
        i. Do we develop a webinar prior to rollout of beta testing? How about before release to the public?
        ii. As stated above, general agreement that the tool should be self-contained and intuitive enough so that extensive explanations on use is not required. However, a webinar geared to beta testers explaining who we are, what we did, and why would be useful, basic methodology (how we did it), along with what feedback we want from the beta testers
        iii. Nearly all QA testing has already been accomplished, focus of beta testers will be, 'Does the tool meet your needs? Why or why not?'
        iv. Allow approximately two weeks for testing

Outcome: Group will provide questions to Brian for inclusion in the beta testing survey. Brian will also put together simple webinar for testers. PIT Crew will seek input from the SC and XXX will rewrite Introductory paragraph/description page for tool, as well as make final edits on the storymap write-ups.

5. Review and update the latest (December-January) tasks and the timeline document, coordinate the work of the January/February milestone tasks
    a. *Clean up naming and metadata (back) and create story map documentation (front) (BA, AM TBD) – November*

b. Develop guide on intended uses and instructions on how to use product (LF, AM, BA) – January - March
c. Methodology write-up (JG, AM, BA) – January - March
d. Beta test with MDT, FWP, and MSWP staff (AM, BA, ALL) – February/March

Outcome: Tasks and Timeline document was updated

6. Next Meeting
    a. Does group need to meet sooner than next scheduled meeting **March 24**?
        i. Some members are unavailable on March 24th, was agreed it would be beneficial to reschedule, ideally for ~3 weeks from today
    b. What does the group want to accomplish at the **next** meeting?
        i. Finalize beta testing instructions, survey, and identify testers
        ii. Review AJ's revised datasets and limitations doc

    c. What is the group's homework between now and **next** meeting? Will that be accomplished individually, in small groups, or some other way?

<u>Outcome and Homework</u>:

- PIT Crew will send out Doodle poll to set up next meeting.
- BA will begin draft of survey form and general questions.
- Each D& I member will send Brian 5 questions to be included in beta testing survey, and each agency/group will submit list of 5-7 people to be considered for beta testing
- Additional work on App needed by BA and AM
- PIT crew will work on editing the storymap write-ups
- PIT crew will revise tool description/ introduction based on feedback from SC
- BA and AM will continue to work on methodology writeups. Phases and intended uses doc revised by SC will inform methodology write-up

7. Ended at 12:10 pm Woo-hoo!