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LEROY W. SCHAFFNER

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The North Dakota Resources Inventory, Information Management and Monitoring System.

Comprehensive land use planning and good resource management requires immediate access to many types of reliable information. A computerized data system will allow users to manipulate and analyze large volumes of resource information in their planning and management roles.

Development of a computerized information system will:

1. Allow better information flow by providing immediate access to current and accurate information to solve detailed and complicated problems.
2. Permit better scientific management of North Dakota resources by providing information for predictive estimates to "what if" questions.
3. Help the many individual users gain access to greater computing power than would be available to any one user.
4. Save time and money by allowing many people immediate access to expensively obtained data and eliminate duplication of expensive equipment.
5. Allow rapid examination of different kinds of information on television type terminals and the selective printing of needed information.

Information currently available in the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station will be the first data entered into the data bank. This will include climatological data, soils information from both published and unpublished data, census data, land use, crop and livestock statistics, transportation systems, historical sites, cultural features, government and critical environmental areas.

RIMS consists of a set of techniques for recording, storing, processing, recalling and displaying information from a resource inventory. Recording involves the transformation of data from maps and tables to a form acceptable for storage. One method of obtaining information from maps is by a machine called a digitizer (front cover). The digitizer converts lines on maps to numbers and records the line locations on paper tape.

Long range goal of RIMS is to provide as complete an inventory as possible of information useful to resource decision makers. Additional research and data collection will be required to meet user needs.

This information can be used to study problems of state/regional/county concerns, such as land use planning, regional energy development assessments, power plant and transmission tower settings, strip mining, and mined land reclamation.