

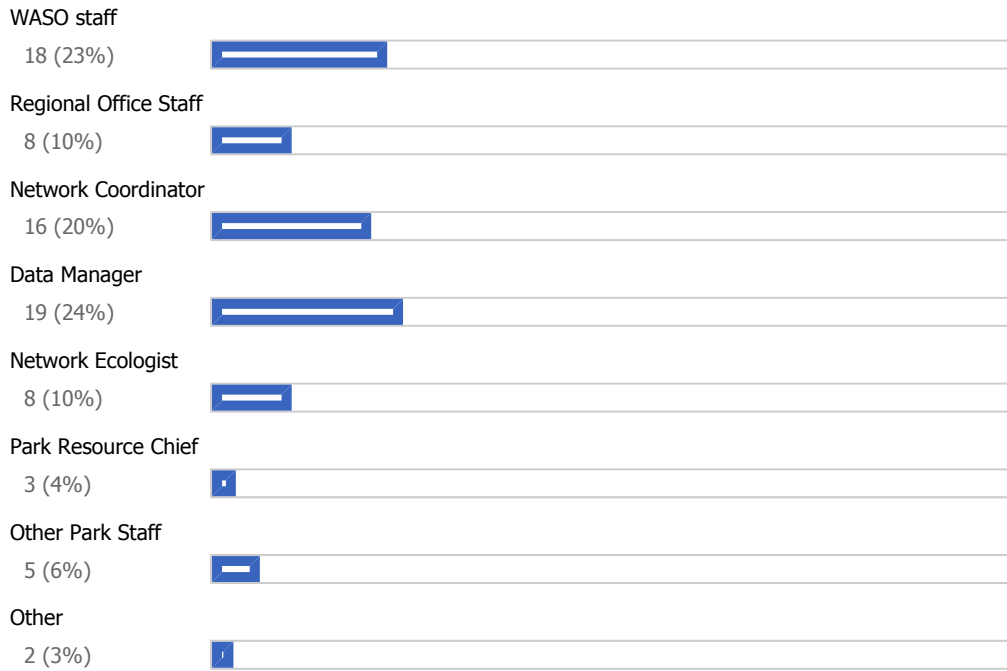


# Joint I&M-GWS Meeting Survey

Survey asking whether holding the annual I&M meeting in conjunction with GWS every other year was successful.

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## 1. Which of the following categories most closely matches your job type or association with the I&M Program?



Total: 79

## 2. Did you attend the joint I&M-GWS meeting in St. Paul this year?



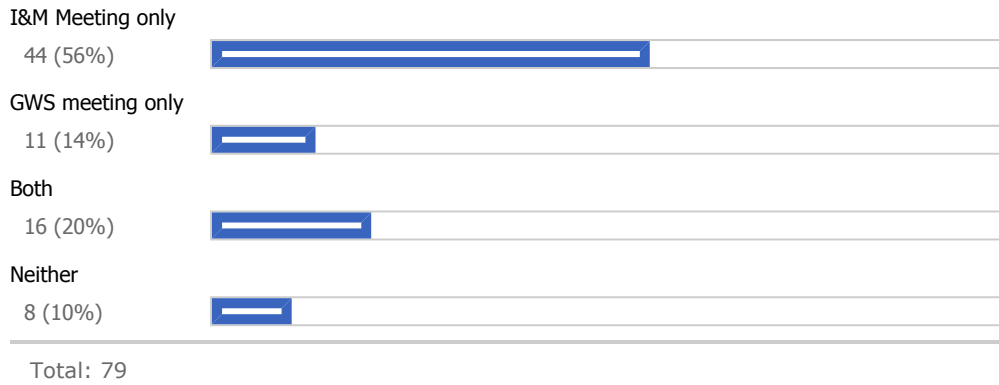
Total: 79

## 3. Did you attend any of the sessions organized by the I&M Program as part of the 3-day I&M Track at the GWS meeting in Minnesota?

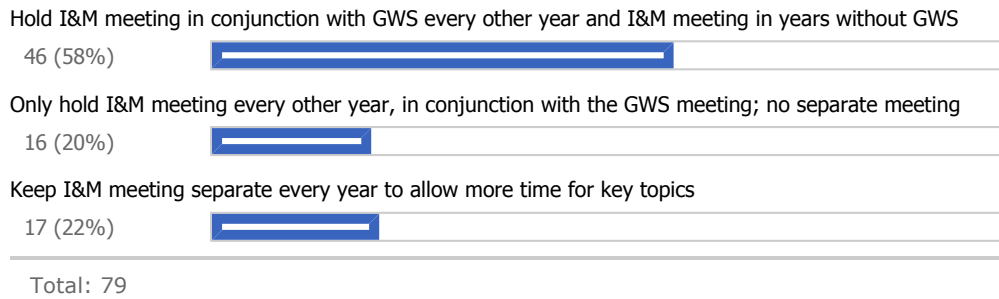


Total: 78

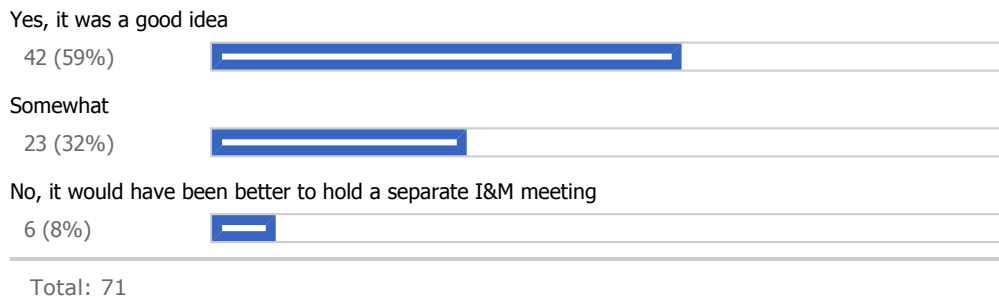
## 4. If we had organized a separate I&M annual meeting this year (in a different month and city than the GWS meeting), with more time for breakout sessions and sessions on various topics identified as high priority by the 32 I&M networks, would you have gone to that meeting only, the GWS meeting only, or both?



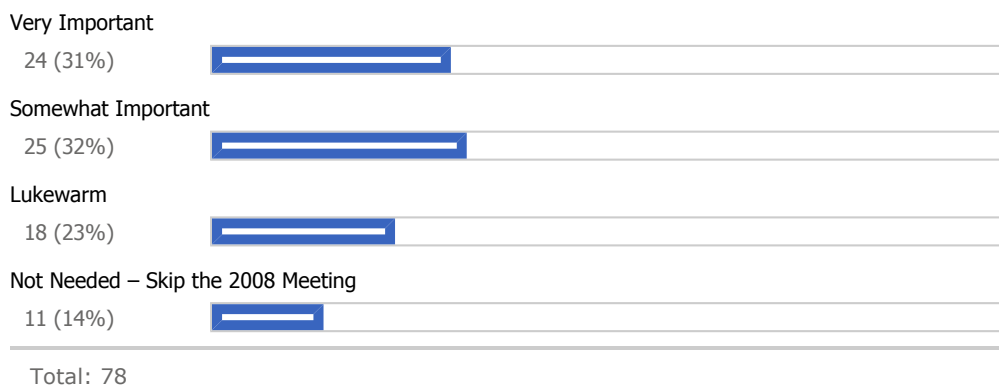
**5. Do you think that we should hold the I&M annual meeting in conjunction with the GWS meeting every other year, with a separate 4-day I&M meeting in the years without a GWS meeting, or should there be a separate I&M meeting each year?**



**6. Some of the reasons for holding the I&M meeting in conjunction with GWS this year, in addition to the cost savings, is that we were hoping that I&M staff (many of whom are new to the NPS) would be inspired by the plenary speakers and NPS leadership, and would get a better sense of how their job fits with cultural resources, interpretation, planning, and other park operations. Was this successful?**

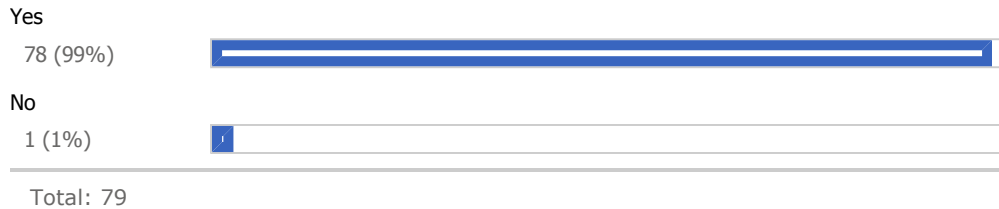


**7. How important is it that we organize an annual I&M meeting in about February 2008 to share the latest guidance, best examples, and lessons learned by the various networks, and to give people working on similar projects or tasks a chance to get together to share and compare what they're doing?**



**8. If we decide to hold an annual I&M Meeting about February 2008, it will be organized similar to the successful 2006 San Diego**

meeting, except that we'd allow more time for breakout sessions on high-priority topics and less time for talking heads. The following questions will help us determine what your priorities are (ignore the Yes/No responses to this question; skip to next question):



**9. Protocols: The following vital signs categories have been identified by the first networks as high priorities for developing monitoring protocols. Please score the following protocol categories High, Medium or Low to show your preference for which ones we should spend time in break-out groups to promote collaboration and communication across networks. Please score no more than one-third of them as High:**

	Low (%)	Medium (%)	High (%)
Weather monitoring	32	36	30
	1	2	3
Landscape dynamics (land cover and use, remote sensing)	5	24	68
	1	2	3
Invasive plants early detection	7	31	57
	1	2	3
Invasive animals early detection	30	49	15
	1	2	3
Invasive species status and trend monitoring (for established populations)	20	43	31
	1	2	3
Soil function and dynamics	47	32	15
	1	2	3
Water quality monitoring, including water chemistry and nutrients	12	30	55
	1	2	3
Aquatic macroinvertebrates	14	50	30
	1	2	3
Landbirds	22	49	23
	1	2	3
Surface water dynamics (flow rates, etc.)	22	46	27

	1	2	3
Forest vegetation	(%) 14	38	39
Fish communities	(%) 34	38	19
Amphibians and Reptiles	(%) 23	47	26
Riparian communities	(%) 18	45	30
Nutrient dynamics	(%) 45	34	16
Wetland communities	(%) 30	39	26

Total: 74

**10. List other protocol topics that you would rate High Priority:**

Intertidal communities Monitoring of rare species

1 (3%)

Soils; biological soil crusts, erosion Cave or sub-terranean; visitor impacts, WQ, etc...

1 (3%)

vegetation mapping

1 (3%)

Landscape fragmentation and connectivity (which is a part of landscape dynamics) - maybe expand that topic

1 (3%)

I would like to see more on modeling and analysis as a component of the protocols for determining trends.

1 (3%)

Air Resources monitoring (e.g., atmospehric deposition, ozone) Bat monitoring

1 (3%)

Complete list of protocols that have been completed and reviewed by NPS with a discussion on their successes and how the protocol and SOPs can be shared. There are many protocols (with SOPs) currently shared on the I&M web site that have not been reviewed and approved by NPS, which can be misleading to those looking for protocol examples.

1 (3%)

Human dimension factor considerations (if people are part of the problem, they need to be part of the solution).

1 (3%)

wetland hydrology

1 (3%)

phenology alpine systems

1 (3%)

Saving dollars while still effectively executing sound protocols. How did you get one more protocol added started on the ground.

1 (3%)

sampling Design, Power, Detectability (signal to noise ratio and sensitivity topics) and Statistics

1 (3%)

Intertidal/nearshore; Bridging protocols to address climate change;

1 (3%)

Integration of many of the above. Too much effort that is too focused will not buy as much knowledge of our resources.

1 (3%)

High elevation/subalpine vegetation

1 (3%)

Making the latest electronic filed notebooks as versatile as possible - working with vendors to meet our specific needs if necessary

1 (3%)

Data Management

1 (3%)

climate change

1 (3%)

Groundwater water quality and levels; Tidal monitoring/sea level monitoring; Marine processes, habitat, benthos, flora and fauna--the whole enchilada

1 (3%)

assessing and monitoring biodiversity..terrestrial,aquatic,marine

1 (3%)

Watershed Characteristics

1 (3%)

non-forest vegetation communities springs fire and fuels

1 (3%)

Weather, Global Climate Change

1 (3%)

climate change protocols

1 (3%)

Grassland vegetation

1 (3%)

fluvial geomorphology

1 (3%)

I am using this space for general comments: Maybe it would be best to meet with GWS once every 4 years. Meeting with ESA or Cons Bio might be good. Poster session is fine, so long as there is not a huge pressure for all networks (especially newer ones) to bring posters when they don't have anything they are keen to present yet.

1 (3%)

Statistical power

1 (3%)

Coastal / Marine monitoring

1 (3%)

insectivorous bats

1 (3%)

Total: 30

**11. What do you think are the three most important specific topics to cover at this meeting?**

Trend analysis Further examples and discussion of how I&M fits into RM More examples of structure and function related to monit. implementation - how parks contribute.

1 (2%)

Lessons learned with integration and implementation of the protocol so that monitoring products are obtained (what difficulty with data management guidance was there?, what difficulties with spatial and tabular data analysis was there? what and where were problems with field to QA/QC digital data ready for analysis? what worked and didn't with deliverable products of all types/formats?

1 (2%)

Monitoring protocol development; establishing/finding/researching threshold values of VS; role of ecological site mapping in I&M program

1 (2%)

Reporting (use of the WASO/Regional series) Programmatic reviews

1 (2%)

One days worth max on updates, latest guidance and best examples. Breakout groups as described above in Protocols, but with longer breakout sessions so that progress can be made while at the meeting. Reporting and getting the word/results out as vital signs are implemented.

1 (2%)

With very little to no travel money unless it is in the Wash DC area I won't be able to make it.

1 (2%)

Network and National reporting. How are we going to present and report monitoring data and information?

1 (2%)

1. How to effectively communicate I&M information to key stakeholders. 2. How to staff and budget for a sustainable network. 3. The protocol review process--lessons learned.

1 (2%)

Integrating vital sign monitoring.

1 (2%)

Sample Design Consistency across networks

1 (2%)

Successful monitoring protocols that are specific to National Park needs (i.e., not simply application of existing widely-used protocols).

1 (2%)

1 New advances, technologies, standards 2 What's working, what's not 3 Monitoring methods, protocol development

1 (2%)

1) Advancing techniques for communicating complex natural resource topics with internal park staff and the public (e.g. HTLN model); a.k.a. "developing problem solving communications methodologies which are specifically geared toward resolving critical (human dimension influenced) natural resource issues" 2) Integrating I&M network goals and activities with the Research Learning Center network 3) Integrating I&M network goals and activities with the CESU network

1 (2%)

-Opportunities to collaborate -WASO led topics - i.e. weather, NASA landscape -reiteration of key guidance

1 (2%)

Long-term archiving of I&M data and specimens Methods of communicating results via web sites Writing protocols and SOPs (what should be where?; what merits an SOP?)

1 (2%)

preparing for the future - how will periodic reviews and course readjustments happen? Re-evaluation of vital signs

1 (2%)

1) sample design and data analysis approaches /issues/successes, partiulary data analysis for these complex designs (this work best if it were discussed by vital sign/protocol) b/c its specific). 2) creative ideas for long-term staffing plans and seasonal crews 3)improving communication/integration with parks 4) "free-time" (i.e. don't schedule meetings to last late) to allow more informal networking

1 (2%)

newest guidance; application and user board updates; landscape dynamics

1 (2%)

1. creative staffing and program management ideas for sustaining the program, managing workload and integrating with parks 2. transition from planning to implementation-- challenges, strategies for managing a multi-park program 3. preventing burnout and staff turnover

1 (2%)

Across Network collaboration

1 (2%)

Operational helpful hints / dos and don'ts. I&M Program integration jobs we need to work on with our parks. Assessments, RSS,

1 (2%)

forest vegetation landscape dynamics invasive species

1 (2%)

sampling Design, Power, Detectability (signal to noise ratio and sensitivity topics) important because they are generic

1 (2%)

Lessons learned administrating I&M networks: Coordinator and Manager Forum; Science Communication: Partnerships, marketing information to diverse audiences, & evaluating how I&M information is used; A historical tribute of USGS's contribution to NPS I&M program--1/2 day Minisymposium-- (embbded theme is a tribute & thanks to Paul Geissler) guest speakers from across nation present examples of working with NPS on protocol development--i.e., present the protocol in a historical story format. Lastly, prefer March or April as months for meeting

1 (2%)

Quality control, thresholds, and integration. I know those are not topics listed above, but I think they're very important.

1 (2%)

I know it's the issue du jour, but is there an overall strategy to link I&M with the climate change stressor? How are networks dealing with the budget erosion issues?

1 (2%)

1. Establishing consistency among protocols where ever possible 2. Facilitating protocol development, sharing and communication overall through sharepoint 3. Identifying the take home gems that will allow Network staff to best perform their jobs and execute/implement vital signs monitoring now that we are rapidly approaching theat phase

1 (2%)

protocol development Static funding hear from the parks (are they getting what they want/need)

1 (2%)

Detecting rare occurrence species

1 (2%)

Data Management, including progress of user boards; WASO updates; protocols mentioned above

1 (2%)

Data Management Data analysis Reporting results

1 (2%)

lessons on implementation, strategic budgeting, cooperative agency efforts

1 (2%)

an additional topic (and I would need to think more about how to cover this): there is still a need for I&M folks to learn more about NPS and have a better understanding of where I&M fits in, and to talk about what it will take to keep I&M successful in the long term (yes, there's money but to be truly successful I&M has to have the support of and be valued by the Service. (This is one of the reasons I think it was great that you did the GWS combo mtg this year - excellent idea! the only reason I didn't come and participate was for personal medical reasons. Was very disappointed to miss it). thanks for chance for input

1 (2%)


Impact of humans on the geography (landscape, water and biota) past present and future

1 (2%)

How do we assess and monitor the widest fraction of biodiversity in every park ?

1 (2%)

Overall program direction/overview/update Lessons learned from first networks New directions/successes - show and tell, pilot projects, etc

1 (2%) 

3 yr network assessments: expectations, deliverables etc. Relationship between WASO oversight, budget and program assessment

1 (2%) 

How to achieve consistency among networks for similar vital signs. How to share resources & economize among networks.

1 (2%) 

Maybe not the most important, but definitely worthwhile: 1. Network interaction with parks: are we giving them what they need? Do we know what they need? 2. Moving from monitoring planning to implementation: lessons learned from the first networks 3. Research Learning Centers: what's the vision, what's the plan?

1 (2%) 

What is a rational approach to integrating I&M into NPS planning and reporting (e.g. condition assessments, stewardship strategies, NPCA assessments)? What is the future of biological inventories and how will networks be asked to participate? Opportunities to inform management decisions through better science communication, decision support models, management thresholds, etc.

1 (2%) 

Data Management, Geographic Information Systems, Surveying for establishing monitoring sites

1 (2%) 

climate change and role of I & M role of I&M in informing management actions urban wildland interface and role of I&M in assessing impacts

1 (2%) 

Increased funding. Dissemination of monitoring results. Data management.

1 (2%) 

Opportunities and Barriers to the Convergence of Park Manager's expectations of investments in I&M and real I&M results and timelines. Eroding funds for project implementation due to the effects of inflation in personnel and other costs on flat network budgets. How Networks can accomodate the next round of inventory projects.

1 (2%) 

What are some of the acutal inventory and monitoirng results from the networks. What should we expect in the future in terms of funding, reporting etc. How to develop a protocol for managing data to allow us to effecively communicate our assesments in a statistically rigorous way while still being relevant to GRPA goals and resource management strategies. You see, I want a session I can skip without feeling guilty.

1 (2%) 

Lessons learned from early protocols Partnership opportunities with other agencies Coordination among networks with similar resources

1 (2%) 

Programmatic updates Focus on increased inter-network collaboration Advances in analysis of monitoring data

1 (2%) 

protocol database/sharing. website strategy/guidance. centralized data portal (vsims or other).

1 (2%) 

Total: 48

**12. Should there be an evening poster session combined with a social (With some decent food this time), where people can present posters and talk to each other?**

Yes

70 (92%) 

No

6 (8%) 

Total: 76