

Montana State Digital Library

Prepared for the December 11, 2013 MSL Commission meeting
by Allan Cox, Montana Natural Heritage Program Lead manager

This report represents accomplishments of
Library Information Services (LIS),
MSL Geographic Information (comprised of the Natural Resource Information System
(NRIS) and the former Base Map Service Center (BMSC) and the
Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP).

Goal One—Content

MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library users.

- As previously noted on Wired-MT by State Librarian Jennie Stapp, on November 6th, a fire at the Internet Archive scan center in San Francisco destroyed 10 boxes of Montana state publications sent for digitization. The Internet Archive had scanned 692 of the 940 state publications lost in the fire, meaning that 248 state publications were destroyed without being digitized. LIS is in the process of finding second copies to replace the unscanned publications. This tragedy highlights the importance of the LIS digitization project insofar as the creation of new digital copies supports preservation of state government information in the event of a disaster. Ironically, among the items destroyed were several copies from the “Annual report of the State Fire Marshall” series.
- Karen Newlon, Karissa M. Ramstead, and Jamul Hahn of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) completed a report "Southeast Montana Wetland Assessment: Developing and Refining Montana's Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Strategy" as part of an EPA-funded project. The report is available on our website at <http://mtnhp.org/Reports.asp?key=4>.
- The Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center of the MTNHP has updated its status map, which can be found at http://mtnhp.org/nwi/NWI_Status_map.asp. To date, over 2,000,000 acres of wetlands and riparian areas have been mapped by the Center.

Goal Two—Access

MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.

- Leveraging the State's enterprise ArcGIS Online subscription account administered by MSL, Geographic Information staff worked with the State Information Technology Services Division staff to enable a state map gallery linked from the state home page at <http://mt.gov/mediagallery.aspx?activeTab=2>. The gallery is meant to showcase

a variety of maps compiled by various state agencies and, along with Washington and Oregon galleries, was a featured workshop at the National States Geographic Information Councils annual conference in Kansas City which was attended by Stu Kirkpatrick and Evan Hammer.

- Geographic Information's new data bundler application was made live for external testing at <http://test.gis2.nris.mt.gov/DataBundler/default.html> with the intent of going live on January 1, 2014. This new application will replace the existing Data Bundler, a very popular tool used by the public to compile a variety of GIS layers about a particular geographic extent. The current bundler relies on software that is no longer supported by the vendor so it is necessary to replace the application.
- LIS staff recently completed creating Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs) for all the state publications digitized in fiscal year 2013. These PURLs were added to the local catalog and allow LIS to continue to provide continued access to the digitized collection should the files ever be moved to a different digital repository location.
- In early October, MTNHP Zoology and Information Services staff collaborated to release a Wildlife Bibliography website <http://mtnhp.org/WildlifeBib.asp> that provides links to bibliographies developed by the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society. These bibliographies focus on Fish and Wildlife Recommendations for Subdivision Development in Montana and Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife. These bibliographies provide links or direct access to articles in 24 pre-filtered categories as well as the ability to search by year and key word or phrase.
- From June to September, Zoology staff answered over 75 requests from patrons regarding zoological information for Montana that entailed more than 50 hours of staff time. Recent request volume has been high due to the proposed listing of several species under the Endangered Species Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Goal Three—Training

MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.

- In partnership with the MT Dept. of Commerce, Erin Fashoway led a half day training session for over forty demographic data users on the geographic information resources available at MSL.
- Sam Suber attended the Archive-It Partner Meeting 2013 in Salt Lake City, Utah. It's an annual vendor sponsored meeting designed to bring together colleagues and the Archive-It team in order to learn more about software upgrades, best

practices, use cases, and on-going initiatives. Among the meeting take-aways, Sam learned more about how to conduct bulk metadata uploading to improve access to the MT.GOV Connect web archive.

- During the evening Fall Workshop 2013 reception, staff provided training for Montana librarians and trustees on the use of Safari Tech books, digitized state publications, the Montana Field Guide, mapping services and the professional library development collection. LIS staff worked with statewide library resources staff to promote implementation of the Register Online widget available to Montana Shared Catalog libraries. That evening LIS staff registered 38 new MSL card holders.
- LIS created a new user profile allowing Montana librarians and trustees to have their own cards which will result in better analytics and greater user privacy than our former system which “forced” Montana librarians to use an MSL card issued to their library that was also used for interlibrary loan requests.
- Allan Cox, Lead Program Manager for MTNHP, presented a workshop to project members of the “Eco-regional Ethnographic Assessment Pilot Program” at Chief Dull Knife College and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Historic Preservation Office in Lame Deer in mid-November. The workshop provided an in-depth review of the information and services available from the MTNHP.

Goal Four—Consultation and Leadership

MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable users to set and reach their goals.

- The Geographic Information Program facilitated a meeting between Esri and the state agency’s GIS community of interest to discuss the future of the Esri enterprise license agreement and the enterprise advantage program agencies use to obtain Esri training and consultation. As a follow up to that meeting MSL organized a meeting between Esri, the State’s CIO Ron Baldwin and the State Librarian (along with MSL CIO Evan Hammer and State GIS Coordinator Stu Kirkpatrick). This meeting has opened other opportunities for the State Librarian to work in collaboration with other agency directors and the CIO on potential GIS collaborative projects.
- The Geographic Information program organized a Public Land Survey System (PLSS) partnership meeting, bringing together technical staff from the Forest Service, Missoula County, Utah’s Automated Geographic Reference Center, Premier Data Services and the Esri Solutions Team, in a “lighthouse” project for sustainable stewardship of the digital representation of a state’s PLSS. There will be follow-up meetings in January and March as this effort is gaining national attention, with the goal recognized stewardship roles, modernized workflows, and an implanted data model by April 2014.

- Sam Suber, Metadata and Cataloging specialist was recently selected as an American Library Association Emerging Leader. From the ALA website: “the Emerging Leaders program recognizes the best and brightest new leaders in the library world. It’s open to librarians under 35 years of age or those new to the library profession of any age with fewer than five years of experience working at a professional or paraprofessional level in a library. The program allows these stars to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership, participate in project-planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.”
- Bryce Maxell, MTNHP Senior Zoologist, gave presentations to Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto members on the status of bat and White-Nose Syndrome surveillance efforts in Montana in Butte, on November 20th, 2013. He also gave a presentation on the biology and conservation status of Montana’s amphibians and reptiles to Joel Berger’s Montana Wildlife class at the University of Montana on October 28th, 2013.
- Linda Vance, MTNHP Senior Ecologist, gave a “virtual” talk on mapping white bark pine to the 20th annual meeting of the Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee, which met at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho November 4-6.

Goal Five—Collaboration

MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.

- The MTNHP Zoology Program continues to lead a multi-agency collaborative effort to conduct surveillance on Montana bats and White-Nose Syndrome caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* which has killed millions of bats in eastern North America.
- MTNHP hosted its annual Partners Meeting November 13th in Helena. In attendance were over 30 partners representing state, federal, academic, non-profit, and private sector users and supporters of the program. The annual meeting is an opportunity for the program to update partners on highlights from the past year as well as to listen to partners regarding their needs, challenges and issues. This years’ meeting focused primarily on the current funding challenges to the MTNHP in light of shrinking partner budgets and project funding opportunities.

Goal Six— Sustainable Success

MSL is efficient and effective (measured against user outcomes), and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.

- MSL Geographic Information was able to hire a new GIS Analyst. Maya Daurio, who previously worked for MTNHP and was working in Kodiak, Alaska, started working on November 18th. Maya will concentrate on assisting the Water Information Manager with National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) editing, updating other water information content on the web, and assist with cadastral and public land survey system (plss) edits.
- LIS has hired Alana Mueller-Brunckhorst as the new Outreach and Electronic Resources Librarian. Prior to MSL, Alana provided computer instruction and technical support at several Montana public libraries. Alana begins her first day of work with LIS on December 2, 2013.