

## **Montana Geospatial Strategic Vision**

Information associated with observed or observable circumstances associated with geographic features and/or locations is collected, maintained, distributed and used to improve the human and environmental condition. The collection, maintenance distribution and use of geographic information is encouraged through appropriate funding, cooperative data stewardship, broad and encompassing geographic literacy, and appropriate inclusion in public policy.

### **Montana Geospatial Focus Areas – State Fiscal Years 2015/2016**

The Montana State Library is home to the State GIS Coordinator and a staff of Geographic Information Specialists tasked with maintaining the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and supporting the Natural Resource Information System. This document outlines the vision of the State Library, in partnership with geospatial stakeholders, for the next two years with specific focus areas identified for the FY 2015. While many items identified here are work tasks for MSL, the goals are intended to reflect a vision for the state GIS community as a whole. As such, activities of other groups, agencies, or organizations have also been identified where appropriate if they support these goals.

#### **State Fiscal Year 2015 – Focus Areas, Roles and Measures**

1. Evaluate and Appropriate MSDI Funding
  - a. Broaden the MSDI funding base – MLIAC, MSL
    - i. Identify existing state investments
    - ii. Examine external (local, federal, tribal, private) investments
    - iii. Identify gaps between current investments and MSDI needs as identified in MSDI work plans
    - iv. Use the State EPP process to identify opportunities to fill gaps
2. Cooperative Data Stewardship
  - a. Maintain and enhance the MSDI – MSDI stewards
    - i. A January, 2016 progress report indicates that 50% of the tasks contained in the FY15 work plan are completed or underway
    - ii. Work with potential MLIA applicants to develop proposals that support data stewardship and formalize data sharing agreements
3. Broad and Encompassing Geographic Literacy
  - a. Opportunities for professional development are available to GIS professionals – MAGIP, MSL

- i. MAGIP sponsors an annual technical meeting, monthly webinars and at least three local/regional meetings
    - ii. MAGIP has the resources required to market and provide professional development
  - b. MSL continues to partner with public libraries, MACO and the LGIT, League of Cities and Towns and other stakeholders to put geographic information in the hands of Montana citizens
  - c. Broaden opportunities for citizen access and content revision of spatial data
- 4. Public Policy
  - a. Geographic information is readily available to the 2015 Legislature – MLIAC, MAGIP, MSL
    - i. MLIAC and MAGIP work with MSL on the annual MLIA report to insure that successes are documented and needs expressed
    - ii. MSL works with agencies to produce the biannual legislative snapshot with appropriate thematic maps by legislative district.
  - b. Through a new negotiated state enterprise license agreement with Esri policy makers have access to GIS tools through ArcGIS Online and Esri Maps for Office.
    - i. The State Agency GIS Community of Interest and AGOL Workgroup enhance state and agency map galleries and include maps and applications that policy makers can use to make decisions.