**Geographic Information Services Report
October and November 2014**

Prepared for the December 10, 2014 Commission meeting
by Stu Kirkpatrick, State GIS Coordinator

This report represents the accomplishments of the following staff:
Kirkpatrick, Daumiller, Lund, Papineau, E. Fashoway, M. Fashoway, Holliday, Blount,
Blandford, and Daurio

In accordance with the FY15 work plan the Geographic Information Program is focusing primary attention on land and water information. In August the program formed a Land Information Team led by the State GIS Coordinator and a Water Information Team led by the Water Information System Manager.

Goal One – Content - Montana State Library (MSL) acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

The Land Information Team has completed the first accuracy adjustment of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) database. Working with the Department of Revenue who provided over 30 survey grade GPS points, and Teton County who provided scanned images of corner records, we adjusted 9 townships which moved over 250 feet in places. The PLSS now lines up with the aerial photography and associated data including the tax parcels, county boundary and school district boundaries will be adjusted to the PLSS. Essentially this means we have moved the CATSPAW project from proof of concept into production. To get a better sense of where our users think accuracy enhancement is needed we replaced the interactive map on the CadNSDI Montana site http://mslapps.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Applications/cadnsdi/ . Leveraging the expertise of the MSL IT staff we were able to provide an application that allows patrons to submit potential project areas as well as view the status of projects already underway.

The Water Information team has significantly reduced the backlog of edits to the Montana Hydrography Database that had been previously submitted by users. To make it easier for patrons to propose areas where revisions are needed we released the

Montana Hydrography Edit Request Viewer
http://mslapps.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Applications/Hydrography/Default.aspx.
Very similar to the CadNSDI viewer (MSL IT was able to leverage the same code modules for both applications) it allows patrons to view where the Hydrography Dataset edits are being made and to propose where revisions are needed.

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.

An internal review of options for either replacement or sunset of the current digital atlas provided management with the preferred alternative of a code re-write along with the functional specifications for what a new product should contain. Those specifications have been included in a project charter to revise the digital atlas. Work should start in January.

Goal Four – Consultation and Leadership - MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

In accordance with the duties of the department under the Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) the program, with advice from the Montana Land Information Advisory Council, produced the annual land information plan and biannual report to the legislature. Of significant concern are the continuing reduced collections in the MLIA account due to fewer documents being recorded at county courthouses. Reduced collections mandate a reduced budget in the land plan, with those reductions felt in both the MSL portion and the annual grant program.

Goal Six – Sustainable Success – MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.

Erin Fashoway accepted a GIS Analyst position with the Department of Transportation in November. Given the holiday season and budget uncertainties we will hold off advertising for this position until mid-January at the earliest.