

Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
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February 13, 2024

Montana State Library Commission
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Montana League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to express our strong support for the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) and its invaluable services to our communities. As representatives of municipalities across the state, we recognize the critical role that the MTNHP plays in assisting local governments with planning, permitting, and environmental review efforts.

We are particularly impressed by the comprehensive information resources offered by the MTNHP, which have proven to be indispensable tools for municipalities in navigating complex land use issues, especially in light of the recent enactment of Senate Bill 382, the Land Use Planning Act. The following resources, which were highlighted during a presentation on January 11th, are just a few examples of the valuable services provided by the MTNHP:

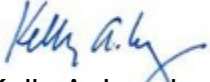
Montana Field Guide: A repository of information on over 16,000 species and nearly 150 unique habitats. With over 570,000 unique users, 1.7 million page views, and over 22,000 hours of use last year, the Montana Field Guide is an essential resource for anyone seeking detailed information on the state's biodiversity.

Map Viewer: Providing access to information on over 5 million observations, 470,000 surveys, and 1,100 predicted habitat suitability models for both native and non-native species, the Map Viewer is an invaluable tool for resource managers and planners. With the ability to generate Environmental Summary Reports in under 5 minutes, this resource streamlines the environmental review, permitting, and planning processes for municipalities across Montana.

The MTNHP's commitment to providing accurate and accessible information directly supports the goals of local governments in promoting sustainable development, preserving natural resources, and protecting the environment for future generations. As the Montana State Library Commission considers its priorities for the upcoming executive planning process for the 2026-2027 biennium and engages with the Montana Legislature, we urge you to recognize the importance of supporting the MTNHP in its mission to serve our communities.

Thank you for considering our perspective, and we hope that you will join us in advocating for continued funding and support for the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly A. Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kelly A. Lynch
Executive Director



From the desk of
Executive Director Becky Kington

To: Montana State Library Commission
PO Box 201800, or
1201 11th Ave
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Support for Montana Natural Heritage Program

Date: February 14, 2024

Montana State Library Commissioners,

The Montana Weed Control Association (MWCA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit started in the 1960's by extension agents and weed managers with a mission of working together to strengthen and support noxious weed management efforts in Montana. Over the years the MWCA has expanded to include professional weed managers, weed control businesses (grazing, commercial applicators, bio-control agent providers, re-vegetation and planning specialists), ranchers/farmers, educators, researchers, students, government officials at the city, county, state and federal levels, recreationalists, visitors to Montana and private landowners.

I am writing to you today in support of the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the program's value to MWCA's areas of focus, including the sharing of knowledge and expertise, providing non-biased and balanced collection, sharing, and dissemination of noxious weed knowledge to our membership and the public, and identifying research priorities and relaying research results back to our membership.

Since 2017, the Natural Heritage Program has supported our membership in centralizing weed data with applications such as their Rapid Weed Reporter Survey123 form and they have centralized information on over 900,000 observations of, and 132,000 surveys for, non-native species across Montana. They have also created invasion risk models for 126 weed species that our members can use to prioritize survey and control efforts. They have created an Invasive and Pest Species Guide with accounts for hundreds of non-native species as part of the Montana Field Guide <https://fieldguide.mt.gov> and weed managers across the state have direct access to observation, survey, and invasion risk model information through their Map Viewer <https://mtnhp.org/MapViewer>. Our members also use the Map Viewer site to create Environmental Summary Reports to understand not only the weeds that are present in project area, but also the native species that are documented or likely present in order to avoid impacts to them from weed control efforts. More recently, they have created a Montana Weed Dashboard <http://tinyurl.com/2krv3w9r> that allows our members and the public to access summaries of weed observation numbers, densities, and invasion risk maps for counties, Forests, BLM offices, and tribal nations.

I encourage you to support funding of this program with the Governor's Office and the Legislature for the upcoming biennium so that it can continue to support the MWCA membership in education, prevention, early detection and rapid response, and control efforts of noxious weeds in Montana.

Sincerely,

Becky L Kington

Becky Kington
MWCA Executive Director



Name	City/Town	State	Reference to which agenda topic, if any	Comment
Sarah Peterson, Director, Miles City Public Library	Miles City	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing Infrastructure	<p>I encourage the Montana State Library Commission to support the funding of statute 22-1-328. As coordinator of the Sagebrush Federation of libraries, I represent 10 public libraries in southeastern Montana. Many of our federation libraries are open part-time. Several are staffed with only one person. We are all rural, and several of us are considered frontier. However, our patrons use our libraries with the same needs as those in large communities. Our patrons are users of Partner libraries, wherein they can borrow a book not housed in their community library, and Libby, the e-book and audio book app. Our patrons are reading, listening, and watching more than ever. More, our library philosophies are expanding from simply the place that houses reading material into essential community institutions.</p> <p>In Miles City, we offer printing, faxing, scanning, free computers, and free WiFi. We print legal documents for free. We offer free tax preparation services in partnership with AARP. We recently started a wellness initiative to provide free hygiene and toiletry products. We provide space for homeschooling and other events, including a secure location for patrons who need privacy while on the phone or computer. We troubleshoot devices and provide technical support. We partner with other community institutions such as Miles Community College, Custer County Food Bank, the Veteran's Administration, and MSU Extension to provide inclusive community programs and outreach. More than 75 patrons walk through our doors daily. Our strategic vision is "Your Library, Your Community," which will help solidify our place in the community beyond "just" books.</p> <p>Our services are dependent on shared resources. We cannot provide our patrons with access to e-books and audiobooks, and we cannot participate in the Partners Sharing Group without a cohesive resource sharing system. With funding of this statute, our cost-savings will be undeniable. Several of our strategic goals may be in reach, such as a community youth art initiative, expanded hours, a building that is ADA-friendly, not just ADA-accessible by the skin of our teeth, a current non-fiction collection, and a more robust historic preservation plan.</p> <p>I don't need to tell you the importance of libraries for literacy and community. I do, however, want to remind you that Montana's rural libraries are essential institutions in each of our communities, for resources, entertainment, community, socialization, art, history, and safety. We can't compete with our largest cities and towns or with those that have a better revenue-generating system. Help us show our patrons their value as both rural citizens AND as users of local libraries and Montana State Library programs by funding this statute to ensure every Montanan has access to the same high-quality library services.</p>

Ellie Newell	Bozeman	MT	2025 Legislative Budget Requests	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Thank you for considering the proposed 2025 Legislative Budget Request for resource sharing infrastructure as presented by Jennie Stapp. As a public librarian who has worked in both Flathead County and Bozeman, I've seen firsthand the incredible cost savings for the public in collaborative services like the MT Shared Catalog, Partners & courier systems, and shared e-resources. Simply put, when we can negotiate and invest in these essential services on a statewide scale, we get better deals with vendors, minimize redundancy, and create smoother systems for MT library patrons. This proposed budget ask would benefit Montanans in every community across our beautiful state.</p> <p>Warmly,</p> <p>Ellie Newell, Youth Services Department Head, Bozeman Public Library</p>
Corey Sloan	Bozeman	MT	State Library Funding Request	<p>I urge the State Library Commission to support the State Library's budget request in full. Specific services to be funded through this ask for public libraries include fully funded access to MontanaLibrary2Go, OCLC Group Services, a statewide courier, expanded database access, and our integrated library system the Montana Shared Catalog, among other things.</p> <p>As a public librarian in Montana, as a library user, and as a Montanan for access for all, I want to voice my support for funding the state library.</p> <p>Corey Sloan, MSIS, Adult Programming and Outreach Department Head, Bozeman Public Library</p>
Janay Johnson	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I'm writing to ask your support for the \$10M legislative budget request to fully fund a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. Smaller libraries and communities in particular, do not have the budgets to fund expansive collections. The shared resource model is critical for widespread equitable access to free information throughout our state, from the cities to the most rural of communities. Thank you for your support of our state's wonderful libraries.</p>

Susan Gregory, Bozeman Public Library Director	Bozeman	MT	Request to fund statewide resource sharing infrastructure	Dear Commissioners, I am writing to you in support of the proposed 2025 Legislative Budget request to fully fund resource sharing for all Montana libraries, as presented by Jennie Stapp. Currently, the libraries are not all able to fund adequate e-resources or afford couriers to deliver books and materials shared by other libraries. In Gallatin County, we are fortunate to have the Bridgernet Sharing Group that allows us to share materials between West Yellowstone, Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan and Three Forks. This sharing of materials works beautifully and is a huge savings in precious tax dollars. We all want to see the courier system grow for the entire state. We want to see all libraries access the Montana Shared Catalog so they can see what other libraries have to borrow. This Budget Request will allow greater efficiencies, tax dollar savings and responsible spending and benefit every Montanan with greater access to information, literacy and personal enrichment. Thank you!
Jodi	Bozeman	MT	Funding for public libraries	I support the ask for public funding for montana public libraries
Kathryn Bouchard	Gallatin Gateway	MT	Library budget	Yes! Fund materials to be shared among state libraries!
michael a sirr	bozeman	MT	Library Resource Sharing	Please support the library's of Montana and patrons like me who use the library sharing frequently. My wife and I use the library weekly, and as seniors get a lot out of their services. There just aren't many places anymore you can get information from people who care. That's our library. M.A. Sirr
Tim Wilson	Bozeman	MT	Funding	Please help fund the Bozemsn Library as they are a beacon for everyone locally
Dana Huschle	Bozeman	MT	Inter library funding	This important funding for a rural state.
Jayne Groseth	Bozeman	MT	State Library Resource sharing	Absolutely yes. Support Montana Library Resource sharing with \$10M. Libraries are vital. With the rural landscape of Montana, sharing resources is the only way for all libraries to have access to materials. Don't hesitate. Know that Montana people individually and Montana families use the library. It is a window to the world's and
June B Safford	Bozeman	MT	Funding an interlibrary resource program	I am fortunate to live in Bozeman and have access to info from MSU and from the Bozeman Public Library. Very many communities (rural) do not have such possibilities and they too deserve information that improves their livelihood, their professional aspirations and info in general. The legislature has already deemed this a valuable program, but as of yet no funds have been allocated. Please do offer funding for this worthwhile program. Thank You
Anne Ore	Pony	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	I support Montana Libraries Resource Sharing. Please support Montana Libraries Resource Sharing and approve related, important budget requests. Thank you.
Barnacle V. Wigert	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	Montana Libraries are a very important resource for all Montanas. They and the services they provide should be supported by the State so as to provide more services more equally across Montana.

Billie warford	Bozeman	MT	Interlibrary funding	Funind libraries to share resources is a cost effective way to reduce costs. This investment makes sense and is long overdue.
Dean Littlepage	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	Please ask the legislature to appropriate funding for statewide library resource sharing. I very much value access to statewide library resources for research that I do, and support my public library's position on the need for dedicated funding for the purpose. Thank you for your consideration.
karen averitt	gallatin gateway	MT	resource sharing of public libraries	We need to keep our libraries available to all Montanans whether rural or within city limits by funding the statewide budget request to the Legislature. This is a high priority to keep learning happening and available to everyone.
Magdalena Wyzdga	Bozeman	MT	Libraries	Please find libraries to the greatest extent possible. So many families use it and it is a life line not just for the books but all the services it provides (public spaces, creativity labs, programs for kids and seniors).
Jane Hawks	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Shariing	Please fund this important program. It will be of benefit to all community libraries. We, the citizens of Montana, have elected you, and are counting on you to fund what is valuable to the growth of Montana's citizens.
Connie Ostrovsky	Bozeman	MT	library funding	It is imperative that the state's library resource-sharing infrastructure funding be passed! We need to fund access to MontanaLibrary2Go, OCLC Group Services, expanded database access, and our integrated library system the Montana Shared Catalog, among other things.
Noreen Breeding	Bozeman	MT	2025 Legislative Budget request for Montana Libraries Resource Sharing Infrastructure	I urge you to support the full \$10,000,000 budget request of the Montana State Library for 2025 for the legislatively mandated (MCA 22-1-328) statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. I frequently use the Montana Shared Catalog when seeking information from my local library. The Geographic Information portal is a life saver when I need GIS files. It is the only central, free source of quality data in Montana. The data are presented in a very user friendly way. After many years working as a librarian in Idaho, Washington, and New Mexico, I can say that the Montana State Library provides outstanding services. Funds to support these services must be provided by the Legislature.
Helen Swainson	Bozeman	MT	MT Libraries Resource Sharing	Requesting the appropriation of \$10M for 22-1-328, House Bill 2, State Budget Bill. Thank you.
Cynthia Huempfer	Bozeman	MT	Funding for state-wide interlibrary resource-sharing	I am writing to request support for funding appropriations for state-wide interlibrary resource-sharing programs. Libraries and their resources help level the playing field for all income levels within the state. They are excellent additions to our communities and must be supported, especially for programs like this. Please give this your support. Thank you!

Dr. Peter Townes and Judith Townes	Washington	UT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	<p>Forty years living in Bozeman, Mt. Now retired in Utah. We still financially support our Bozeman Library- using the online resources on a regular basis. We enthusiastically support the concept of Montana Congressional Financial Support so as to ensure the continued availability of this immeasurable valued resource.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Peter and Judy Townes</p> <p>Montanans Forever</p>
Kendrick Bailey	Bozeman	MT	Inter Library resource sharing program	<p>Funding for the Library Resource sharing program is vital to Montana communities. I support the proposed 10 million dollars for this program. Thank You. Kendrick</p>
Loretta Bendz	Bozeman	MT	Library support statewide	<p>Please vote for the 10M statewide library program to enhance services across large and small communities . Learning is essential especially as we age. I am now 70 and I listen to talking books via my apple phone and hearing aids through the Libby program. I have listened to over 200 books in 3 years!! I also am in a monthly ladies book club and we often get in books via interlibrary loan . The library provides so much more than just books. It has free snacks and food and in winter many people come for warmth and companionship ! There are lines to use the computers. We now have a kitchen for cooking classes and a maker space. I have attended many community forums to meet mayoral candidates, discuss affordable housing etc.</p> <p>Libraries are essential for all ! Plz support!!</p>
Linda W. Pierce	Bozeman	MT	Our Public Library	<p>Our Library is a vital and critical resource for our community. Please give it the support it needs.</p>
Abby Schlatter	Bozeman	CA	Budget request for library resources, 22- 1-328, MCA	<p>I value the library system and believe it is a critical resource for our community and state. I'm submitting a comment to support the \$10M budget request for library funding.</p>
Rose Toth	Bozeman	MT	Library support	<p>Please heartily support The Montana State Library budget request to support library resource sharing infrastructure to the State Library Commission during their meeting next Wednesday, April 17.</p> <p>THANK YOU SO MUCH!</p>

Dear Commissioners,

I've been a librarian for over a decade, and am currently a children's librarian for the Bozeman Library. I also recently served as a judge for the state-level National History Day competition. During National History Day judging, it was clear there was a disparity in access to resources between students who lived closer to cities and those in more rural areas. Funding statewide resources and resource-sharing will even the playing field for students across Montana, giving everyone access to high-quality materials for all kinds of learning and research. Librarians understand the importance of such access, and will be thrilled to help patrons of all ages learn how to effectively utilize statewide shared resources.

Thank you for your consideration!

Emily Otis	Belgrade	MT	Funding statewide resource sharing	Emily Otis
Laura Oliver	Bozeman	MT	Funding Montana State Library resource sharing	Please provide the requested funds for Montana Library resource sharing
Susan Hofer	Bozeman	MT	Resource sharing	Wonderful proposal! Our library in Bozeman is a very busy place, serving all ages and interests. Would be great to have additional resources and exchanges of ideas and methods
Judy Mathre	Bozeman	MT	Funding interlibrary loan program for \$10 million.	Please fund the interlibrary loan program. It will provide resources for rural libraries in Montana which have very modest budgets. It will increase their ability to provide better services to areas needing it the most.
Carolyn Ostby	Bozeman	MT	library resource sharing infrastructure	Please support full funding, pursuant to 22-1-328, MCA, to establish a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. Adequate funding of libraries is essential to an informed and vibrant citizenry. Unfortunately, Montana is falling behind other states and this can certainly help. Thank you.
marilyn klein	bozeman	MT	Commission meeting	I strongly recommend The commission support for for funds to support sharing of information between libraries as i use all these sources often
Don Casey	Billings	MT	Funding for Library Resource Sharing	I'm writing as witness to the benefits of shared library resources. This year, Billings Schools have been able to save money by joining the Montana Shared Catalog. I would like to see support and improved access to digital resources. The power of group purchasing would allow all Montana citizens to utilize superior access to digital journals and manuals. Students in our smallest communities would also have access to the resouces our schools and libraries already own.

Martha Hendricks	Bozeman	MT	Digital and online library services	I want to express my gratitude for the online and digital library system. Audio and ebooks have greatly increased my access to information and entertainment. I hope that we can continue to expand this aspect of our library system.
Janyne Slabaugh	Bozeman	MT	The State Library is proposing a budget request to support library resource sharing infrastructure to the State Library Commission during their meeting next Wednesday, April 17.	Because I enjoy and use public libraries, I strongly support this budget request. Besides borrowing hard copy books shelved in a library, I have often requested books from another library. The access to loans from other collections aids in management of book selection for the greater good. I also have appreciated access to materials through electronic distribution. As a past educator, I recognize the importance of timely access to media resources to enrich and extend my preparation and that of my students. I realize this is a resource also needed by those engaged in home schooling.
Jennifer Abbott	Manhattan	MT	Statute 22-1-328 Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	The above referenced statute created a mandate for equitable sharing of library resources for all citizens of the state, regardless of what part of the state they live in. This is an excellent plan, but it has yet to have an appropriation funded to make this a reality. I am writing to encourage you to take the next logical step and create an appropriation sufficient to accomplish the stated purpose. Thank you.
Suzanne Held	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	I'm writing to express my support for the budget request for the Montana Libraries Resource Sharing. I understand that this will allow for the administration of funds appropriated by the legislature to support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana. This is a great way to spread resources across the state.
Gerrie Beck	Bozeman	MT	22-1-328 MCA	I support this budget request. The library is an important resource for all citizens.
Stacie Costello	Bozeman	MT	Resource Sharing	I am in favor of state funding for 22-1-328, the statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. I believe public libraries and their resources are essential and this program ensures more Montanans in more places are able to access these resources.
Wendy Wigert	Bozeman	MT	Support for budget request to fund resource-sharing amongst libraries	I support the appropriation of \$10M for the statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. Integrated library systems are beneficial to all communities and patrons throughout the state. Thanks.
Roland Hatzenpichler	Bozeman	MT	Statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program	I am writing in strong support of the statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program and ask the legislature to dedicate the requested \$10M for it. - Roland Hatzenpichler

Elizabeth Kelly	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	I call on the legislature to fund the \$10M appropriation to support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana.
Patricia C. Purvis	Bozeman	MT	22-1-328 MCA	I encourage the State Library Commission to administer funds appropriated to support and facilitate resource sharing among all library facilities in Montana. It is inexcusable that since 2009 this proposal has not been approved for the benefit of all citizens young and old.
Beth Kaeding	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	I am in full support of the State Library Commission approving a budget request from the Montana State Library in order to support and facilitate resource-sharing among Montana libraries. Libraries are important to me and I use the one in Bozeman nearly every week. The ability for libraries to share their resources with Montana citizens is critical to continued learning and a truly healthy community. Please support this budget request.
Debra Redburn	Bozeman	MT	Montana library resource sharing	I support the proposed \$10million budget item that will be presented to the Legislature. Our rural communities certainly could use the help in supporting programs like MontanaLibrary 2Go. It is such a great way for All Montanans to access library materials from wherever the live.
Kelsye Gould	Bozeman	MT	2025 Legislative Budget Request	Libraries and access to knowledge are at the heart of of a thriving democracy. Please support this budget request to fund interlibrary resource-sharing program so libraries and communities across the state will continue to have access to these shared resources.
Whitney Olson	Great Falls	MT	State Library's 2025 legislative requests	I support the legislative requests. As the board chair of the Great Falls Public library, I hear many patrons' positive responses to the courier service and expanded access to materials. They're also very appreciative of Libby and the number of books and magazines available on that app. As these programs are shared by many libraries throughout the state, it makes sense that the legislature would support them at the state level. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Cathy Whitlock	Bozeman	MT	appropriate funds to support 22-1-32a, MCA	Please support the State Library request for \$10M to support library-resource sharing infrastructure. This is a very resource mong libraries in Montana that needs to fully funded.
Laurie Stahle	Bozeman	MT	Montana Libraries Resource Sharing	The library system is a vital and important public resource. A statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program would greatly enhance Montana's existing library resources. I'm strongly in favor of the legislature appropriating funds to support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana.

Beatrice Taylor	Belgrade	MT	I think that a high quality of a local library to be the highest goal and one of the most beautiful in a city .	Bozeman Library recently completed its construction, to allow it to make excellent improvements for our youngest children those of us who are very old. The most improvement, in my opinion that is the changes include, for teen aged children who now have a small area in which to discuss issues of county, state, and universal; to recommend books to others; or visit with friends both new and old.. The Bozeman Library has made great efforts to become the “best way to spend time” for the young school children, teen agers, and their parents. I highly recommend you will support the job newly developed, by backing their goals to be able to grow, with the money needed to continue its new ability.
MARY BRAUER	BOZEMAN	MT	22-1-328, MCA: Interlibrary Resource Sharing Program	I am a 75-year-old active patron of the Bozeman Public library and use the facilities weekly. I greatly value this resource and use the MontanaLibrary2Go, the Montana Shared Catalog and so many other features of this library. I am asking the legislature to fully fund this interlibrary sharing program.
Marilyn Hill	Big Sky	MT	Funding for libraries	This is to encourage support by the Montana Legislature for \$10M to fund Montana Public Libraries. It was quite surprising to learn that at the present time there are no funds being appropriated for this purpose. Thank you for your consideration.
Elizabeth Anthony	Bozeman	MT	Library Resource Sharing	I urge the legislature to allocate \$10M for statewide library resource sharing. Libraries are critical to Montana’s citizens.
Shelley O'Rourke	Great Falls	MT	22-1-328, shared resource funding for libraries	Unfunded mandates place a burden on institutions like the MT State Library. It is past time for the state legislature to step up and provide funding for MCA 22-1-328. We are in time period where access to accurate information is vitally important, but libraries are unable to afford the resources that will support our citizens in seeking this information. I respectfully ask the state legislature to approve this funding request that will benefit all Montana citizens.
Deborah Larson	Bozeman	MT	Budget request to support library resource sharing infrastructure for the Montana State Library system.	I would like to voice my SUPPORT for funding the statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. I think this is a win-win for all Montanans - in big cities or small towns; public schools and homeschoolers, etc. This is exactly the type of program our tax dollars should be used for! Thank you.
Mary Maifeld	Bozeman	MT	Interlibrary loan statewide.	Please vote for this. It is a great usage of the books in Montana. It also helps get books circulated to rural areas where there are people who love to read, but who don't have access to a wide variety

Mark Blevins

Helena

MT

Montana Imagery
Repository/State
Imagery Plan

I am writing to offer support for funding of a Montana State Imagery (ie aerial photography) Repository. Our agency uses imagery and aerial photography to aid with inspections, analyze how sites change over time, enforce permit actions, etc. We have gone from imagery being something that is "nice to have" to it being an indispensable component of our inspection workflows. What use to take an inspector one or two full days to walk can be accomplished in a matter of a couple of hours now, and makes communicating with permittees about what is going on at a site much easier and straightforward.

There are numerous other agencies within the State that use and collect imagery as well, and the lack of a single distribution node for imagery collections makes the sharing and collaboration of data extremely difficult. If there was a single location where data collected by various agencies could be distributed, it may save agency time and expense for completing an imagery collection, if the agency had knowledge of and access to the collection.

I am also advocating for funding for a statewide, 6 inch resolution, leaf off collection. The current statewide data that is collected by USDA through the NAIP program is often at a resolution that is not adequate for our uses. Having a statewide collection would help us fill in the gaps between the collections we do ourselves, and help us examine what is occurring at a permitted site in between inspections.

I work as a GIS Tech/Analyst for Madison County. I fully support a Montana Imagery Repository and State Imagery program. For our immediate county needs, having up-to-date imagery will help us account for all the roads, bridges, commercial, and residential structures in our county. We can't rely on an ESRI imagery basemap, because the imagery will not show recently constructed infrastructure.

My vision for imagery for Montana is that we can use imagery combined with other GIS resources to tackle important state issues like disaster preparedness/relief, agriculture, mining, archaeology, tourism development, forestry, and monitoring large mammal populations e.g. bison, cattle, elk, etc.

We should have a Montana Imagery repository within the current MSL GIS infrastructure, because it will allow Montana residents, businesses, and government entities to access and request imagery specific to Montana rather than go through a tedious search and query process using other imagery websites that could cost money to access or download.

Ideally, an imagery repository should allow the user to query the imagery based on different attributes such as when image was taken as well as what the image type such as taken by an aircraft or satellite and the sensor type such as visible spectrum, infrared, and lidar. If possible, a process to request new imagery i.e. imagery collection should be incorporated to account for what type of imagery they need as previously described.

Imagery files could be extremely large to download. So some imagery types should be available as a web service. Another consideration is imagery analysis software. ArcGIS has imagery analysis capability but other software packages like ERDAS Imagine and ENVI are better. Imagery analysis processes include building elevation models and classifying image pixels according to land use.

Imagery residing at the Montana State Library is within the library's mission because imagery could be integrated with other GIS types such cadastral and infrastructure.

In addition, I think it would serve the state well if we can integrate a State Imagery Program with the grant recipient, Headwaters Hub, who are working on new remote sensing capabilities:

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/regional-technology-and-innovation-hubs/2023/Headwaters-Hub>
V/R

Manuel L. Cajuguiran

Virginia City MT

State Imagery
Program

Manuel "Manny" Cajuguiran

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for considering the proposed 2025 Legislative Budget Request for resource sharing infrastructure as presented by Jennie Stapp. As a public librarian who has worked at the Bozeman Public Library for nearly 15 years, I've seen firsthand the incredible cost savings for the public in collaborative services like the MT Shared Catalog, Partners & courier systems, and shared e-resources. Simply put, when we can negotiate and invest in these essential services on a statewide scale, we get better deals with vendors, minimize redundancy, and create smoother systems for MT library patrons. This proposed budget ask would benefit Montanans in every community across our beautiful state.

22-1-328, MCA ,
Statewide

Interlibrary Resource-
Sharing Program

Warmly,

Kathleen McPherson Glynn

Bozeman Public Library

Library Assistant

Kathleen McPherson
Glynn

Bozeman MT

Good morning. I am planning to be there in person to share, but if time runs short before the lunch break, I felt it is important to share this with you digitally.

My name is Debra Westrom. I have been a librarian at Hellgate Elementary in Missoula since 2011 and our school was a part of the Montana Shared Catalog prior to that. I was on the MSC Executive Board for over 6 years. The Montana Shared Catalog is an invaluable resource for not only school libraries, but all libraries involved. The services that the MSC offers to all libraries involved allows these services to be shared among libraries of all sizes and types across the state. The staff at the MSC are professional and very technologically proficient in the skills that this network requires. They are available and work hard to meet the needs of the MSC libraries and their patrons.

Speaking specifically for school libraries, the librarians/schools do not have the time and often the financial means to make the contracts with the companies who provide the digital library services. Nor do these schools have the resources to hire catalogers and other staff to maintain the system itself. Having more libraries participate in these services, allows for a more competitive cost to be shared by those participating libraries no matter what school size the library might be.

The training that the MSC staff provides either in person, via Zoom or the Aspen/Zoho video links is fantastic. Their office hours allow for librarians to connect and get questions answered both at their convenience as well as being able to network and hear from other librarians with similar issues across the state.

Access to information is very important in this digital age. Providing students/patrons with the services and information that the MSC provides is important for our entire state.

I have also used and shared links with colleagues to the Montana Historical Society and Lifelong Learning Digest programs. I have had students participate in contests provided by the Montana Historical Society - we are currently creating memes for this year's Meme contest. They are fascinated with the photos they are finding. I have participated in Professional Developments for both services. I attended the Montana Memory Project teacher institute in Choteau where we created exhibits to organize and share some of the digitized primary sources from Montana so teachers can use them with their students. My staff is appreciative of the professional development opportunities as well as information that I share with them from these services.

Receiving state funding will help to make these programs accessible to more and more people across the state and assist those already participating. Budgets everywhere are tight.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support for these invaluable programs and services for the students/patrons/librarians in Montana.

Debra Westrom

Missoula

MT

legislative budget requests and resource sharing

I support the budget request for a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. In a state as large and diverse as Montana, resource-sharing provides equal access to books and materials for all citizens, including those in rural communities and homeschooling families. This is the fiscally responsible choice at a time when individual libraries cannot always fund these important resources. It's important that the Montana State Library serve ALL of our families with equal access to information, databases, the Shared Catalog, and other important services. Thank you!

Cindy Christin

Bozeman

MT

Resource Sharing

John Backes	Bozeman	MT	22-1-328, MCA states that the commission shall establish a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. The purpose of the program is to administer funds appropriated by the legislature to support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana.	Please support and advocate for our statewide resource sharing programs. Best use of tax money at a low cost with high performance results. Thanks....John Backes
Bonnie White	Bozeman	MT	Funding for libraries	There is no current legislative funding for the libraries. I am asking the commission to appropriate 10 million dollars so our libraries can have fully funded access to Montana 2Go.OCLC Group Services, a statewide courier, expanded database access and our integrated library system, the Montana Shared Catalog among other things .
Robin Rude	Billings	Montana	2025 Legislative Budget Requests	Statewide GIS Imagery collection as well as an imagery repository are necessary and beneficial to all state agencies. Imagery could be shared between agencies and more current up to date imagery can be made available to improve efficiency across the enterprise. The Property Assessment Division of the Montana Department of Revenue could use the imagery to identify new or missing property and efficiently deploy field staff. We could eliminate unnecessary field visits by having a more robust tool for desk reviews with the ability to verify property characteristics from the imagery. State agencies would be able to contribute financially at a much lower cost than trying to acquire the imagery on there own, which ends up duplicating costs to the taxpayers.

Vic Mortimer	Stevensville	Montana	MSL Commission Meeting on 22-1-328. Statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program	I urge the funding of the interlibrary resource-sharing program. I live relatively close to the fantastic resources of the Missoula Public Library, but many areas of the state are not so fortunate. As a school librarian, I would welcome greater opportunities for my students to have easier access to materials. I teach in Corvallis, which has no public library of its own, which means that a significant number of my students do not have easy access to even the Bitterroot Public Library. Libraries make a positive difference for all Montanans and funding the mandate to share those resources would be good for all of us. Thank you.
Harry Benham	Bozeman	Montana	Budget Request for Library Resource Sharing	I urge you to seriously consider the Montana Library Association's \$10 million proposed budget request to implement Library Resource Sharing. Their proposal covers multiple forms of resource sharing from a shared statewide catalog to courier service to physically share books around the state. The also include access to electronic resources. Sharing will be cost effective. It provides resources to the citizens of Montana while saving our tax dollars. It's way cheaper to have one subscription to a service than for several individual libraries to subscribe. Please look with favor on the Library Association's proposal.
Janice R. Benham	Bozeman	Montana	The request from the Montana State Library to support funding for the library resource sharing infrastructure.	Our libraries in Montana are a treasure house of information for our citizens on an incredible range of topics. Funding the interlibrary resource-sharing program allows them to greatly expand the number of resources and programs that they can obtain for our citizens by sharing with each other. Such funding is money wisely spent, not only because of the expanded range of resources, but because each library does not then have to find and purchase programs to allow them to access resources separately.
Yvonne Rudman	Bozeman	Montana	\$10M appropriation for libraries	I am writing to have an appropriation \$10M for the program to be fund public libraries for full funding for access to MontanaLibrary2Go, OCLC Group Services, a statewide courier, expanded database access, and our integrated library system the Montana Shared Catalog, among other things.