To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Sue Jackson, LSTA Coordinator
Re: LSTA update
Date: September 26, 2005

IMLS PROGRAM OFFICER SITE VISIT

Michele Farrell, Montana's assigned Program Officer from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), made her first visit to Montana the week of August 29. Michele asked Montana State Library (MSL) staff to plan an itinerary that would allow her to visit as many libraries as possible. Her first day was spent in Helena meeting MSL staff and learning details about current Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) projects. The following three days, Michele traveled 1,069 miles and visited 24 libraries. Don Allen, Darlene Staffeldt, Bob Cooper, Bruce Newell, and I accompanied her on various legs of the trip.

Michele's itinerary included tours of libraries built with Montana's final LSCA funds (Hot Springs and Sheridan), visits to many Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) libraries (original MSC members as well as libraries joining in 2005), public libraries of all sizes (Missoula, Polson, Virginia City, Harlowton, Lewistown, Stanford, Belt, etc.), school libraries (Plains, Drummond, Ronan, St. Ignatius), and a tribal college library (Salish-Kootenai). Michele was very impressed with all the libraries and learned much during her meetings with librarians about LSTA-funded projects. She was also enthusiastic about Montana – the fire near Plains, the bison and antelope, the mountains, the Missouri River, the wide-open spaces ("there's nothing here"), and the huckleberry ice cream.

Michele will file a report to IMLS administrators about the site visit. She assured Darlene that Montana is in complete compliance with IMLS rules and regulations and indicated that her report would highlight this status.

LSTA Project Updates

Trustee Training Projects LSTA = $31,000 (2004) LSTA = $10,000 (2005)

The Library Board Education Program (LBEP) continues to have trained trustees presenting workshops for library boards.

Registration for the two trustee workshops scheduled for October/November 2005 will begin in late September.

Fall Workshop 2005 LSTA = $10,000 (2005)

The 7th annual Fall Workshop will be held in Great Falls on September 30-October 1. To date, 80 individuals have registered.

Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) LSTA = $158,309 (2005)

Mineral County Library (Superior) has withdrawn from participation in the 2005 MSC Start Up Project after being selected to join the catalog. The second round of this year's Start Up Project is now open for libraries to apply for LSTA assistance to join the catalog. Application deadline is December 2005. The new MSC Technical Assistant position has been announced at an increased salary.