

Montana State Digital Library

June and July 2008

Prepared for August 13, 2008 Commission meeting by Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Division Administrator. This report represents accomplishments of:

Natural Resource Information System (NRIS),
Library Information Services (LIS),
Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP).

Goal One, Content: MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

- NRIS continued to do weekly updates of the Montana Water Rights database and the DEQ Remediation Division's Underground Storage Tank database and hourly updates of the air monitoring data for the DEQ air quality monitoring web site at <http://todaysair.mt.gov>.
- NRIS continued to provide monthly updates of the Montana drought status map for the Governor's Drought Committee and the Snowpack, Streamflow Prospects, and Surface Water Supply maps for the NRCS.
- NRIS staff added data showing the perimeters of wildland fires in Montana for 2000-2007 to the GIS Clearinghouse.
- LIS weeded dead journal runs according to the MSL collection development policy.
- LIS met with various ITSD staff to further discuss long-term preservation of state publications in LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe). Discussion focused on hardware location, specifications, cost, and bandwidth issues.
- LIS developed a draft natural resource information collection development strategy that may eventually be integrated into larger MSL collection development policy. This will be reviewed with NHP and NRIS staff.
- NHP added just over 5300 new animal observation records to the databases, as well as 76 new plant occurrence records and another 93 updates were made since late May.

- NHP received over 2000 new animal observation records from BLM as the result of training workshops we held in Billings & Miles City (see goal three. NHP staff is processing these records into the Observation database.
- NHP Staff have collected a large amount of new data already this summer, including some particularly significant additions:
 - Several new populations of western pearlshell mussel, along with further evidence that most populations of the species are in decline;
 - Discovery of a rubber boa in the Powder River basin, 120 miles east of its previously known range in Montana;
 - Enough new locations for sagebrush lizard, plains spadefoot toad and two plant species that they may be dropped as Species of Concern in the next review cycle.
- With the addition of some new publications, users now have full-text access to over 200 NHP publications on the web.

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.

- NRIS responded to 94 mediated requests for maps, GIS data, GIS technical assistance, or general information about geography. These consisted of 40 requests from State agencies, 8 requests from federal agencies, 8 requests from local or tribal government agencies, 5 requests from educational institutions or students, and 33 requests from private agencies or citizens.
- NRIS was awarded a grant from the Montana Land Information Advisory Council to coordinate updates of the Montana portion of the National Hydrography Dataset, the nation's official inventory of surface water features such as streams, lakes and ponds.
- LIS worked with MSL web manager to provide streaming video content from the online catalog. The first video is of a training offered to librarians at the 2008 Offline Conference in Missoula.
- On June 12th, 2008 LIS staff provided information about LIS services and resources during the New Employee Orientation for state employees offered by the Professional Development Center.

- LIS began a year-long project to scan approximately 5000 state publications. LIS created shipping lists and sent 16 boxes of state publications to the Open Content Alliance scanning facility in San Francisco. First to be scanned are publications of the Montana State Library including annual reports, library catalogs and publications of NHP and NRIS.
- LIS continued meetings with NHP staff to develop dynamically generated web pages for new publications. This project is intended as a prototype for providing access to other state agency publications.
- NHP staff responded to 183 information requests from May 15 to July 22, an average of nearly 4 requests per business day.
- The Natural Heritage Tracker received 406 person-hours of use from May 15 to July 15, averaging about 9 user-hours per business day, and another 60 new observation records were reported by users of Tracker.

Goal Three, Consultation and Leadership: MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

- NRIS staff met with GIS staff from the Census and Economic Information Center to discuss strategies for making map data in Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD) format available on their web site and methods for converting it to a format easier for GIS software to use.
- NRIS staff consulted with GIS staff from the Montana Office of the Bureau of Land Management regarding requirements for scanning aerial photos provided by DNRC that will eventually be made available on the MSL GIS Clearinghouse.
- NRIS staff performed a technical review of the Milk River Irrigation Project Joint Board of Control's application for funding from the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Program of a system-wide mapping project.
- LIS met with lead member of Upper Yellowstone River Taskforce to discuss how to bundle and provide optimum access to their maps and publications.

- Trainings in use of the new Tracker web application (available to users in a development version) were provided to some 22 agency personnel from the BLM, MT-FWP and NRCS in the Billings & Miles City areas. Attendees were excited about the unprecedented access that Tracker provides to species distribution data, and responded by contributing lots more data from their files, to be added into the NHP databases so that it is accessible via Tracker.
- NHP Aquatic Ecologist Dave Stagliano led a field workshop to train natural resource field staff in how to survey for and identify the western pearlshell mussel, as part of a statewide inventory of that species.
- NHP staff assisted MT-FWP staff in setting up a statewide wildlife diversity monitoring project, and trained the field crews in standardized survey protocols.
- NHP Systems & Services Manager Allan Cox presented NHP information and resources to the Montana Association of Land Trusts.
- NHP staff is working with MT-FWP and the Department of Administration to develop and provide access to a new land cover data layer for the state. It will include descriptions of the Ecological System types that are being used for the mapping effort. Both agencies are providing funding to assist in completing this important data layer.

Goal Four, Collaboration: MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.

- Digital Library staff, along with staff from the Statewide Library Resources Division gave presentations about program resources and services before a contingent of international librarians touring the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Attendees were from Africa, Europe, Asia and Central America.
- NRIS staff continued to coordinate updates of the Montana portion of the USGS National Hydrography Dataset, the nation's official inventory of surface water features such as streams, lakes and ponds.
- NRIS staff worked with the staff of DEQ to improve the DEQ real-time air quality reporting web site at <http://todaysair.mt.gov>. The site now has 11 air monitoring locations rather than 6, the map now shows the cumulative health risk of air quality over the last 24 hours instead of the

less valid risk based on the most recent report, and eliminated a problem where the cumulative air quality average was not calculated if some values for a station were missing.

- NRIS signed contract extensions with DNRC, DEQ, MontanaView and FWP for ongoing GIS, images and web application support.
- Gerry Daumiller attended the annual meeting of the Ground Water Assessment Steering Committee, to approve the proposed FY09 budget and work plan for the ground water monitoring program of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
- NRIS participated in the state Enterprise License Agreement Work Group to determine each state agency's fair share of the cost of the statewide enterprise license agreement for GIS software, and maintained the database and web site that allows agencies to request training classes provided by the vendor under the agreement.
- NRIS staff met with ITSD, FSA and NRCS staff to learn the status of the next federal aerial photography projects in Montana and to organize a meeting to inform state agencies of the opportunity to fund improvements in the next project.
- LIS participated in state agency librarians' Roundtable meeting hosted by the Law Library of the State of Montana.
- LIS met with Montana University System archivists and science librarians to learn more about their collection development policies and potential interest in receiving university publications removed from LIS collections.
- This year, NHP staff has been pleased to cooperate with three tribal governments (Rocky Boy, Fort Peck and Blackfeet) to identify exemplary wetlands as references for various types of wetlands, and with private ranchers in south central Montana for baseline animal surveys. By helping to fill in these traditional "gaps" in our data coverages, the results will provide a better picture of natural resource diversity and distribution in Montana. Tribal and private land managers also benefit with better information to help them manage resources on their lands. Discussions are underway to include other Tribal lands in 2010 surveys.

Goal Five, 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.

- NRIS hired Diane Papineau of Bozeman to fill one of the vacant GIS Analyst positions.
- NRIS staff created work objectives and completed performance appraisal forms for staff for FY09.
- LIS hired a librarian to manage and promote greater integration of natural resource content within MSDL.
- LIS removed cube walls in staff work area to promote greater collaboration and improve work atmosphere.
- LIS interviewed multiple candidates for open position of state publications librarian.
- NHP hired Karen Newlon as an Ecologist and Project Manager, focusing on wetland assessments.
- The NHP User Survey was launched with emails to nearly 800 users and cooperators. The survey had logged over 50 responses in the first hour and nearly 200 during the first week! It will continue running until mid-August, to allow plenty of time for responses from people who have been in the field and/or on vacations over the summer months.
- Jennie Stapp and Gerry Daumiller are currently attending an intensive Essentials of Management training offered by the State Professional Development Center. This course runs for eight days over five weeks.
- Staff is participating in a Disaster Recovery Planning training offered by the Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service. Information learned in this training will be incorporated into an agency-wide disaster recovery plan.

Evidences of MSDL successes:

OCLC Digital Archive Access Summary

POINT Of ACCESS	STATE	ITEMS ACCESSED
UNIV OF MONTANA, MANSFIELD LIBR	Montana	43
MONTANA STATE LIBR	Montana	33

US GEOL SURVEY, NAT CTR	Virginia	11
UNIV OF MICHIGAN LIBR	Michigan	3
VDOT RESEARCH LIBR	Virginia	3
UNIV OF WASHINGTON LIBR	Washington	3
MONTANA STATE UNIV, MSU LIBR	Montana	2
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	California	2
NATIONAL ACAD, GEORGE E BROWN JR LIBR	Distr. of Columbia	2
UNIV OF UTAH	Utah	2
UNIV OF VIRGINIA	Virginia	2
MILES COMMUN COL LIBR	Montana	2
MISSOULA PUB LIBR	Montana	2
UNIV OF DELAWARE	Delaware	1
MICHIGAN STATE UNIV	Michigan	1
MARQUETTE UNIV RAYNOR MEMORIAL LIBR	Wisconsin	1
MAINE STATE LIBR	Maine	1
MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBR	Maryland	1
WASHINGTON STATE UNIV	Washington	1
BOISE STATE UNIV	Idaho	1
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIV	Texas	1
UNIV OF ALASKA, ELMER E RASMUSON LIBR	Alaska	1
UNIV OF PUGET SOUND LIBR	Washington	1
CHOUTEAU CNTY LIBR	Montana	1
Public	N/A	1015

NRIS, LIS and NHP Web Stats
(daily averages exclude robots and spiders)

- NRIS Web Statistics: nris.mt.gov averaged 1830 visitor sessions per day in June and 1639 visitor sessions per day in July.

The five most requested pages in July are:

1. NRIS Home <http://nris.mt.gov> - 17393
2. Map of 2007 Montana Legislature <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/legislat/2007> - 16626
3. DNRC Water Right Query System <http://nris.mt.gov/dnrc/waterrights> - 13787
4. Digital Atlas <http://maps2.nris.mt.gov/mapper> - 11724
5. Montana Land Ownership Maps <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/ownmaps.asp> - 8640

The five most downloaded files in July are:

1. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/hwymapmdt.pdf> - 2769
2. http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/100kpvt_dillon.pdf - 885
3. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/ab105.pdf> - 529
4. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/mtrange.pdf> - 410
5. http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/2007_2008_mt_highway_map.pdf - 406

- MSL Web Statistics: msl.mt.gov averaged 1067 visitor sessions per day in June and 1106 visitor sessions per day in July.

The five most requested directories at msl.mt.gov in July are:

1. For_Librarians
2. RSS_Feeds
3. WhatsYourStory
4. Districts
5. TBL

The five most requested pages managed by LIS at msl.mt.gov in July are:

1. For the Public http://msl.mt.gov/For_the_Public - 917
2. For State Employees http://msl.mt.gov/for_state_employees - 878
3. State Publications http://msl.mt.gov/For_the_Public/State_Publications - 551
4. State Publications http://msl.mt.gov/For_State_Employees/State_Publications - 480
5. Submit State Publications
http://msl.mt.gov/For_State_Employees/Submit_State_Publications - 457

- NHP Web Statistics: nhp.nris.mt.gov averaged 710 visitor sessions per day in June and 1006 visitor sessions per day in July.

The five most requested pages in July are:

1. Community Field Guide Report http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/community/guide_report.asp
2. Tracker <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/tracker>
3. Species Information <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/animal/>
4. Montana Natural Heritage Program <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/>
5. Tracker2 <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/tracker2>

The five most downloaded files in July are:

1. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/community/community_list_2002.pdf - 569
2. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/reports/aqinvert_soc_r1.pdf - 444
2. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/reports/usfs_mollusks.pdf - 388
4. <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/plants/reports/squarebutte.pdf> - 371
5. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/reports/bitterroot_change.pdf - 344