

Montana State Digital Library

February through March 2009

Prepared for the April 25, 2009 Commission meeting by Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Division Administrator. This report represents accomplishments of:

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

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

1) It is spring time and the LIS staff is doing an "extreme make-over" of its federal documents collection. For many years LIS heroically managed documents from a wide range of federal agencies, e.g. Departments of Commerce, Labor, Energy, the Smithsonian Institute, etc. A couple of years ago, as reflected in the MSL Strategic Plan 2006-2011, LIS planned to cease acquisition and management of federal documents. However, this plan was reconsidered because it was determined to be at odds with our mandate to acquire and provide access to natural resource information of which federal documents produced by natural resource agencies are an invaluable source.

Today led by the natural resources librarian, Steve Jeffery, the federal documents collection, in accord with the MSL collection development policy, focuses exclusively on natural resource information about Montana. A color coding system is about to be implemented to improve browsability. Half-inch strips of blue tape attached to the lower end of bindings on four major series of Interior Department publications will readily identify for users all documents with "Montana" in the title. Tattered bindings are getting rebound. Missing items are getting replaced. Whenever possible, access is provided to digital documents. Nearly 3,000 print items were recently acquired to complete several different U.S. Geological Survey series

making these series more valuable to researchers. Most notable, while every federal publication has always been classified and labeled, soon every item will also be part of the online catalog. The sum effect of these developments is improved access to natural resource information about Montana at the State Library.

2) The MTNHP Ecology program recently produced three new reports, available on our website (<http://mtnhp.org/reports.asp>) and through the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC).

1. *Assessing Wetland Condition with GIS: A Landscape Integrity Model for Montana*
2. *Geographically Isolated Wetlands and Intermittent Streams in Montana: Extent, Distribution and Function*
3. *Wetlands of the Flathead Valley: Change and Ecological Functions*

The second report has already been cited extensively by the Environmental Protection Agency in an analysis of Clean Water Act jurisdiction in the Rocky Mountain States.

3) The Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center finished preliminary wetland mapping of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin for the Department of Justice's Natural Resource Damage Program, and is currently producing wetland maps of the Yellowstone River Corridor for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Custer County Conservation District.

4) The Zoology Program recently finished the *Montana Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Plan*. The 1,400 page document summarizes a great deal of information on the distribution, status, and biology of amphibians and reptiles known or thought to potentially, inhabit Montana and is intended to become a dynamic living document that can be updated on a regular basis from research conducted in Montana or elsewhere.

5) The Ecology program just released a preliminary state-wide Land Cover GIS layer. This layer is being used by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in planning its statewide Crucial Areas analysis.

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.

1) The MTNHP recently published 102 updated Land Stewardship Maps. These maps are produced from its Land Stewardship Mapping database. The maps are based on the US Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale topographic map series and use those boundaries as the indexing tiles. The maps depict three main categories of land management:

- *Public Lands*
- *Conservation Easements*
- *Special designated lands such as wildlife refuges, Research Natural Areas, wilderness, etc.*

All maps are provided in Adobe PDF format and downloadable from the MTNHP web site: <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/ownmaps.asp>. The maps are designed to be printed at a size of 36 by 30 inches on a large format printer.

2) LIS is currently on track and on budget to complete the first phase of its state publications digitization project by June 30, 2009. To date 120 boxes containing 7407 publications have been shipped for scanning. Nearly 400,000 digitized pages are now viewable online. The Internet Archive provides a [subject index](#) to these recently digitized state publications.

Digitization project progress can be monitored on our website at:

<http://msl.mt.gov/digitization/default.asp>.

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

Four NRIS staff members attended the MAGIP (Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals) Spring Meeting in Miles City where they sponsored two of the four workshops offered and presented information at additional sessions. Duane Lund and Keven Roth, a retired USGS employee, held a workshop on using the National Hydrography Dataset

(<http://nris.mt.gov/nsdi/nhd/>). Gerry Daumiller and Diane Papineau held a workshop on publishing Metadata to the Montana GIS Portal (<http://gisportal.mt.gov/Portal/>). Evan Hammer presented on the importance of GIS user participation in the Montana GIS Portal project and the cooperative agreement between NRIS and the Base Map Service Center (BMSC) to work as co-stewards of the OrthoImagery Framework Layer (<http://giscoordination.mt.gov/ortho/default.asp>).

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

1) NRIS and the BMSC jointly submitted a grant application to the Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC) to outline their plans to act as co-stewards of the OrthoImagery Framework Layer. Satellite and Aerial Imagery is one of the most resource intensive of the MSDI framework layers. Image data is extremely expensive to acquire, process, and its true value is only realized if both current and historical imagery is made available in an easily accessible manner. We believe that it will require the combined resources of NRIS and BMSC to effectively support this layer for the people of the State of Montana. Grant awards will be made in May.

2) The NRIS staff has spent a great deal of time providing maps to support the current legislative session. This began with some custom map requests from the Governor's Office and has evolved into an active role of supporting a set of mapping tools being implemented to track American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects. NRIS and BMSC worked with the Governor's Office to produce a cartographic standard for all agencies to use that map projects to the Montana Reinvestment Act (MRA) website (<http://recovery.mt.gov>). Gerry Daumiller and Diane Papineau are working with Keith Blount (BMSC) to develop a set of ARRA map templates to facilitate the contribution of static map products to the MRA website. Evan Hammer, Duane Lund, Jeff Dobb, and Tom Marino, also with assistance from the BMSC, put together a prototype interactive mapping page to help with ARRA project reporting.

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.

Following a rigorous review process, Duane Lund received certification as a GIS Professional from the GIS Certification Institute (<http://www.gisci.org>).