Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Director

Date: October 28, 2010

Re: Base Map Service Center move to the State Library

The Base Map Service Center (BMSC) is a bureau of the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) of the Montana Department of Administration. The seven staff in this bureau is currently housed in a location off the capitol complex. The lease for this location ends in December so this summer the Department of Administration approached the State Library and asked if we had room to house these staff.

This is an opportunity that we welcome. Like our Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), the BMSC develops, maintains and provides access to GIS data about Montana. Their area of expertise is in data related to "human geography" such as government boundaries, transportation, land ownership, and structures. While this data is different from the natural resource data maintained by NRIS, there is significant overlap in these data which requires a great deal of coordination and collaboration between these two programs. For example, it is very important for staff who manages stream flow and transportation data to ensure that data lines up accurately so that bridges cross rivers in appropriate places. Moreover, and more importantly from my perspective, the BMSC has realized that their mission to maintain and provide access to data more closely matches the mission of the library than it does the mission of ITSD. This move will therefore allow us to leverage additional staff and data to provide an even greater level of information and services to our patrons.

As further efficiencies are found through the co-location of NRIS and the BMSC, we may eventually realize that the most value from this relationship may be gained through an

administrative merger of the BMSC into the State Library. Based on questions and feedback received following the announcement of our physical merger, we anticipate that this would be strongly supported by the GIS Community.