

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Director
Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

Date: May 24, 2011

Re: State GIS Taskforce Recommendation – Action Item

The Commission is asked to take action on the following recommendation from the Montana GIS Task Force as endorsed by David Ewer, Governor's Budget Director.

State GIS Taskforce Recommendation

As was discussed at the April Commission meeting, a recommendation has been put forward by the Montana GIS Taskforce (Taskforce) which calls for the administrative merger of the staff of the Base Map Service Center (BMSC), currently a program of the Department of Administration (DOA) State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD), into the State Library. This Taskforce was charged with reviewing "what works and what does not" for GIS in Montana and to make a recommendation regarding how to improve the efficient delivery of GIS for the state. Their recommendation is based on a review of the statutory mission and goals of both the DOA/SITSD and the State Library. The Taskforce found that the role of the BMSC to manage and make accessible the GIS information under their authority is closely aligned with the mission and goals of MSL but not with the mission and goals of SITSD. The Taskforce believes that if this administrative merger is accomplished, greater efficiencies in the delivery of GIS data will be found.

In order to accomplish this organizational merger, this recommendation includes transferring all associated funding for the Base Map Service Center including Montana Land Information Advisory Act account and coordination funds and state and federal grants to the State Library. If approved, some of these funds would be used to

maintain .75 FTE in the MSL Central Services program. .25 of this FTE is currently targeted for reduction as a result of recent budget cuts.

Although this recommendation does not include additional funding to support the added workload to the State Librarian, the Digital Library Director and other impacted staff, MSL staff strongly supports this recommendation. We believe that this reorganization will reduce long-standing confusion over the roles and responsibilities of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and the BMSC, that it will result in more efficient delivery of GIS data to our patrons and that it will allow staff of NRIS and the BMSC to more effectively plan for and implement GIS data management and delivery in the future.

Upon your action to support this recommendation, the next immediate steps will be: Preparation of the appropriate Administrative Appropriation Budget Change Document(s) and a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by DOA and MSL.