

Digital Library Work Report October and November 2016

Prepared for the December 14, 2016 MSL Commission meeting
by Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator

This report represents accomplishments of Digital Library staff: Troy Blandford, Keith Blount, Meghan Burns, Gerry Daumiller, Maya Daurio, Karen Dimmitt, Jessica Edwards, Michael Fashoway, Jo Genzlinger, Evan Hammer, Bob Holliday, Jim Kammerer, Kenny Ketner, Duane Lund and Diane Papineau.

- I reported that the digital library was fully staffed in the October report so I'm not sure there is much more to say on that.
- I also reported on the ELA in October and there hasn't been substantive change on that (still waiting for signatures)
- I could provide a Land Plan update but this might wait until the next meeting since it hasn't been approved yet.
- We are placing added emphasis on the outreach aspect of the GIS Coordinator position and the need for Coordinator and members of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council to be more engaged not just with the Montana GIS Community, but with GIS activities in other states as well. To help make this happen we increased the Montana Land Information Advisory Council budget from about \$3,500 in FY16 to \$10,000 in FY17 and encouraged council members to use this funding to participate in outreach activities such as the National States Geographic Information Council's annual meeting. Three MSL employees, two MLIAC members, and 1 MSL Commissioner attended the meeting in Indianapolis in October and had the opportunity to hear about the types of plans states are putting in place for things such as Next Generation 9-1-1, the 3-D Elevation Program, and the growing availability and shrinking cost of high resolution aerial imagery. It was great to have a large leadership presence at the meeting and we believe that it will lead to a more active and engaged council. We hope to be able to also take at least one Council member to the NSGIC Midyear conference in Annapolis, MD in February.
- Seven people were appointed to open positions on the Montana Land Information Advisory Council. While many of these are returning members, we are excited to have them back on the council in an official capacity. More information about the appointments can be found here - <http://www.abcfoxmontana.com/story/33748268/governor-bullock-announces-council-appointments>

- The Department of Revenue established rules outlining a procedure for the nondisclosure of property record information. Because this impacts the data that MSL makes available through the Montana Cadastral Mapping Website (<http://gis.mt.gov>) MSL worked closely with the Department of Revenue to ensure that the rules met the intended purpose of protecting members of the public that may be at risk of physical harm without having unintentionally limiting open access to property record information and causing an unintended work burden for MSL staff supporting the cadastral application. We are supportive of the final version of the rules that were implemented and feel that they strike a necessary balance between privacy and information access. The complete rule as it was adopted can be found at - [MAR 42-2-958adp](#)
- As we move into the second year of the Managed Services environment, an emphasis has been placed on making as many of the 15 MSDI datasets as possible available to the general public as open access web map services. There are currently 26 MSDI services available covering 11 of the 15 MSDI datasets and we hope to be adding services for an additional dataset, Climate, in the near future. The only remaining themes without services will be Geology, Elevation, and Soils. We have also added services for commonly used non-MSDI datasets including a Montana Mask, a statewide coverage of 1:24k, 1:100K and 1:250K Topographic Quadrangles, and a collection of Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quads (DOQQs) collected by the USGS over several years in the later 1990s and early 2000s.
- The [Yellowstone Clearinghouse website](#) revamp is complete. Before, the website was essentially one long list of GIS data, reports, and maps. It was hard to find what one needed. Now it is better organized by topic and includes additional GIS data and final reports, an online map viewer, and two story maps that highlight information (physical features by reach) gathered during the Yellowstone Cumulative Effects Analysis. The website and story maps were presented at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention and there were good questions asked about how a similar approach to information management might be taken in other river basins. There is potential for the Yellowstone Clearinghouse map viewer and story maps to assist conservation districts with administering 310 permits.
- We continue to receive updated hydrography data from Glacier National Park. They recently sent us revised flowlines and waterbodies for the Belly River 8-digit HUC within the Park boundary. We are on track to complete stream, river, and waterbody updates for all subbasins within the Park by approximately this time next year. It has been mentioned in past commission reports but it is worth noting again: To date, Glacier National Park is our only hydrography dataset sub steward – directly assisting with editing. This is an important first step in developing a support structure that leverages the work of partner agencies acting as sub stewards to assist with the overall maintenance of the Montana Hydrography Dataset.
- We worked with the DNRC State Drought Coordinator to revise the monthly [drought status map](#). The new map is cleaner and better aligned with categories used by the US Drought Monitor. We will continue to coordinate with the DNRC on the [drought.mt.gov](#)

website and how to make content more relevant at the basin-level and to watershed groups. Through the Water Information System Manager MSL has been involved in discussions to update the State Drought Management Plan.