

# Montana GIS Operating Environment Report & Recommendations

September 2006

# MLIA COUNCIL Motion

- By motion at the June 2006 meeting, the MLIAC asked the CIO "to assess the current state of a common operating picture for the coordination and distribution of State of Montana geographic information assets and report at MLIAC on 9/7/2006."

# Direction from CIO

- Appointed a 4-person subcommittee to assess the GIS common operating picture, developing a final report that summarized the findings, and make recommendations about the future direction of GIS within the State of Montana.

# Sub-Committee

- Robin Trenbeath (State Agencies)
- Lance Clampitt (Federal Gov't.)
- RJ Zimmer (Local Gov't.)
- Ken Wall (Private Sector)

# Approach

- Roadmap or vision, not detail
- No predetermined outcomes
- Motivated to find long-term solutions
- Reviewed historical perspective
- Examined legal environment
- Interviewed MSL, ITSD & Others

# Recommendations

- **Hire a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) located in the Governor's Office**
  - High-level GIS advocate
  - Responsibility and oversight for managing the geospatial information efforts across all State agencies
  - Final arbitrator for all decisions related to State GIS processes and operations
- **GIO should strive to seamlessly merge geography applications into agency business processes**
- **Multiple pathways for consumers of information find the data they seek**
- **GIO should have oversight responsibility for the stewardship of all MSDI layers**

# Recommendations (con't.)

- Data enhancements and applications for MSDI usability and access may be done by any agency under the direction of the GIO
- The NRIS should be the GIS Clearinghouse for the State of Montana by being the primary gateway (GIS Data Portal) for spatial information access
- Any public or private entity may provide GIS data through the Montana GIS Data Portal
- The NRIS GIS Data Portal function is not limited to GIS natural resource information
- The data archival management responsibility should remain with NRIS, while archival data storage with the Data Warehouse (ITSD)

# Recommendations (con't.)

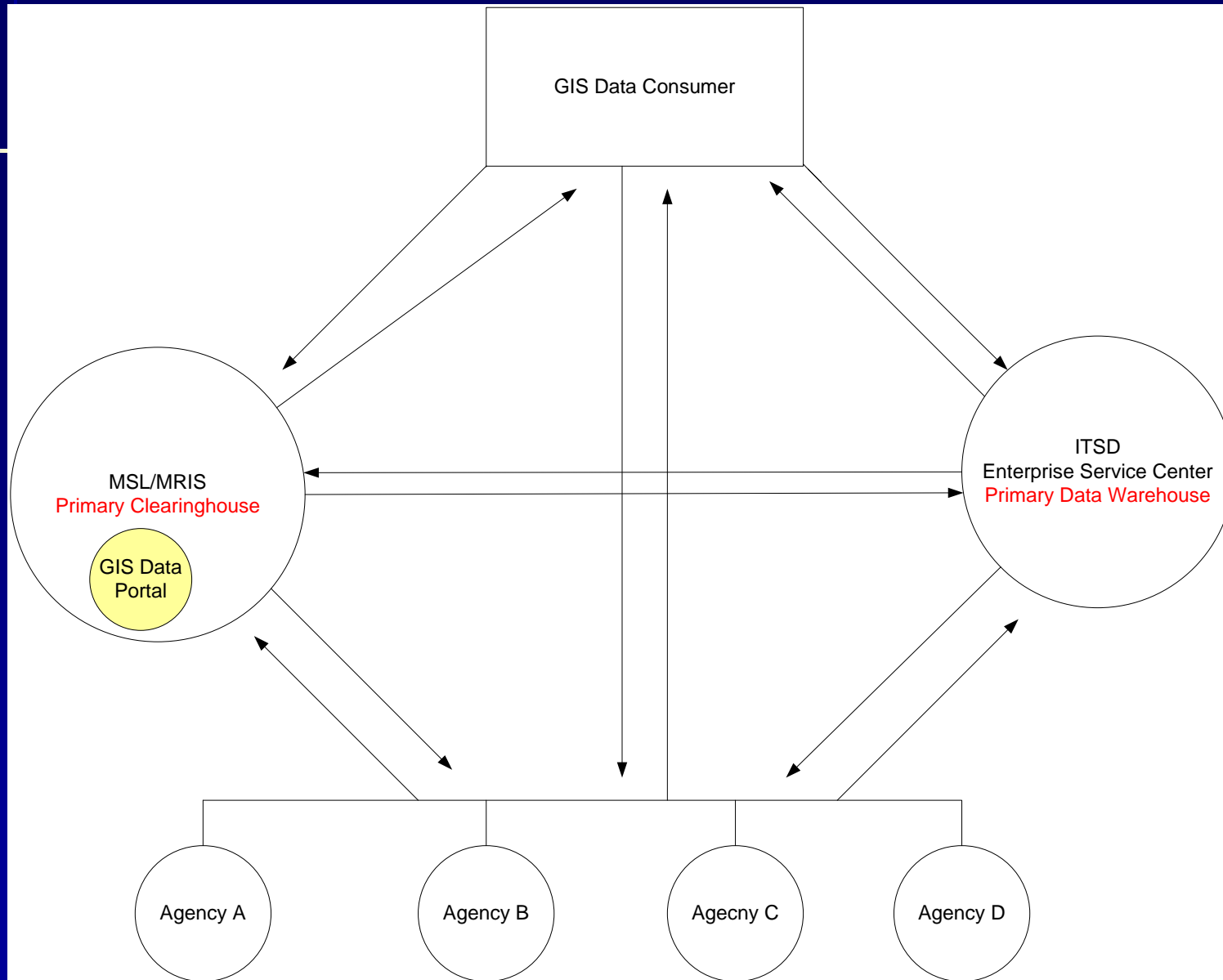
- GIS Application development services should be phased out of the NRIS
- The DOA, ITSD Data Center should serve as the primary GIS Data Warehouse
- The DOA, ITSD, GIS Service Bureau, including the State GIS Coordinator, should be realigned to report to the GIO
- The State GIS Coordinator should be the lead in working with all federal, state, local, private and tribal entities to coordinate, develop and maintain data and standards for GIS information



# Recommendations (con't.)

- When GIS data becomes “historical” in nature, it should be transmitted to the Historical Society for records preservation
- MLIA Council should work with the GIO and ITSD to develop guidelines to help agencies determine when contracting in-house is appropriate and when work should be out-sourced to the private sector
- The MLIA Council should actively support efforts to secure and ensure the funding to carry out these recommendations

# Information Access Flow



Roles / Responsibilities	GIO	GIS Service Bureau	NRIS	ITSD	State Agencies	Stewards	Other (e.g., Feds, private, local gov't.)
GIS Oversight	X	*		*			
GIS Coordination	*	X					
GIS Advocate	X	*	*	*	*	*	*
Clearinghouse			X				
Portal			X				*
Data Warehouse				X	*		
Access/Distribution		*	X		*		*
Standards	X	*				*	
Policy	X	*					
Funding	X	*					
Maintenance					*	X	*
Data Creation / Production					*	X	*
Value Added		*	*	*	*	*	*
Applications Development For Access & Distribution)		*	X	*	*	*	*
Data Archive Storage				X	*		*
Data Archive Management		*	X		*	*	*

# Summary

- GIO - Central Authority and Advocate
- MSL - Putting the seekers of all GIS information and that information, together
- ITSD - Storing and protecting GIS data
- Require detailed transition planning