

Montana State Digital Library

December 2007 – January 2008

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

- As of January 1, 2008 LIS acquires state publications in digital format only; print equivalents, when available, are deposited with the Montana Historical Society and distributed to depository libraries.
- LIS reviewed for possible acquisition various media of the Montana Film Service at Butte Public Library.
- NRIS received an updated version of the Apiary database from the Department of Agriculture. Department staff and prospective beekeepers use the Digital Atlas to determine whether proposed new apiary locations comply with a statutory requirement for three miles of separation between apiaries.
- NRIS received an updated version of the Public Water Supply database from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and made improvements to the associated online query system.
- NRIS acquired Relative Effective Annual Precipitation data from the NRCS.
- NRIS acquired new versions of two Montana county soil survey maps from the NRCS.
- Did you know:
 - NRIS processes monthly updates of the Montana Cadastral Database for the Departments of Revenue and Administration and makes the data available through the GIS Clearinghouse.
 - NRIS generates new maps each month for the Governor's Drought Committee website from data supplied by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).
 - NRIS generates new Snow Water, Streamflow Prospects and Surface Water Supply Index maps each month from data supplied by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). These maps are widely referenced on state agency websites.
- NHP deployed a completely new version of the Montana Plant Field Guide in early December. The the new Guide includes not just several hundred Species of Concern, but ALL of Montana's vascular plant species – over 2300. Because we focus NHP efforts on gathering information that is most in demand by resource managers and decision makers, our files contain little information on the large numbers of common plant species (other than as components of "ecological communities"). To compensate for the "thinness" of our databases for common species, the web page for each species in the new Field Guide includes buttons that make it easy for users to search a national plant databases (NRCS) and perform Google searches for related content. User response to the new, expanded Montana Plant Field Guide has been very positive.
- NHP Botanist Scott Mincemoyer has created a new database for more detailed and efficient tracking of plant species Observations (previously, Observation data was tracked only for animal species). Using this approach has further streamlined the process of entering and updating plant data, resulting in significant enhancements over the past two months:
 - 3100 Observation records were created in the new Plant Observation database to provide better tracking of existing Occurrence records
 - 277 new plant Observation were processed.
 - 1016 plant Observation records updated/reviewed

- 44 new plant Occurrences were added and 206 modified/updated
- NHP staff processed 1167 new or updated Animal Species Occurrence records during December and January. We also added explanations of how "Occurrence" polygons are determined for each animal species; these definitions show up in Tracker every time agency biologists view detailed Species Occurrence data. For example, a Species Occurrence polygon for the Bald Eagle is now defined as: "Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to encompass the breeding territory and area commonly used for re-nesting, and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters."
- NHP is collaborating with MT-FWP to improve the content and usability of the Montana Animal Field Guide, which is now a joint project. Discussions are underway with LIS on how to better manage and serve a robust list of reference citations for individual species and with FWP about how to expand species accounts for many species of interest currently with scant information in the Field Guide (the biggest challenge is the significant time and funding that will be required – we are actively looking for ideas and options...!)
- NHP and FWP staff produced updated statewide range maps for all animal species; these along with "predicted distribution" maps (generated from habitat modeling under the federal GAP program) will soon be added to the Natural Heritage Tracker website.

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.

- LIS provided new employee orientations about MSDL services and resources on December 13th.
- LIS continued a series of internal meetings with MSL agency web manager to improve web access culminating in a usability test involving 4 outside state agency employees.
- LIS completed a successful scan-on-demand pilot with the Secretary of State's Record's Management division. LIS will now implement scan-on-demand as a means to respond to requests for state publications. Turnaround time is about 72 hours.
- LIS also purchased an in-house scanner for additional scan-on-demand capabilities. Requests that require a shorter turnaround time will be handled in-house.
- NRIS responded to 82 mediated requests for maps, GIS data, GIS technical assistance, or general information about geography. These consisted of 35 requests from State agencies, 8 requests from federal agencies, 3 requests from local government agencies, 3 requests from educational institutions, and 33 requests from private agencies or citizens.
- NHP staff responded to 122 mediated requests between December 1st and Jan 23rd. Of those, 108 were site reviews for Species of Concern.
- Use of the Natural Heritage Tracker website doubled from 379 user-hours during October and November to over 800 user-hours during December and January.
- In early January, NHP staff gave a full-day of training for MDT environmental staff on how to use NHP species observation data in ArcGIS format. This extensive access to current digital NHP data is available to MDT through a new service.
- NRIS continued work on the Montana GIS Portal Project.

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

- LIS met with Natural Heritage Program about identifying and acquiring their legacy publications for imminent digitization. LIS and NHP are exploring whether web services can be used to

create automated portals for presenting a subset of MSL publications on an MSL website. LIS will also be exploring the capabilities of web services to accomplish a federated search.

- LIS consulted with the Director and State Geologist at Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology about providing digital access to their new publications and possible projects for legacy publications.
- LIS revised the depository library contract. The new contract creates the opportunity for libraries to be “digital” depositories.
- LIS prepared reports for each agency director that informed them of how well their agency complied with state publications submission requirements.
- NRIS reviewed and suggested language for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's proposed standards for maps. These standards will apply to maps submitted by contractors and regulated facilities.
- NRIS provided feedback to the Montana Department of Administration on the Base Map Services Center proposal presented to the Montana Land Information Council in December.
- NHP staff finalized an MOU with FWP staff that will help coordinate the work of collecting, inputting, managing, and disseminating information on Montana's animal species. Because both programs have critical roles and a number of different staff involved in developing and maintaining this data, a working agreement was important to ensure that work is done in a coordinated and efficient manner – and with excellent results. Staff and managers will continue to meet quarterly to review progress, coordinate activities, and agree on methods.
- NHP and FWP staff have begun working to create a statewide “Diversity Monitoring” program for Montana animal species. The goal is to develop standardized statewide methods for monitoring the status of many non-game species groups – approaches that can be used by all federal and state agencies to produce data that is consistent and reliable – to improve coordination of data collection and maximize the benefit of survey efforts.

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

- LIS met with Permanent Public Access Committee working group to discuss current projects of respective members.
- LIS met with Records Management Bureau team to review procedures for scanning test pilot. Successfully completed test pilot in January 2008.
- LIS sent Archive-It a critique of its advanced search function.
- NRIS continued to work on updating the Montana portion of the National Hydrography Dataset, the nation's official inventory of surface water features such as streams, lakes and ponds.
- NRIS provided a map to the Fulfillment Task Force.
- NRIS worked with DEQ and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) to update the official list of Watershed Groups and to define the boundaries of each group's area of concern. NRIS made maps of these areas for the MWCC web site and also made the data available through the GIS Clearinghouse.
- MSdL staff attended the annual Montana Information Technology Conference in December.
- Sibyl Govan participated in planning for the 2008 Intermountain GIS Conference and authored the conference web pages on the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals web site.
- Sibyl Govan presented an overview of NRIS and NHP services to the interim session of the Legislature's Environmental Quality Council.

- Sibyl Govan attended meetings of the Montana Information Technology Managers Council and the State GIS Manager's Group.
- At the recommendation of the NHP Partners Committee, NHP staff recruited a User Group to provide input as we continue to develop and expand our web resources. The NHP User Group has already responded to a short survey on the new Montana Field Guides, which yielded valuable input.
- NHP managers met with Doris Fischer, new FWP Land Use Planning Specialist, to discuss how to increase awareness and use of NHP data among county planners in Montana. Doris has worked for the Missoula and Madison County Planning Departments, and will be working closely with planners in a number of Montana counties to help them obtain and effectively use information on Montana wildlife in their work. We had a good brainstorming session and will continue working together to improve NHP services to local governments.

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.

- Jess Tobin has agreed to serve as MSL's representative on the TAWSE (Take Another Way State Employee) committee.
- LIS removed several cubicle walls downstairs as test to improve staff collaboration and improve morale.

MSDL Personnel Notes

- Jim Hill retired from Montana State Library on December 31, 2007. Sibyl Govan was hired through an internal competitive process to fill Jim's shoes as administrator of the Digital Library Division.
- Jess Tobin was hired as the Cataloging Metadata librarian. Jess began work at LIS on January 7, 2008.
- NRIS advertised its web developer position from November through January. There weren't any qualified candidates in the initial applicant pool so the position has been re-advertised.

OCLC Digital Archive Access Summary DEC-07

| Institution Name | Location | Access Requests | Objects Accessed |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| MONTANA STATE LIBR | Montana | 46 | 46 |
| MONTANA STATE UNIV, MSU LIBR | Montana | 17 | 17 |
| STATE LIBR OF IOWA | Iowa | 15 | 15 |
| US GEOL SURVEY, NAT CTR | Virginia | 11 | 11 |
| MILES COMMUN COL LIBR | Montana | 10 | 10 |
| CALIFORNIA STATE LIBR | California | 3 | 3 |
| THOMPSON FALLS PUB LIBR | Montana | 3 | 3 |
| MURRAY STATE UNIV | Kentucky | 2 | 2 |
| U OF M, MANSFIELD LIBR | Montana | 2 | 2 |
| GLENDIVE PUB LIBR | Montana | 2 | 2 |
| WEST YELLOWSTONE PUB LIBR | Montana | 2 | 2 |
| MISSOULA PUB LIBR | Montana | 2 | 2 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------|------|
| COLORADO SCH OF MINES | Colorado | 1 | 1 |
| FLATHEAD CNTY LIBR | Montana | 1 | 1 |
| NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | California | 1 | 1 |
| UNIV OF NC AT PEMBROKE | North Carolina | 1 | 1 |
| UNIV OF OSLO | NORWAY | 1 | 1 |
| STATE LIBR OF OHIO | Ohio | 1 | 1 |
| UNIV OF WYOMING LIBR | Wyoming | 1 | 1 |
| RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INST | New York | 1 | 1 |
| UNIV OF ALASKA, SE, JUNEAU | Alaska | 1 | 1 |
| SALISH KOOTENAI COL LIBR | Montana | 1 | 1 |
| NORTH COUNTRY COMMUN COL | New York | 1 | 1 |
| PUBLIC | N/A | 1059 | 1059 |

WEB STATISTICS
(Daily averages exclude robots and spiders)

NHP Web Statistics: nhp.nris.mt.gov averaged **543 visitor sessions per day in December** and **1080 visitor sessions per day in January.**

The five most requested pages in January are:

1. Field Guide <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/animalguide> - 3629
2. Montana Natural Heritage Program <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/> - 2184
3. Tracker <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/tracker> - 913
4. Community Field Guide Report http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/community/guide_report.asp - 757
5. Publications http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/Reports_List.asp - 702

The five most downloaded files in January are:

1. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/community/community_list_2002.pdf - 791
2. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/plants/reports/whitewater_Assessment.pdf - 668
3. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/reports/aqinvert_soc_r1.pdf - 435
4. <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/plants/reports/squarebutte.pdf> - 397
5. http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/reports/rocky_mtn_front.pdf - 385

NRIS Web Statistics: nris.mt.gov and maps2.nris.mt.gov averaged **3220 visitor sessions per day in December** and **3696 visitor sessions per day in January.** These numbers are higher than in the past because we have begun counting visitors who go directly.

The five most requested pages in January are:

1. Montana Maps <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatalib/mtmaps.aspx> - 4933
2. Montana Geographic Information Clearinghouse <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/> - 4043
3. NRIS Home <http://nris.mt.gov> - 3861
4. Montana Land Ownership Maps <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/ownmaps.asp> - 1675
5. DNRC Water Right Query System <http://nris.mt.gov/dnrc/waterrights> - 1503

The five most downloaded files in January are:

1. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/hwymapmdt.pdf> - 2113
2. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/mtrange.pdf> - 293
3. http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/100kpub_billings.pdf - 287
4. <http://nris.mt.gov/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf> - 269
5. <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatilib/downloads/leg2004.pdf> - 248