

## Montana State Digital Library report

Prepared for the October 9th, 2013 Commission meeting  
by Jim Kammerer, Library Information Services Manager.

This report for the time period May through September  
represents the accomplishments of:

Library Information Services (LIS), the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP),  
and MSL Geographic Information comprised of the Natural Resource Information  
System (NRIS) and the former Base Map Service Center (BMSC).

### Goal One—Content

MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library users.

- LIS enters the fifth year of its state publications digitization project in high gear having already sent 1,282 items for scanning in the first two months of this fiscal year. Staff familiarity with the intricate workflow and the restoration of coal tax money has accelerated the scanning process and bumped the FY14 scan budget from \$25,000 last year to \$40,000 this year. The impact to the user will be more scanned publications being made available at faster rate.
- LIS just distributed the recently published Montana Code Annotated 2013 to 17 state depository libraries. This biennial state publication is one of the most popular print items distributed by the depository library program.
- To insure uninterrupted access for its users, LIS renewed its annual EBSCO electronic journal subscriptions with no changes from last year. The new outreach librarian, once hired, will consider selecting additional journals or de-selecting current journals subscriptions based on in-person conversations with state agency representatives.
- Since early June, MTNHP Zoology and Information Services staff has added an additional 60,566 observations to the animal point observation databases. Animal point observation databases now have 1,434,892 point observation records (1,031,261 bird records and 403,631 records of other animal species); surpassing a million bird observation records in the MTNHP databases is a major milestone. Information has been added for an additional 5,135 structured animal surveys; the central database now contains a total of 159,133 structured animal survey locations. Note that while a large number of observations have been added, 226,531 (~16%) of the observation records still need to be reviewed for final acceptance into the database. These observation records and structured surveys are viewable on the Natural Heritage Tracker

<http://mtnhp.org/Tracker/NHTMap.aspx> and Natural Heritage MapViewer <http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/> web applications and generalized observations are viewable on the Montana Field Guide <http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>.

- The Wetlands and Riparian Mapping Center in the Natural Heritage Program continues to map wetland and riparian areas in Montana. The wetlands data are one of the themes in the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI). The downloadable data and a live map service are available at the MSL Geographic Information web site. As of September, the program has mapped 1,576 USGS 24K Quads for a total of 2,042,554 Acres. These acres include:
  - Wetlands: 1,544,810 Acres
  - Riparian: 497,744 Acres
- Earlier this year MSL Geographic Information acquired what was thought to be the final version of CadNSDI 2 from BLM. CadNSDI 2 is the newest version of the digital Public Land Survey System (PLSS). Unfortunately MSL found the data lacking the quality that would allow for responsible distribution. Subsequently MSL developed a draft paper, recommending stewardship of PLSS data for much, and possibly all the state, be transitioned to the state. This idea was favorably viewed by the Montana Land Information Advisory Council and MSL will continue to pursue it. A copy of that paper is included with this report.
- MSL Geographic Information has also been working with DEQ to update our current Landfill data from 1996. We finally have a contact and hope to obtain new data and update the metadata in the next few weeks.

### **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 staff completed the cataloging backlog of Natural Heritage Program (NHP) reports. For access, LIS staff created permanent uniform resource locators (PURLs) for these newly cataloged NHP reports that were then submitted for ingestion into the NHP system called Vitalis which is used for storing reference information about online and online publications related to Plant and Animal Species and Ecological systems.
- In order to assist MSL researchers who start and stay in Google Scholar, LIS staff requested that EBSCO share our library holdings for electronic resources with Google so that they may index them into this Google product.
- MSL has completed the initial version of its map gallery [http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic Information/Maps/Gallery/](http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic%20Information/Maps/Gallery/). The gallery

provides access to interactive and hard copy (pdf) maps produced by MSL staff. MSL GeoInfo staff meets regularly to discuss and update the gallery content.

### **Goal Three —Training**

MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.

- LIS staff are participating in OCLC WorldShare Interlibrary Loan webinars in anticipation of its full implementation in January 2014. The transition from WorldCat Resource Sharing will provide users more fulfillment options. The upgraded OCLC FirstSearch interface will incorporate WorldCat.org features making it easier for our users to find what they need.
- The Ecology Program offered one day Wetland Plant Identification workshops in Helena, Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings during August. Each workshop drew an average of 20 participants from federal, state and tribal agencies, non-profits, and the private sector. Financial support from the MT DEQ allowed us to present these workshops at no cost to participants.
- Linda Vance gave a talk on "Determining Reference Condition" as part of a workshop on Wetland Program Development at the 2013 Region 8 Wetland Conference in Salt Lake City on September 24. Karen Newlon, Ecologist/Project Manager also presented at the conference, discussing "How to Make Use of NWI Mapping," building on MTNHP's success with wetland mapping in Montana.
- From June to September, MTNHP Zoology staff answered over 50 requests from patrons regarding zoological information for Montana that entailed more than 30 hours of staff time.

### **Goal Four—Consultation and Leadership**

MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable users to set and reach their goals.

- Bryce Maxell, MTNHP Senior Zoologist, gave presentations to BLM, USFWS, FWP, DNRC, and tribal biologists and natural resource managers on the distribution and status of Sprague's Pipits in Glasgow on June 4th, 2013; to citizens of the Ruby Valley on the status and conservation challenges of Axolotls and other amphibians in Alder on July 31st; and to federal and state representatives across North America on Montana's surveillance efforts on bats and the fungal disease that causes White-Nose Syndrome in Boise on September 3rd-6th.
- Linda Vance, Senior Ecologist and Spatial Analysis Lab Director, and Melissa Hart, Ecologist/GIS Analyst, gave a talk on "Mapping whitebark pine mortality and

regeneration in southwest Montana forests" at the annual meeting of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation's 2013 Annual Science Meeting September 20 in Bozeman. Whitebark pine is a high-elevation keystone species that has been heavily impacted across its range by blister rust and Mountain pine beetle.

- MSL was invited by State Information Technology Services Division to provide consultation as they re-engineer the Montana Site Selector <http://www.montanasiteselector.com/> for the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Site Selector is currently hosted by a private company but will be brought back under state control. This application makes extensive use of spatial data maintained by MSL.
- MSL chaired the September meeting of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council on September 17. Primary topics of discussion were potential MLIA rules changes, updating the State's GIS strategic plan and PLSS data stewardship. No action items were brought forth for Commission action at this meeting.

### **Goal Five—Collaboration**

MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.

- During the 2013 field season, the MTNHP Zoology Program collaborated with the BLM on fieldwork to gather baseline data on amphibians, reptiles, bats, and small terrestrial mammals in the Missoula and South Dakota Field Offices and on grassland birds in the Glasgow Field Office. Similarly, we collaborated with the USFS on Northern Goshawk surveys on the Sioux and Red Lodge Districts of the Custer National Forest and amphibian, reptile, and bat surveys in the Pryor Mountains.
- Erin Fashoway will represent MSL, including with the MSL Geographic Information at the annual MACO Conference September 22 – 26. Ms. Fashoway, along with State Librarian Jennie Stapp attended the MACO Conference kick-off dinner September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The new Water Information System Manager Troy Blandford has been meeting individually with partner agencies to ascertain water information needs and has a Hydrography Working Group meeting scheduled for the last week in September.

### **Goal Six— Sustainable Success**

MSL is efficient and effective as measured against user outcomes and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.

- A shift in program priorities and a new content management system have allowed LIS to morph the Library Systems Analyst/Programmer position into the

Outreach and Electronic Resources Librarian position. LIS has posted this new position to national and state job lists with an anticipated hire date of mid-October. This position is responsible for understanding and meeting the State Library's user information needs through regular in-person and online outreach. This librarian is responsible for increasing and improving the experience of using electronic resources offered by the library.

- MSL Geographic Information has been well represented at two recent venues, the GeCo West 2013 conference in Laramie Wyoming and the URISA Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Keith Blount gave a presentation on developing a state base map at GeCo West and Diane Papineau provided insight into MSL geospatial archiving at URISA.