



Montana State Library Commission Meeting
October 14, 2026 – 9am-2pm
Miles City Public Library



Sagebrush Federation Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.
Miles City Public Library | Conference Room
1 South 10th Street
Miles City, MT 59301
(No business will be conducted)

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88034788684?pwd=s4obr5a4m9hEGiKUsWtaNIFZKth9UC.1>

Members of the Montana State Library Commission may attend the fall meeting of the Sagebrush Federation. No Commission business will be conducted.

Conversations with the Commission

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 4:00 p.m.
Miles City Public Library | Conference Room
1 South 10th Street
Miles City, MT 59301
(No business will be conducted)

Join members of the Montana State Library Commission for a conversation about the current goals and priorities of the State Library Commission. This event is an opportunity for the Commission and members of the Montana library community to exchange ideas about the needs and opportunities for libraries in our state.

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/s/89785754345> [mt-gov.zoom.us]



Montana State Library Commission
October Business Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2026, | 9:00 a.m.
Miles City Public Library | Conference Room
1 South 10th Street
Miles City, MT 59301

AGENDA

The authority of the State Library Commission is found in Montana Code Annotated (MCA) [Title 22, Ch. 1, Part 103](#).

The State Library Commission is committed to providing access to its proceedings in accordance with MCA Title 2, Ch. 3 Part 2 Open Meetings. All meetings of the State Library Commission will be streamed and recorded via an online meeting platform. The State Library Commission welcomes public comment. The Chair will ask for public comment on agenda items throughout the meeting from persons attending the meeting in person or online. Members of the public who wish to share written comments or pertinent visual materials must submit written public comments no later than two (2) business days before the start of the public meetings. During public comment periods, speakers shall identify themselves and who they represent. Speakers shall limit their address to the State Library Commission on agenda items to three (3) minutes unless further time is granted by the Chair with the concurrence of the Commission. The Chair reserves the right to limit public comments if comments are not germane to the motion or if they are deemed disruptive. To ensure clear communication and an opportunity for follow-up questions, chat comments are not accepted. All comments received become part of the official public record of the State Library Commission proceedings in accordance with MCA 2-3-212. The Commission shall move through the agenda as needed.

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**

- Changes or additions to the agenda
- Staff longevity recognition
 - Tracy Cook, Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian, 10 years

Business items

9:15 a.m. • Consent agenda– **Action**

- August 12, 2026, meeting minutes
- Public Comment

9:20 a.m. • Certification subcommittee course recommendations – **Action** (tentative)

- Public Comment

10:00 a.m. • FY 2026 Federation reports – Federation Coordinators - **Action**

- Public Comment

Discussion and information items

- 10:30 a.m. • 2027 Legislative Session Executive Planning Process update - Stapp
- 10:45 a.m. • Viewpoint Diversity – Commissioner Cuthbertson
- 11:00 a.m. • Guest presenter Bethany Mandel (tentative)
- 11:20 a.m. • Reflections on Sagebrush Federation Meeting and Conversations with the Commission - Commission

Standing reports

- 11:30 a.m. • State Library Reports – Stapp and staff
 - FY 27 Work Plan Dashboard
 - PDF Version
 - [Continuing Education and Certification dashboard](#)
 - PDF Version
 - FY 2027 1st quarter staffing memo
 - FY 2027 1st quarter grants and contracts memo
 - Education Interim Budget Committee (EIBC) reports
 - [Downloading dashboard instructions](#)

Commission Goals and Objectives – Commission

- 11:45 p.m. • Review meeting motions and directives to staff to confirm Commission intent
- Review and prioritize agenda items for December business meeting, December 9, 9:00 a.m., Montana State Library, Helena, MT
 - [Annual Business Calendar](#)
 - [PDF Version](#)
 - Suggested future agenda items
 - 2026 Commission goals status
- 11:50 p.m. Public Comment on any matter not included in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the State Library Commission.
- 12:00 p.m. Other Business & Announcements
- 12:05 p.m. Adjourn
- 12:15 p.m. Commission training on effective subcommittees – Commissioner Goss
(No business will be conducted)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/83045938017?pwd=AbxeX5UOWoxNRFnfk1eZ4eFv41HIA7.1>

Meeting ID: 830 4593 8017

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Montana State Library Commission

August Business Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, | 9:00 a.m.

Montana State Library | Gertrude Buckhous Conference Room

1201 11th Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

MINUTES

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Montana State Library, Gertrude Buckhous Conference Room, 1201 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 and Zoom

Recording Link: [2026, August 12 - Montana State Library Commission Meeting](#)

Attendance

- **Commission Members:** Robyn Scribner (Chair), Tom Burnett, Tammy Hall, Peggy Taylor, Kris Goss, and McKenna Gregg. Carmen Cuthbertson was excused.
- **Staff:** Malissa Briggs, Central Services Administrator; Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator; Tracy Cook, Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian; and additional State Library staff. State Librarian Jennie Stapp was excused due to jury duty.

Call to Order and Introductions

Timestamp: 00:00:04

- **Discussion:** Chair Robyn Scribner called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked commissioners and staff to introduce themselves. Chair Scribner noted that State Librarian Jennie Stapp was serving jury duty and would not attend.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Timestamp: 00:02:47

- **Discussion:** The Commission noted that Meghan Peel from DPHHS was unavailable and that Commissioner Carmen Cuthbertson's presentation would be postponed until the October meeting. Commissioner Cuthbertson was absent due to family bereavement, and the Commission extended condolences to her and her family.
- **Discussion:** Commissioner Hall requested that discussion of the vacant human resources position occur earlier in the meeting. Staff reported that the position was vacant and that the State Library was working with the Department of Administration regarding support and next steps.

- **Meeting procedure:** Chair Scribner reviewed meeting procedures, including use of Robert's Rules, assistance from Commissioner Goss on parliamentary questions, time limits for informal presentations, and public comment guidelines.

Staff Longevity Recognitions

Timestamp: 00:06:49

- **Discussion:**

The Commission recognized staff service milestones, including Troy Blandford (20 years), Bryce Maxell (20 years), Jen Birnel (15 years), Scott Blum (20 years), Dan Bachen (10 years), Bob Cochran (20 years), and Pat Jackson (5 years). Supervisors highlighted the employees' expertise, service, leadership, and contributions to State Library programs.

Consent Agenda - Action

Timestamp: 00:26:44

- **Item:** June 10, 2026, meeting minutes.
- **Motion:** To accept the consent agenda as presented.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Burnett
- **Discussion:** Chair Scribner noted a minor misspelling of her first name in June minutes but did not request that the item be pulled from the consent agenda.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

FY 2027 Montana State Reference Network Budget - Finance Committee - Action

Timestamp: 00:28:03

- **Discussion:** The Finance Committee reported on options considered for the Montana State Reference Network (MTSRN), including maintaining the program, increasing investment, and decommissioning the network.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners and staff discussed current subscribers, potential refunds, available program funds, staffing and accounting implications, and whether decommissioning could occur within approximately one year or sooner.
- **Discussion:** Questions were raised about statutory authority and whether the Commission could decommission a program that State law directs the State Library to administer. Nancy Hall of the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning stated that the governing statutes would need to be addressed before the network could be discontinued and that a legislative bill would likely be required.
- **Discussion:** Several versions of a decommissioning motion were discussed and withdrawn while commissioners clarified the appropriate legal and legislative process.

- **Motion:** To seek a cleanup bill on option #4 to end the involvement of the Montana State Library and the MTSRN.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Hall
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Burnett
- **Public Comment:** None.

Vote: Motion passed by roll-call vote, 4–2:

- Burnett – Aye
- Gregg – Aye
- Hall – Aye
- Goss – Nay
- Taylor – Nay
- Scribner – Aye

Next Steps: Staff will pursue clarification and the appropriate process for an agency cleanup bill through the Governor’s Office and legislative process.

FY 2027 MTSRN Operating Budget - Action

Timestamp: 01:09:43

- **Motion:** To adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the MTSRN as presented during the June 2026 Commission meeting.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Goss
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners clarified that adopting the operating budget would allow the program and staff to continue functioning while the legislative process regarding the future of the MTSRN is pursued.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Continuing Education Course Options: Alternative Worldviews in Library Science

Timestamp: 01:14:56

- **Discussion:** Commissioner Burnett presented information and examples related to ideological viewpoints in library science education and professional literature. He suggested exploring continuing education options that would expose library directors to a broader range of viewpoints and approaches.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed neutrality, intellectual freedom, censorship and book-banning terminology, professional education, balance in course offerings, and the role of the Commission in approving continuing education. Tracy Cook provided information about the continuing education process and existing course options.

- **Discussion:** Commissioners generally supported continued exploration of educational opportunities that present multiple perspectives while emphasizing that course content should be relevant to Montana library directors and consistent with the Commission's certification responsibilities.

Next Steps: Commissioner Burnett's materials will be reviewed, and any proposed continuing education coursework will proceed through the established CE proposal process. Proposed courses will be submitted to the Continuing Education Subcommittee for review and then brought to the Commission for consideration.

State Library Standing Reports

Timestamp: 01:47:02

- **Report:** Commissioners reviewed the standing reports and asked questions about staffing, work priorities, legislative activity, and program administration.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the potential use of artificial intelligence in State Library work, including metadata cleanup, website content development, dashboard development, report writing, planning documents, training materials, certification administration, catalog maintenance, GIS work, and software development. Staff emphasized the need for human review, security, policy compliance, and appropriate oversight.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed materials from an Education Interim Budget Committee meeting that included information from both the Montana State Library and Montanans for Libraries. Commissioners wanted clearer distinction between State Library positions and requests made by outside organizations.
- **Directions to staff:** Clarify the State Library's involvement in the materials presented to the legislative committee and ensure future agenda materials clearly identify the source of outside reports or presentations.

Commission Goals and Objectives

Timestamp: 02:20:17

- **Discussion:** The Commission reviewed directives for staff and began prioritizing topics for the October 14, 2026, business meeting in Miles City.
- **Future agenda items:** Possible items included follow-up on the MTSRN legislative process; clarification regarding legislative reports and outside organizations; a presentation related to statewide mental health planning if the presenter is available; Commissioner Cuthbertson's postponed presentation; and additional discussion of continuing education topics. Commissioner Burnett also requested that Bethany Mandel be invited to provide an informational presentation related to library safety for children and viewpoint diversity. The Commission supported giving the presentation priority for the October meeting, pending her availability, and Commissioner Burnett was asked to contact her.
- **Discussion:** Chair Scribner invited feedback on her role as chair and on ways to improve Commission meetings. Commissioners discussed the use of subcommittees, staff support during meetings, and methods for making motions and meeting documents easier to follow in real time.

Subcommittee Appointments

Timestamp: 02:38:38

- **Discussion:** Chair Scribner reviewed subcommittee assignments and discussed distributing responsibilities among commissioners.
- Personnel Committee:
 - Robyn Scribner
 - Tom Burnett
 - Peggy Taylor
- Finance Committee:
 - Robyn Scribner
 - Tom Burnett
 - Kris Goss
- Continuing Education Committee:
 - Carmen Cuthbertson
 - Tammy Hall
 - McKenna Gregg
- **Discussion:** The Commission noted that membership of the negotiation workgroup still needed to be reviewed and could be addressed at a later date.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items and Other Business

Timestamp: 02:40:26

- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed travel logistics for the October meeting in Miles City, including carpooling and lodging arrangements.

Adjournment

Timestamp: 02:42:20

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Gregg
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Vote:** The motion was moved and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.



MEMO

To: State Library Commission

From: Continuing Education and Certification Subcommittee

Subject: Recommendations for Course Catalog

Date: October 2, 2026

Certification Subcommittee Course Recommendations

Recommended motion: Move to adopt the September 30, 2026 Course Catalog recommendations as presented below.

Discussion

The Certification Subcommittee met on September 30, 2026 to review course proposals, set a meeting schedule, and discuss Burnett's course proposal. The meeting minutes are available in your meeting packet. Subcommittee members are available to answer any questions.

The subcommittee's recommendations for which courses should be added to the catalog are in your meeting materials. Items marked yes are courses the committee recommends the Commission approve. Items marked no are courses the subcommittee does not recommend adding to the course catalog. Items marked review will be audited by subcommittee members before making a recommendation.

Course Catalog

Proposals for MSL Commission Approval

- Certification Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2026



Basic Laws: Understand state and federal laws that apply to libraries	Yes/No	Notes
Doing an Accessibility Audit of Your Library (312)	Yes	

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library	Yes/No	Notes
Board Dynamics (182)	Yes	
Connecting with Local Government Officials: How Libraries Add Value (233)	Review	Committee will audit course
Connecting with Local Government Officials - Libraries and Literacy (234)	Yes	
Connecting with Local Government Officials - Better Libraries, Better Achievement, Better Futures (235)	Yes	
Connecting with Local Government Officials - Do public libraries help mitigate crime?(236)	No	Does not seem relevant to library work
We should probably write this down: agreements (317)	Yes	
Working with Library Support Groups (318)	Yes	

Data and Reporting: Data management and reporting	Yes/No	Notes
Count Week (319)	Yes	

Course Catalog

Proposals for MSL Commission Approval

- Certification Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2026



Facility Management: Manage the library facility and ensure community members can safely access and use the building	Yes/No	Notes
Universal Design at Your Library (271)	Yes	
Accidental Facilities Manager (272)	Yes	
Crisis Communications Planning for Libraries, Archives, and Museums (273)	Yes	
De-Escalation (299)	No	Course access expires soon
De-Escalation and Safety (300)	No	Course access expires soon
Homelessness – Peripherals (303)	No	Course access expires soon
Mental Health - Addictions, Dependencies, PTSD (305)	No	Course access expires soon

Financial Management: Understand the budget, library finances, and financial reports	Yes/No	Notes
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Excellence: Improve Library Funding and Structure (215)	Yes	
Grantseeking for Libraries: Strategies and Tips (283)	Yes	

Course Catalog

Proposals for MSL Commission Approval

- Certification Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2026



Library Services: Understand the basics of library services and oversee collection management, programming, outreach, information services, and technology	Yes/No	Notes
InterGen at the Library: Programming and Engagement Across Ages (187)	Yes	
Readers' Advisory Services for Genre Fiction (189)	Yes	
LiFT: The Reference Interview (253)	Yes	
LiFT: Classification and Call Numbers (255)	Yes	
LiFT: Subject Headings (256)	Yes	
LiFT: Copy Cataloging 9258)	Yes	
LiFT: Introduction to Collection Policies (261)	Yes	
LiFT: Selection and Acquisitions (262)	Yes	
LiFT: Collection Assessment (265)	Yes	
Homelessness - Core Training (301)	No	Course access expires soon
Homelessness - Deeper Understanding (302)	No	Course access expires soon
Mental Health - Four Part Series (304)	No	Course access expires soon
Mental Health and Mental Illness (306)	No	Course access expires soon
Montana Shared Catalog WorkFlows Circulation Basics (321)	Yes	

Course Catalog

Proposals for MSL Commission Approval

- Certification Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2026



Library Services: Understand the basics of library services and oversee collection management, programming, outreach, information services, and technology	Yes/No	Notes
Strengthening early literacy through practical, research-informed strategies (323)	Yes	
MSC Quarterly Webinar: Utilizing Item Fields to Optimize Reports in BCA and the Enterprise OPAC (324)	Yes	
MSC Fall Workshop: Where's Your Cat Map? Update Your Item Processing and Patrons Will Thank You! (325)	Yes	
MSC WorkFlows Introduction to the Catalog and Adding Items (326)	Yes	
MSC WorkFlows Circulation - Intermediate Skills (327)	Yes	

Course Catalog

Proposals for MSL Commission Approval

- Certification Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2026



Personnel Management: Supervise library staff and volunteers	Yes/No	Notes
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Excellence - Staff Development (212)	Yes	
Hiring Well and Getting Your New Employee Off to a Good Start (277)	Review	Committee will audit course
Providing Constructive Employee Feedback (278)	Review	Committee will audit course
Successful Supervising in Libraries of All Sizes Part 1 (279)	Yes	
Successful Supervising in Libraries of All Sizes Part 2 (280)	Yes	
Proactive Planning for Library Staff Transitions (281)	Yes	
Public Library Directors 101 (282)	Yes	

Planning: Work with the board to create a plan for the library	Yes/No	Notes
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Excellence – Overview (209)	Yes	
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Library Excellence: Better Access to Materials (210)	Yes	
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Library Excellence: Board Development (211)	Yes	
Navigating the Elective Roadmap to Excellence: Planning and Evaluation (216)	Yes	

Policy: Assist the board with policy development and adoption	Yes/No	Notes
Policy development for small libraries (320)	Yes	



MEMO

To: State Library Commission

From: Cara Orban, Consulting Librarian

Subject: Annual Federation Reports

Date: October 14, 2026

Fiscal Year 2026 Federation Reports

Recommended motion: Move to accept the fiscal year 2026 federation reports.

Annual Federation Reports

The [FY 26 Federation Report dashboard](#) is now available. Staff have reviewed the individual reports. The federation coordinators will be available to answer any questions and to discuss the use of funds for trustee development.

Use of funds for trustee development

Federation coordinators will be able to discuss the use of these funds and their value in more detail. Here is a summary of how each federation spent their \$4,000 allotment to support trustees.

Broad Valleys - \$1,000 for trustee training at federation meeting and \$3,000 divided evenly amongst eligible federation libraries. Trustee training funding supported MSU Extension Local Government Center training, long range planning, trustee travel to federation meetings and trainings, and equipment such as the cost of a Meeting OWL (microphone/camera device), “which has made it much easier to hear, communicate, and participate clearly, improving both attendance and the overall effectiveness of our meetings.”

Golden Plains - \$4,000 divided evenly amongst eligible federation libraries. Trustees benefitted from trainings covering library laws, planning, and policies, as well as HR training at the federation meeting. Many small libraries and communities do not have a formal HR position or office to rely upon and so this training was reported as having been especially valuable.

“Funds for trustee training enable our trustees to participate with others in learning and understanding library services and issues, helping them make more informed decisions.”



Pathfinder- \$4,000 divided evenly amongst eligible federation libraries.

The federation shared a legal training at its meeting to help trustees understand policy writing and enforcement. One Pathfinder library also reports that reducing costs for centralized services such as the Montana Shared Catalog “gives me more time to work with our trustees on developing their knowledge and skills, and it allows all of our staff to spend more hours developing programming, providing library services to our patrons, and growing our local resources and collections.”

Sagebrush - \$4,000 divided evenly amongst eligible federation libraries.

Trustee training funds were used to cover travel and registration for trustees to attend in-state training opportunities on topics such as policy development, library law, and local government, and to cover expenses for local government training and trustee travel to the federation meeting. Trustees were able to learn from each other and share their knowledge about resource sharing, collaboration, and responsible public stewardship.

“In a small rural community, recruiting and retaining volunteer trustees can be challenging, and these funds help create a welcoming environment that encourages participation. The grant supports Montana Library Association memberships, unique training opportunities, and refreshments for board meetings and trainings.”

South Central - \$4,000 divided evenly amongst eligible federation libraries.

Trustee funding was used to provide board development training at the federation meeting as well as to cover travel expenses for trustees.

“We truly appreciate the investment in rural libraries and the recognition that every community, regardless of size, deserves strong library service.”

Tamarack - \$4,000 used to support centralized trustee trainings and discussions at the Tamarack Federation spring meeting. The grant enabled multiple trustees to attend the Spring Federation Meeting, where they participated in library-focused training, learned about current trends and best practices, and built relationships with colleagues from other library systems. 38 people registered for the two-day spring retreat, 22 of which were trustees.

“The impact of sharing information and experiences with other trustees from Montana libraries helps the trustees gain knowledge and confidence in their roles.”



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: 2027 Legislative update
Date: October 5, 2026

The 70th Legislative Session begins on or around January 4, 2027.

Budget updates:

The Montana State Library (MSL) did not submit any budget requests this biennium.

The Governor's budget is due November 15, 2026. The draft budget includes a placeholder for anticipated lease cost increases for MSL's building lease (The Dept. of Administration negotiates the lease with the building owner). The Governor's draft budget also includes statewide inflationary increases for costs like longevity pay increases and motor pool costs.

Legislation updates:

MSL has requested two bills:

- A bill to rescind authority to maintain an enterprise fund to operate the Montana State Reference Network
- A bill to receive revenue to cover the costs to produce merchandise such as stickers that promote MSL's Lidar collection.

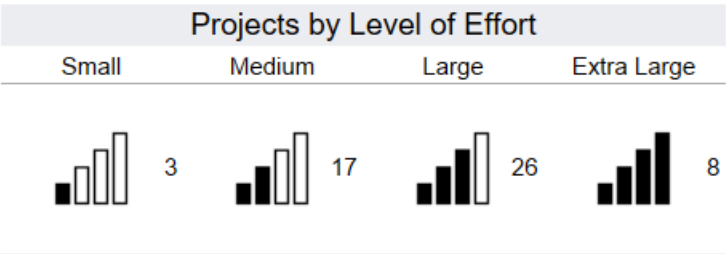
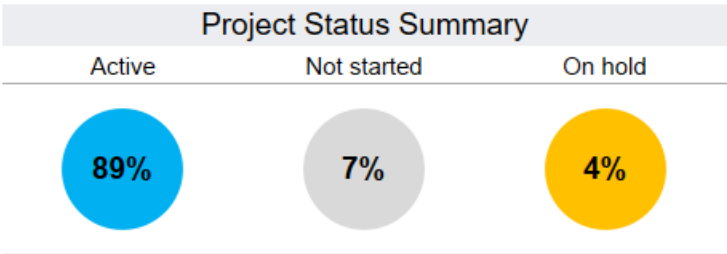
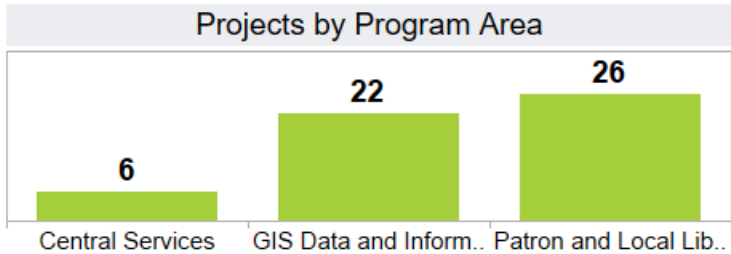
Both bills are in the drafting stage.

Montana State Library FY 27 Work Plan

File created on: 10/5/2026

For an accessible, interactive version of this dashboard, visit:

[Montana State Library FY 27 Work Plan](#)



Instructions: Click the program area, project status, and level of effort charts above to filter the project list below. Hover or click on each project status bar to see additional details.

Work Plan Projects			
Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
Central Services	Data Coordination	Count Week	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Create updated system for documenting house-wide IT processes, how-to guides, system and infrastructure maps for easy agency reference.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Evaluate, identify and implement solution for hardware and software asset management system.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Update and improve IT Onboarding Process and provide live access to progress for leads to monitor	Active
Central Services	State Librarian	2027 Legislative Session	On hold
Central Services	State Librarian	Revise 10.55.1159 ARM	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Information Products	ASPeN upgrades and replacements	Active

Work Plan Projects

Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
Central Services	Data Coordination	Count Week	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Create updated system for documenting house-wide IT processes, how-to guides, system and infrastructure maps for easy agency reference.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Evaluate, identify and implement solution for hardware and software asset management system.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Update and improve IT Onboarding Process and provide live access to progress for leads to monitor	Active
Central Services	State Librarian	2027 Legislative Session	On hold
Central Services	State Librarian	Revise 10.55.1159 ARM	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Information Products	ASPeN upgrades and replacements	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Information Products	GIS Data List and Hub Site	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Information Products	Montana Cadastral enhancements	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Land Information	Improve MSDI geospatial data value – Land Themes	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Land Information	Migrate to GIS cloud infrastructure	Active
			Jul 1 Oct 1 Jan 1 Apr 1 Jul 1

Work Plan Projects

Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
GIS Data and Information Services	Montana State Reference Network	Build customer base	On hold
GIS Data and Information Services	Montana State Reference Network	Grow network coverage	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Montana State Reference Network	Improve the network	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Create new information dashboards to meet the needs of natural resource managers and planners	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Deploy Open Water Classification Scheme	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Develop and begin to deploy new Invasion Risk and Impact Assessment scoring for non-native species	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Develop new Adaptive Capacity metric for native species	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Fully develop the About Us pages of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MTNHP) website	Not started
GIS Data and Information Services	Natural Heritage Program	Revise Conservation Status Ranks for 400 species.	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Next Generation 9-1-1	Complete PSAP boundary layer	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Next Generation 9-1-1	PSAP visits	Active
			Jul 1 Oct 1 Jan 1 Apr 1 Jul 1

Work Plan Projects

Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
GIS Data and Information Services	Statewide GIS Coordination	Improve communication for GIS coordination - Phase 2	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Statewide GIS Coordination	Improve geospatial data governance through policies and best practices - Phase 2	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Statewide GIS Coordination	Improve MSDI geospatial data value - Phase 2	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Water Information System	Drought Impact Reporter technology upgrade and enhancements	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Water Information System	Elevation-derived hydrography through the USGS 3D Hydrography Program	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Water Information System	Lidar Workshop	Completed
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Manage public library standards, federation, and state aid process	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Offer 3-5 regional workshops focused on succession planning, MSL topics, and board work	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Offer an AI webinar for libraries	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Offer an HR series for libraries	Completed
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Support directors with online cohorts	Active
			Jul 1 Oct 1 Jan 1 Apr 1 Jul 1

Work Plan Projects

Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Visit each main library and answer questions from libraries to address problems or increase skills in library administration.	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Consulting	Work with libraries to support Good Neighbor Day	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Continuing Education	Manage transition to new certification program	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Continuing Education	Update MSL Learn and course content	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Lifelong Learning	Manage MLN Virtual Program Series	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Lifelong Learning	Offer early literacy training and programming support for librarians	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Lifelong Learning	Provide training and support for library services to older adults.	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Lifelong Learning	Support librarians efforts with lifelong learning services and programming	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana History Portal	AI metadata improvements	On hold
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana History Portal	LEGO Challenge expansion (planning)	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana History Portal	Portal gamification	On hold
			Jul 1 Oct 1 Jan 1 Apr 1 Jul 1

Work Plan Projects

Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana History Portal	Update the Portal website	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Library Network	Advantage + pilot launch and track	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Library Network	Courier sharing group additions	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Library Network	IMLS 5-Year Evaluation	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Library Network	MontanaLibrary2Go authentication	On hold
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Shared Catalog	BLUEcloud Mobile 2 rollout	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Shared Catalog	MSC catalog and bibliographic maintenance	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Montana Shared Catalog	MSC support & training	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Research Resources	Adding and promoting digital resources for State employees	Active
Patron and Local Library Development Services	Talking Book Services	Continue adding Montana titles to BARD by utilizing contracts with commercial recording studios and Potomac Talking Books	Active
			Jul 1 Oct 1 Jan 1 Apr 1 Jul 1

Continuing Education & Certification

File created on: 10/5/2026

For an accessible, interactive version of this dashboard, visit:

[Montana State Library Continuing Education & Certification](#)

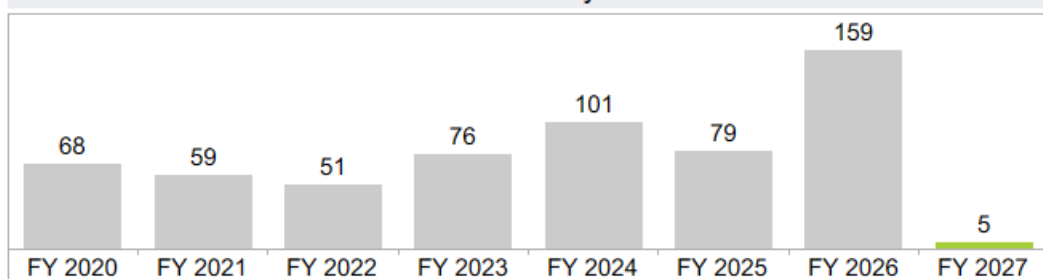
Library Director Certification

The Commission adopted revisions to ARM 10.102.1160, Personnel, updating the Montana State Library's director-certification program effective July 1, 2026. The revised rules support directors in building the foundational skills needed to manage libraries that meet Montana's public-library development standards. The updated rules clarify the Commission's role in approving the annual course of study and the course catalog of eligible individual courses. Directors have two years from hire to complete 20 approved credits for initial certification; renewal requires 60 credits during each subsequent five-year period. While directors are the primary focus of this program, other learners such as staff and trustees can elect to participate. This dashboard tracks a count of certificates and credits completed. Use the top navigation to view more information on course completions and evaluations.

Certificates Earned by Position

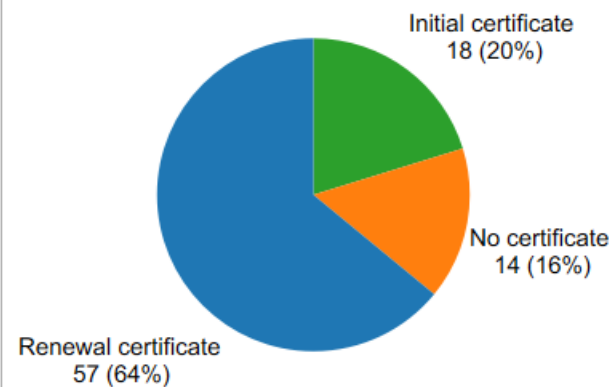
Certificate Type	FY 2027	
	Director	Staff
Initial	3	1
Renewal	1	
Grand Total	4	1

Certificates Earned by Fiscal Year



FY 2027 is the first year in which the director (administrator) certificate is the only available certification path. Staff and trustees may still choose to complete the certificate. In FY 2026, 159 certificates were earned, 80 of which were through the now-retired staff and trustee tracks. From FY 2020 to FY 2026, 41% of all certificates earned were through the staff and trustee tracks.

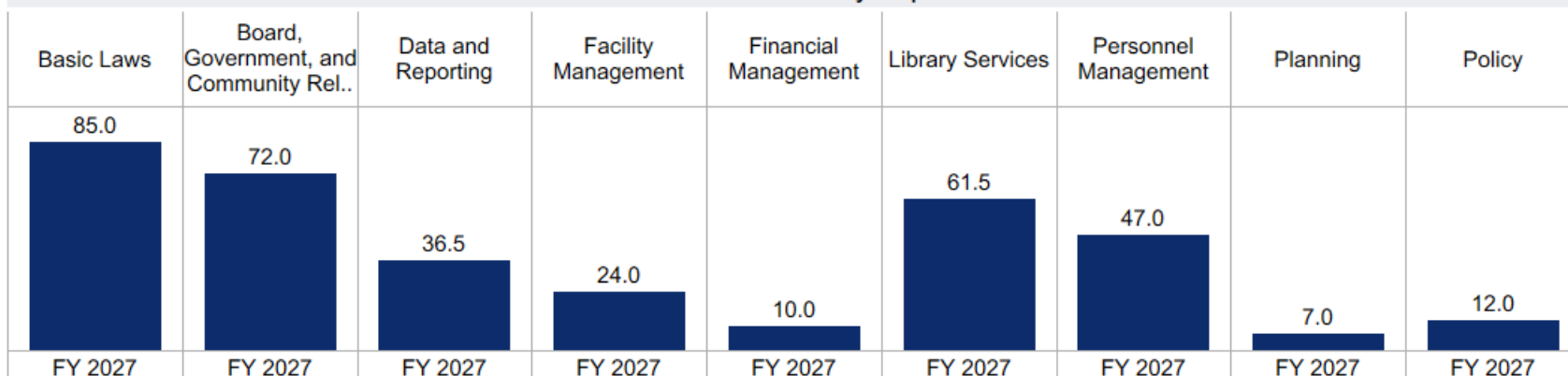
Public & Tribal College Library Director Certification Status



Total Credits Earned in FY 2027

355.0

Credits Earned by Topic



Certificates & Credits

Course Completions

Course Evaluations

Select a topic to view course completions and most popular courses.

All

All: Most Frequently Completed Courses

Legal and Operational Issues Facing Montana's Libraries Completions: 17	Next Level Montana Library Law Completions: 14
Connecting with Local Government Officials Completions: 13	Patron Privacy and Practical Steps for Data Management in Montana Public Libraries Completions: 13
Montana Library Law Completions: 13	

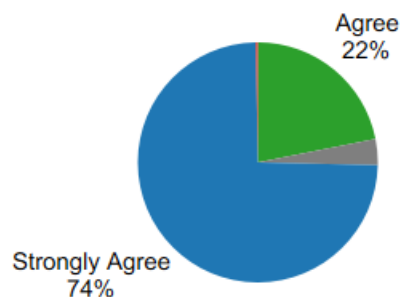
All: Course Completions

Course name	Course Completions
3 Keys to Collection Development Webinar	5
ABLE 5: Introduction to Technical Services and Catalog Records	4
Access and Usability: Meeting People Where They Are	1
Access and Usability: Montana Talking Books	1
Access and Usability: Service Animals	1
Access and Usability: Where Do We Go from Here?	1
AI and Public Libraries: Panel and Discussion	1
Board Member Basics	6
Children's Collections and Boosting Engagement Webinar	1
Connecting with Local Government Officials	13
Creative Survey Design: Crafting Survey Instruments to Meet Your Library's Research and Evaluation Needs	4
Curating and Maintaining Vibrant Collections for Users with Print Disabilities	1
Elements of Data Visualization and Design	1
Facilities Management for Libraries	12
Feedback: The Art and Heart of Performance Management	12

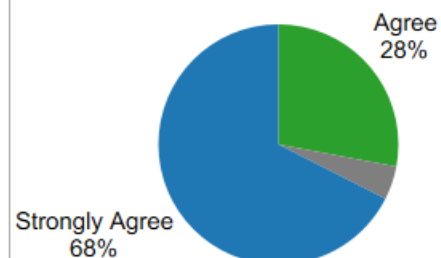
Select a course name to filter the evaluation results.

All

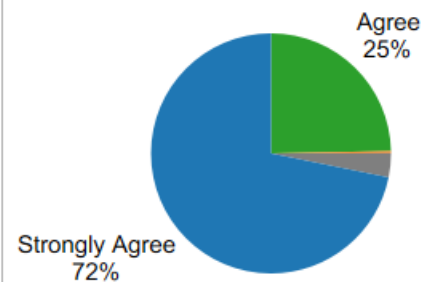
I learned something by participating in this course.



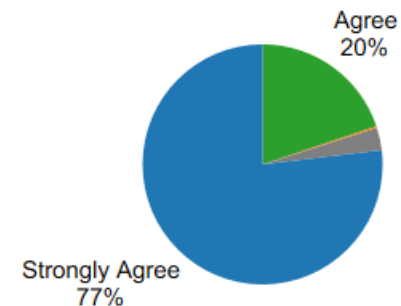
I feel more confident about what I just learned.



I intend to apply what I learned.



Applying what I learned will help improve library services to the public.



What is your primary reason for taking this course?



How did you learn about this course?





MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Malissa Briggs, Central Services Administrator
Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 1st Quarter Staffing
Date: October 5, 2026

Personnel Report: 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026)

Recruitments:

- IT Manager
 - Replacement due to staff retirement
 - Internal hire made by Mike Lighthiser

New Hires:

- No new hires occurred during 1st Quarter, FY2027

Transfers:

- No transfers occurred during 1st Quarter, FY2027

Separations:

- Lee Fashway
 - Retirement, July 3, 2026



MEMO

To: MSL Commission
From: Sean Anderson, Grants & Contracts Coordinator
Subject: FY2027 Q1 Contract Report
Date: October 1, 2026

Contract report spreadsheet is attached.

Note: For readability purposes, columns for 'Contract Number,' 'Contract Manager,' 'Status,' and 'Contract Type' have been omitted. Comprehensive data can be generated/shared on request.

ContractName	SecondPartyName	Summary	*CurrentTermAmt	StartDate	EndDate
Montana Memory Project Content Management System	Recollect (USA), Inc	Montana History Portal content management system	\$ 62,500	7/1/2026	6/30/2027
Extensis EULA	Celartem, Inc.	End user license agreement for Extensis GeoExpress software standalone license with no encoding and floating license with unlimited encoding.	\$ 2,805	6/10/2021	
LIB23-Overdrive CDL	OverDrive, Inc.	Overdrive Corporate Digital Library Service for State Agency Collections	\$ 4,000	11/1/2022	6/30/2027
LIB-Moodle-FY23	MOODLE US LLC	Purchase of Moodle Hosting Services purchased through Statewide Term Contract with SHI.	\$ 15,786	10/13/2022	6/30/2029
OCLC WebJunction Cooperative Support	OCLC, Inc.	Online continuing education training platform for Montana librarians and board members	\$ 5,740	10/1/2024	6/30/2027
FME Software License Agreement	Safe Software	FME Server software license and maintenance agreement	\$ 13,250	4/1/2026	3/31/2027
Talking Book Library Services	Utah State Library	Talking Book Library Services contract	\$ 140,000	6/16/2022	6/30/2027
OCLC Montana Group Services	OCLC, Inc.	Cataloging, patron requests, and interlibrary loan software and services for Montana libraries	\$ 1,407,875	7/1/2025	6/30/2029
Archive-It Service Agreement	INTERNET ARCHIVE	Web archive service	\$ 26,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2027
MSL Downloadable e-content	OverDrive, Inc.	MSL Downloadable e-content	\$ 50,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2027
NG9-1-1 Data Assessment Service	1Spatial Inc.	NG9-1-1 Data Assessment Service	\$ 248,853	7/1/2025	6/30/2029
Montana Shared Catalog	Sirsi Corporation	Montana Shared Catalog Integrated Library System	\$ 2,798,617	7/11/2022	6/30/2027
MSL-Montana Audubon Avian Specialist	Montana Audubon	Avian Specialist services	\$ 57,114	7/1/2025	6/30/2027
Biotics5 Software	NatureServe	LIB23-0158AL_Contract with NatureServe to provide access to Biotics5 Software	\$ 16,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2027
LibPAS - Counting Opinions	Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd.	Public Library Statistics service	\$ 13,717	7/1/2025	6/30/2029
LIB24-ParentPowered	ParentPowered PBC	Early Literacy Texting Service	\$ 7,990	7/1/2025	4/30/2027
LIB24-FrontierPrecision	Frontier Precision, Inc.	Purchasing agreement for MTSRN Hardware	\$ 250,000	8/24/2026	6/30/2027
FY26 State Library Courier	Western Peaks Logistics LLC	The State of Montana, State Procurement Services Division (SPSD), on behalf of the State Library, is issuing this Contract to provide statewide library courier services.	\$ 150,020	8/4/2026	6/30/2027
LIB26-NHPVegAndBotanicalData	LXM Consulting	Vegetation and Botanical Data Products - MTNHP	\$ 100,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2027
LIB-NHPMothPollinatorInfoProductsFY26	EntoQuest Solutions	Classification services for MTNHP	\$ 45,000	10/20/2025	6/30/2027
LIB25-Beanstack	Zoobean	Beanstack Subscription - 3 Year Term	\$ 15,000	5/30/2025	5/29/2028
LIB26-LevelAll	Level All	Affiliate Agreement for LevelAll Learning platform	\$ -	12/15/2025	6/30/2028
LIB-NHPButteflyPollinatorInfoProductsFY26-27	Xerces Society	Information Products for MTNHP	\$ 20,000	2/5/2026	6/30/2027
LIB26-LSTA Evaluation	Fast Forward Libraries LLC	Evaluation of LSTA-Funded Programs	\$ 40,500	2/27/2026	6/30/2027
LIB26-AquaticInvertData	Stag Benthics	Aquatic Invertebrate Data Products	\$ 35,000	3/24/2026	6/30/2027
Recycling Services	Helena Recycling, LLC	Recycling Services	\$ 942	7/1/2026	6/30/2027
LIB27-ConferenceSpeakerMoss	Tell Us Something	MSL Storytelling Presentation	\$ 2,000	8/13/2026	4/30/2027
Interent Archive Scanning Services	INTERNET ARCHIVE	Internet Archive digitization services	\$ 40,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2027



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Legislative reporting
Date: October 5, 2026

The following reports were prepared by the State Library as required by law and/or at the request of the Education Interim Budget Committee.

Additional reports regarding the State Library were prepared for the Education Interim Budget Committee by Legislative Staff and are available online:

- [MSL Quarterly Financial Report, FYE 2026](#) (*Legislative Fiscal Division*)
- [MSL Library Resource Sharing Executive Summary](#) (*Legislative Fiscal Division*)



Status of GIS Readiness for Next Generation 9-1-1

Report to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
September 2026

9-1-1 in Montana

In Montana, the 9-1-1 system is largely composed of communications facilities that answer 9-1-1 calls, or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), and the telephone and computer networks and infrastructure that route 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP. PSAPs are hosted by local and tribal government entities per MCA 10-4-109, and the network and infrastructure are provided by private telecommunications providers.

The State role in 9-1-1 is planning and coordination, including: allocating and distributing 9-1-1 fees, providing grants for private telecommunications providers and for local and tribal government entities that host public safety answering points, and maintaining a statewide 9-1-1 plan. In 2021, administration of the State 9-1-1 program was transferred from the Montana Department of Administration to the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) as provided for in MCA 10-4-107.

NG9-1-1 Overview

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) is the next step in the evolution of the 9-1-1 system originally developed over 50 years ago. It migrates 9-1-1 from analog technology developed for wireline phones, to an Internet Protocol (IP)-based architecture capable of communicating with any network connected device. Of particular importance to local and tribal government PSAPs and GIS professionals that maintain GIS data for 9-1-1 is the transition from using tabular databases of addresses and phone numbers to GIS databases for 9-1-1 call location and routing. In NG9-1-1, GIS data are used in real-time within the 9-1-1 call flow for all location validation, call routing, and mapping. As a result, it is essential that GIS data meet national NG9-1-1 standards and be complete, accurate, and up to date.

To facilitate the creation of the statewide GIS datasets required for NG9-1-1, MCA 10-4-310 created a 9-1-1 GIS mapping account and funded the account with an annual appropriation of 9-1-1 fees as provided for by MCA 10-4-304(5). The 9-1-1 GIS mapping account may be used only by the Montana State Library (MSL) provided for in MCA 22-1-102 in carrying out its coordination and management responsibilities to collect, maintain, and disseminate GIS land information in the state as it pertains to supporting public safety answering points on the ongoing assessment and improvement of next-generation 9-1-1 GIS data sets. With funding from the 9-1-1 GIS mapping account, MSL has focused on the two primary objectives below.

Objective 1

- Provide a cost efficient and standardized means for all PSAPs in Montana to regularly assess their 9-1-1 GIS data for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) readiness and for local, tribal, and State 9-1-1 and GIS stakeholders to track progress of GIS data readiness statewide.

Status: Cloud-Based Data Assessment Service In-use

In early 2022, following a state-led competitive RFP process, MSL awarded a contract to 1Spatial for their cloud-hosted GIS data assessment service. The MSL GIS Data Validation and Aggregation Portal was first made available to PSAPs in October 2022. PSAPs use the Portal to check their 9-1-1 GIS data for NG9-1-1 readiness and share the data with the State.

As of August of 2026, 47 of the 52 (90%) PSAP GIS data providers in Montana have started to assess their GIS data and submit it to the state. This number is up from 62% of PSAP GIS Data Providers reported in 2024.

Two key indicators of NG9-1-1 GIS readiness are the Master Street Address Guide synchronization rate and the existence of a statewide PSAP boundary GIS dataset. The Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) is the dataset used in the current 9-1-1 system for validating an address for 9-1-1. GIS data that are synchronized with the MSAG at 98% or higher indicates that GIS address data in a NG9-1-1 system can replicate the address data in the current 9-1-1 system. Montana is currently at about 56% synchronization. Call routing in NG9-1-1 relies on statewide PSAP boundaries that are coordinated with neighboring PSAPs and are free of gaps and overlaps. It is essential that all PSAPs aggregate their jurisdiction boundary in a statewide layer to ensure a call placed anywhere in the state will route to the correct PSAP. Currently, 29 of the 52 PSAP GIS data providers in Montana have validated submitted their boundary to the state, up from 7 reported in 2024.

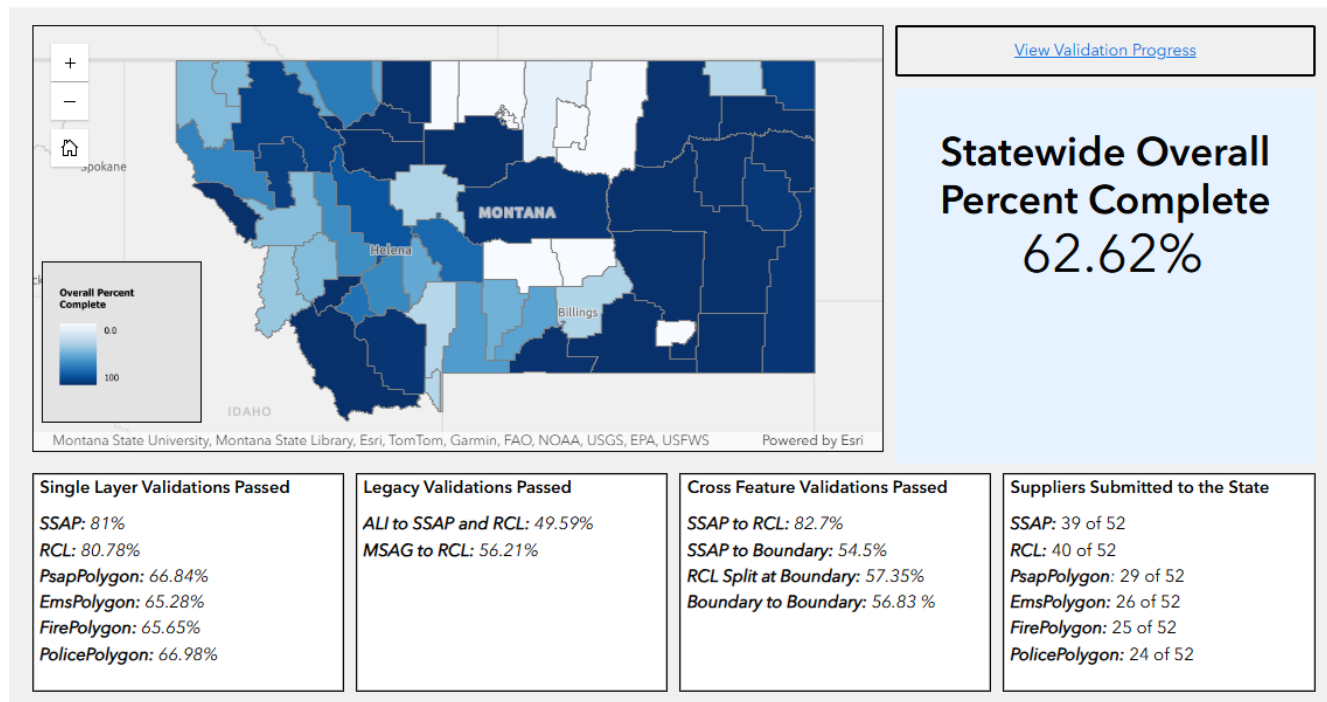


Figure 1: Image of statewide GIS data validation and aggregation progress dashboard

Key NG9-1-1 GIS Readiness Statistics	2024	2026
Total PSAP GIS Data Providers in Montana	52	52
PSAP GIS Data Providers using Portal	33 (62%)	47 (90%)
Master Street Address Guide synchronization, statewide	7%	~56%
PSAP boundaries aggregated	7 (13%)	29 (~56%)

Objective 2

- Coordinate the development, improvement, and maintenance of local, tribal, and statewide GIS datasets required for NG9-1-1.
- Local and tribal governments will use the data assessment service to ensure the required GIS data meet national NG9-1-1 standards and aggregate their data to statewide datasets. MSL will support the PSAPs and their GIS data providers in this effort with a dedicated 9-1-1 GIS Analyst.

Status: Ongoing PSAP Support

To support coordinating the development, improvement, and maintenance of NG9-1-1 required GIS datasets, MSL hired a dedicated 9-1-1 GIS Analyst in October 2021. Over the last biennium, the 9-1-1 GIS Analyst has:

- Directly supported PSAPs and their 9-1-1 GIS data providers through:
 - Technical support via in-person visits and online meetings
 - Development and implementation of GIS data editing workflows
 - Assistance with GIS data standardization to improve and maintain required 9-1-1 GIS datasets.

In recognition of the support provided, Bob Cochran was nominated for and received the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) Distinguished Service Award in 2026 for his long-term service and leadership to the Montana GIS community and the GIS profession.

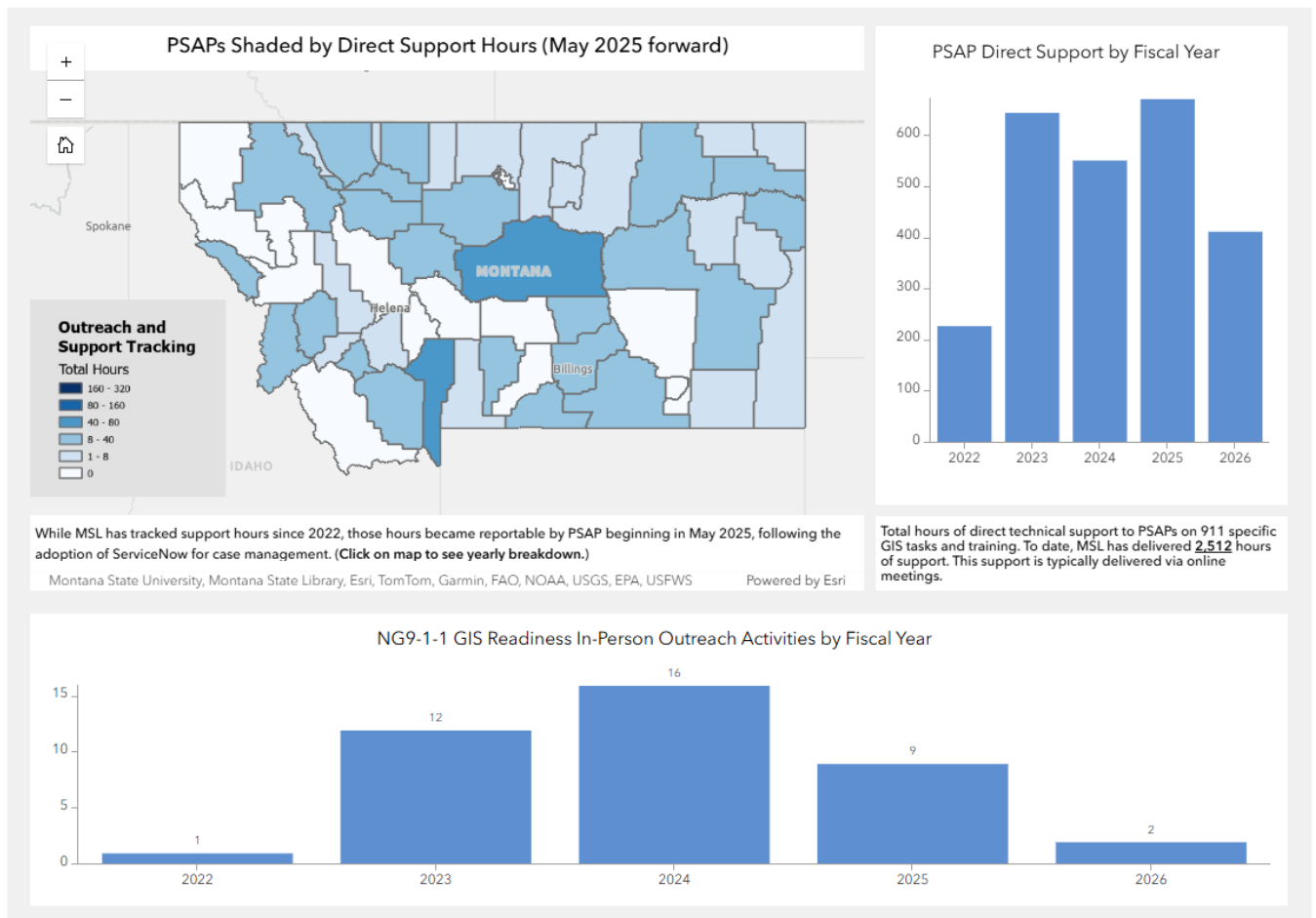


Figure 2: image of MSL PSAP outreach and support hours dashboard

Key MSL NG9-1-1 GIS Support Statistics		2025-2026
MSL in-person visits to PSAPs		11 visits
MSL direct technical support to PSAPs, FY 25 and FY 26 (in person or online)		1,085 hours

Financial Report						
	FY 2025			FY 2026		
	Budget	Actual	Balance*	Budget	Actual	Balance*
Personal Services	\$191,358.25	\$190,077.04	\$1,281.21	\$187,430.00	\$182,831.07	\$4,598.93
Operating Expenses	\$62,988.75	\$3,776.36	\$59,212.39	\$62,620.00	\$5,993.50	\$56,626.50
Contractual	\$248,853.00	\$248,853.00	\$ -	\$261,100.00	\$261,100.00	\$ -
Totals	\$503,200	\$442,706.40	\$60,493.60	\$511,150.00	\$449,924.57	\$61,225.43

*Unspent funds remain in the 9-1-1 GIS mapping account

NG9-1-1 System Status

In June of 2026, the DOJ awarded a contract to Motorola Solutions to be the NG9-1-1 provider in Montana. In early August, DOJ hosted a project kick-off meeting and Motorola provided an estimated go-live date in August of 2028. MSL fully expects that the required GIS data for every PSAP will be ready by that date. Beyond the initial transition to the NG9-1-1 system, MSL is ready to continue supporting PSAP GIS data providers in ongoing data maintenance and provisioning of GIS data to the NG9-1-1 system.

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



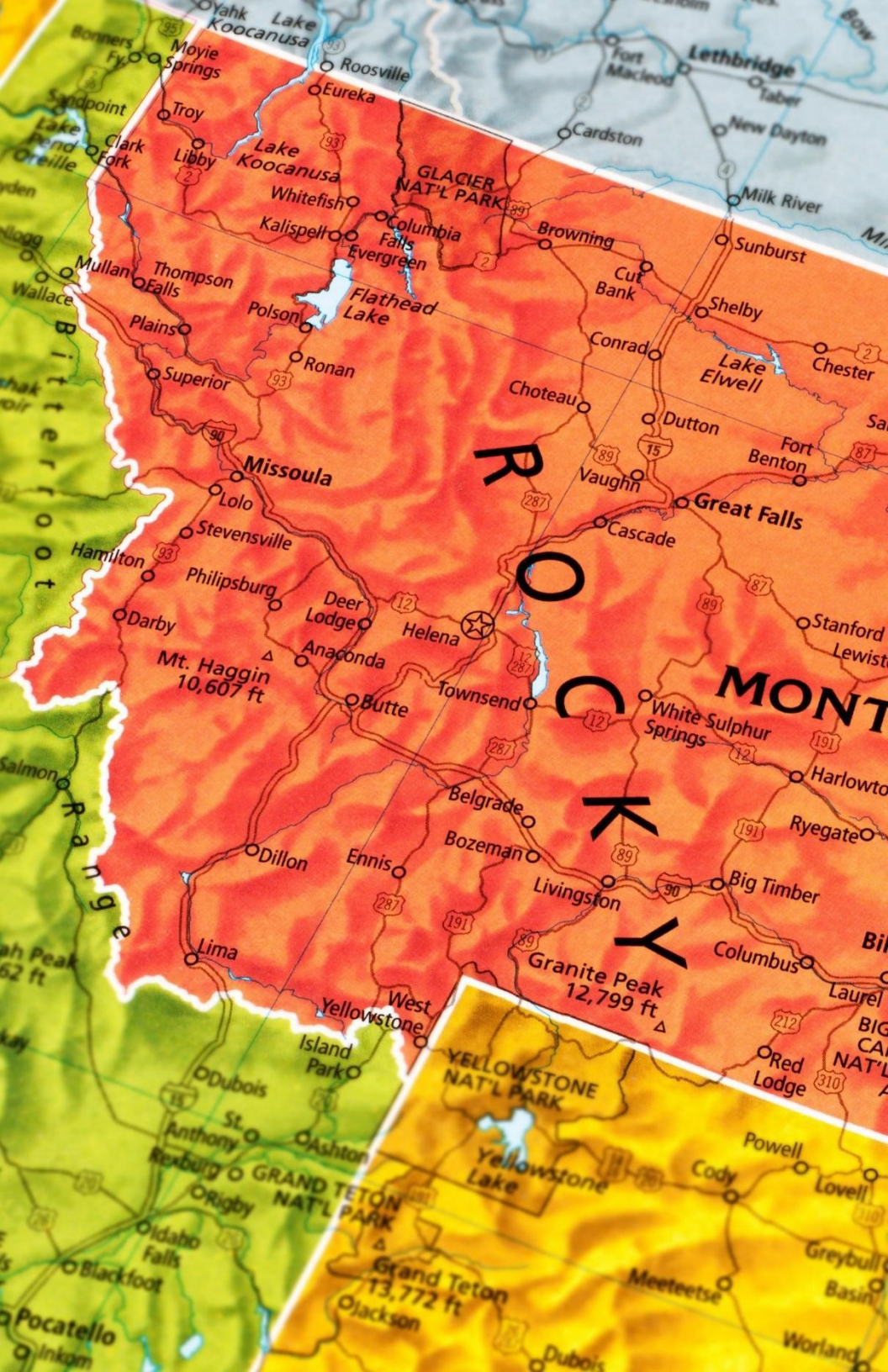


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OUR MISSION

The Montana State Library (MSL) helps all organizations, communities, and Montanans thrive through excellent library resources and services.

ACCESS Our open-data advocacy helps equalize the knowledge base of Montanans.

TRUST We are non-partisan with a reputation for integrity and transparency that fosters strong relationships across the state.

PURPOSE All areas of the State Library contribute to making lives better for Montanans.

EFFICIENCY We promote data-sharing that expedites decisions and leads to better outcomes.

LEADING EDGE We anticipate the information needs of Montanans which results in innovative product and service offerings.



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

State Library Executive Leadership



Jennie Stapp
State Librarian (Chief Officer)
jestapp2@mt.gov



Evan Hammer
Digital Library Administrator
ehammer@mt.gov



Malissa Briggs
Central Services Administrator
mbriggs@mt.gov

State Library Program Leads

[Sean Anderson](#), Grants & Contracts Coordinator

[Kazi Arifuzzaman](#), Real Time Network Coordinator

[Marilyn Bennett](#), Outreach Librarian

[Jennifer Birnel](#), MT History Portal Director

[Troy Blandford](#), Water Info Systems Manager

[Tracy Cook](#), Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian

[Erin Fashoway](#), State GIS Coordinator

[Michael Fashoway](#), GIS Land Information Lead

[Rebekah Kamp](#), Library Data & Systems Manager

[Kenny Ketner](#), Information Products Lead

[Michael Lighthiser](#), IT Manager

[Amy Marchwick](#), MT Shared Catalog Lead System Administrator

[Bryce Maxell](#), Natural Heritage Program Coordinator

[Savanna Sill](#), MT Library Network Director

COMMISSION AND COUNCIL

State Library Commission

The [State Library Commission](#) sets forth policies and funding priorities that empower the State Library to meet its mission and statutory obligations and to advocate for the State Library and the Montana library and information communities whenever possible.

Commissioner	First Appointed	Current Term Began	Term Expires
Tom Burnett , Vice-Chair	11/21/2022	6/1/2024	6/1/2027
Carmen Cuthbertson	6/1/2023	6/1/2026	6/1/2029
McKenna Gregg , Superintendent of Public Instruction Designee	1/10/2025	1/10/2025	-
Tammy Hall	3/23/2022	6/13/2025	6/1/2028
Kris Goss , Commissioner of Higher Education Appointee	10/16/2025	10/16/2025	-
Robyn Scribner , Chair	6/15/2021	6/1/2024	6/1/2027
Peggy Taylor	8/1/2021	6/1/2026	6/1/2029

Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council

The [Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council \(MGIAC\)](#), as required by statute, advises the State Librarian and the State Library Commission on issues related to geospatial information, on the priority of geospatial information, on the development and management of the Montana Geospatial Information Act grant process, and on the distribution of funds collected in the Montana Geospatial Information Account.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

During the interim, the Montana State Library advanced updates to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) and participated in a legislative study of statewide resource sharing. Together, these efforts addressed core elements of public library service.

Library Hours

The Montana State Library Commission updated [ARM 10.102.1159, Serving the Community](#), to make the public-library open-hours standard more flexible. The revised rule moves from fixed minimum weekly hours based on service-area population to an average-hours approach, giving libraries more latitude to schedule service in ways that respond to local circumstances while maintaining a focus on convenient public access. The rulemaking process included [public hearings](#) and written-comment opportunities in fall 2025.

Library Director Certification

The Commission adopted revisions to [ARM 10.102.1160, Personnel](#), updating the Montana State Library's director-certification program effective July 1, 2026. The revised rules support directors in building the foundational skills needed to manage libraries that meet Montana's public-library development standards. The updated rules clarify the Commission's role in approving the annual course of study and the course catalog of eligible individual courses. Directors have two years from hire to complete 20 approved credits for initial certification; renewal requires 60 credits during each subsequent five-year period.

Interim Study on Library Resource Sharing

Montana State Library staff provided information and technical support to the Legislative Education Interim Budget Committee for their study of Montana library resource sharing. The study examined how Montana's libraries share physical and digital materials, the services and funding that support this work, and the opportunities and challenges that impact effective statewide resource sharing. Guided by the statewide resource-sharing mandate in [MCA 22-1-328](#), the study gave committee members a fuller understanding of how these services support Montanans and Montana libraries.

DELIVERING MORE WITH A SMARTER COURIER NETWORK

In 2026, the [Montana State Library Courier Program](#) entered a new phase of service through its transition to Western Peaks Logistics (WPL) as the statewide courier contractor. The new partnership adds crate scanning and an online courier portal, giving participating libraries greater visibility into shipments from pickup through delivery. The portal also standardizes label creation, supports order tracking, and provides a clearer process for managing delivery questions and service issues.

These improvements are strengthening how the program balances distribution strategies across Montana's large and geographically diverse service area. With more timely information about crates, routes, and delivery activity, the courier program can make better-informed operational decisions and help books and other shared materials reach libraries, and ultimately patrons, more quickly. This data led to a reduction of over 500 crates at an overloaded hub library, helping to reduce workload and backlog. The improved system also lays the groundwork for expanding access as the network grows.

The scale of this work demonstrates why an efficient statewide courier is essential. In fiscal year 2026, the program moved nearly 500,000 books roundtrip in approximately 19,000 crates, transporting 310 tons of library materials. Fifty-five libraries participated in the service: 19 received direct courier service, while 36 accessed the network through local staff or volunteer delivery connections.

The courier program also delivers significant value for participating libraries. Based on the cost of sending materials through USPS Media Mail compared with the courier's current rates, Montana libraries saved an estimated \$4 million in shipping costs in fiscal year 2026. By enabling libraries to borrow and lend rather than purchase duplicate titles, the program also generated an estimated \$7.9 million in avoided book-purchase costs. These savings allow libraries to focus more of their local resources on the services, materials, and programming their communities need.

This statewide impact was recognized in 2026 when the Montana State Library Courier Program and its staff, Savanna Sill and Guilherme Poelsma, received the Montana Library Association Library Program of the Year Award. The award recognizes the program's contribution to efficient resource sharing and stronger library service throughout Montana.



Pictured above, Missoula Public Library received 42 courier crates in a single day, containing 1,700 books requested by library patrons across Montana. Western Peaks Logistics delivers to the library five days a week, bringing requested materials to Missoula patrons and carrying materials from Missoula to libraries statewide. In FY 2026, Missoula Public Library received 5,270 through the courier network, illustrating the scale of this resource-sharing service.

A NEW ROADMAP FOR MONTANA'S GEOSPATIAL FUTURE

The Montana State Library published the first [Montana Geospatial Information Plan](#) after the Legislature revised the Montana Geospatial Information Act in 2023. The FY 2026-28 plan replaces the former annual Montana Land Information Plans as a result of House Bill 343, enacted by the 2023 Montana Legislature. The legislation renamed the Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) as the Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) and revised related provisions for geospatial planning, coordination, and grants. This three-year plan establishes a shared, multi-year roadmap for the state's geospatial work.

Under [MCA 90-1-404\(c\)](#), the State Library is responsible for managing and coordinating geospatial information and for developing the Montana Geospatial Information Plan in consultation with the [Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council \(MGIAC\)](#). Covering fiscal years 2026 through 2028, the plan provides greater continuity for the library, its partners, and the Council by aligning planning, budgeting, data investments, and progress monitoring around shared statewide priorities. MGIAC endorsed the plan, and the Montana State Library Commission adopted it in October 2025.

The plan directs work on the [Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure \(MSDI\)](#), the statewide collection of foundational geographic datasets, services, and tools that support mapping and decision-making. Consistent, publicly available data help organizations avoid duplicating data collection and reduce the time needed to locate and use information. In Custer County, for example, staff used State Library administrative-boundary data to complete redistricting maps in less than one month, a process that had taken more than six months using hand-drawn maps during the prior redistricting cycle.

The plan also establishes priorities for statewide geospatial coordination. Through MGIAC and partnerships with organizations that collect, maintain, and use geographic information, the State Library can align work on shared data needs, standards, governance, and outreach. This coordination helps partners make better use of existing resources, avoid duplicating effort, and maintain the statewide information needed to support planning, analysis, and public services.

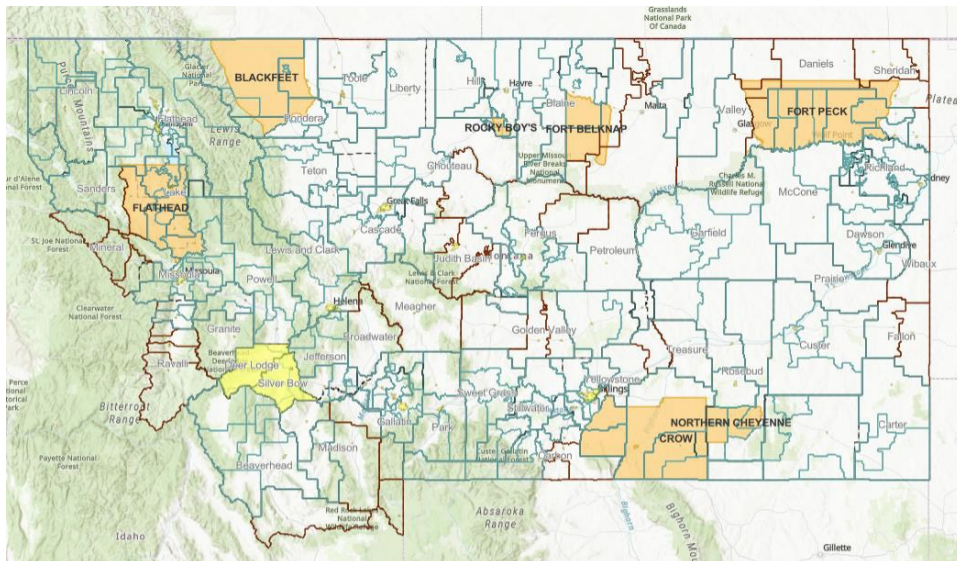
The FY 2026-2028 plan prioritizes standardized data collection and maintenance, improved data quality and value, stronger coordination and data governance, and continued development of the MGIA Grant Program. More information about the status of the MGIA Grant Program appears in the [MGIA Grants Resume](#) section of this report.

Developed with input from MGIAC and the public, the plan provides a longer planning horizon for maintaining essential statewide data, coordinating partner efforts, and making purposeful investments in Montana's geospatial infrastructure.



The most current Montana Geospatial Information Plan (featured above), along with historical plans, can be accessed on the [Montana Geospatial Information Plans](#) page.

MODERNIZING MONTANA'S GEOSPATIAL ARCHITECTURE



The MSDI Administrative Boundaries framework and other MSDI Themes can now be accessed through the new cloud-hosted web services environment. A high-level list of impacted services can be accessed on the [GIS Web Service Changes](#) page, part of the State Library's communication strategy for this major change.

The Montana State Library is implementing a major modernization of its [GIS web-service architecture](#). The library transitioned from the former ESRI Cloud Managed Services (ECMS) environment to a new cloud-hosted platform provided by ROK Technologies, moving services to [gisservice.mt.gov](#). This work established a modern technical foundation for delivering Montana's authoritative geospatial data, maps, and applications to the public and government partners. Changes to public-facing web services were effective July 31, 2026.

The transition modernized the behind-the-scenes infrastructure that connects current map layers and data to public-facing map applications, local-government tools, ArcGIS Online maps, story maps, geocoding services, and desktop GIS projects. Moving these services to the ROK cloud environment strengthened the delivery system behind the [Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure \(MSDI\)](#) and its 15 statewide framework data themes. These data themes provide shared reference information for mapping, planning, analysis, and decision-making across Montana.

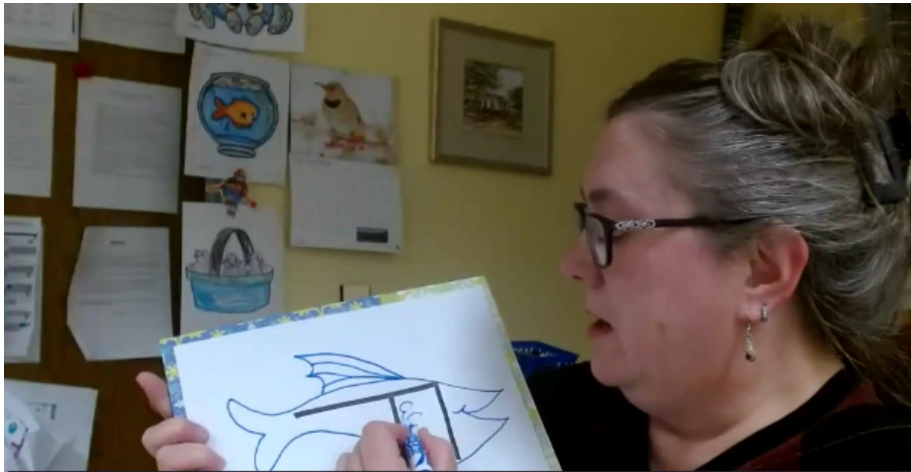
Cloud hosting gives the library a more resilient and flexible foundation for GIS services. The ROK environment can scale computing resources as demand changes, helping map applications and data services remain responsive during periods of heavy use. It also reduces the need for the library to maintain underlying servers and infrastructure. These operational improvements allow GIS staff to focus more of their time on

maintaining authoritative data and improving the public's ability to discover and use Montana geospatial information.

The transition required substantial coordination because the previous environment supported a wide range of existing workflows, web maps, and applications. Library GIS staff inventoried services, documented updated service locations and layer references, coordinated migration needs, and notified users under the library's 30-day service-change policy.

The change also strengthened the long-term sustainability of the State Library's GIS services. By maintaining and delivering authoritative statewide information through a modern, managed platform, the library can continue to serve as a central source for reliable Montana geospatial data while adapting services as technology and public needs evolve. Technical assistance remains available through the library's [GeoSupport service](#), helping users navigate the transition and make effective use of these resources.

BUILDING EARLY LITERACY CONNECTIONS



Pictured above, Cathy Friel, the children's librarian at Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, was the featured Books Before Bedtime reader in December. Families described the program as a meaningful way to build reading and early literacy skills into daily life. One participant shared: "I think this was a great way to get involved in my child's reading and start a nightly routine of reading. It really sparked his desire to read every night!"

Through a partnership with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), supported by Montana's federally funded [Bright Futures Birth to Five \(BFB5\)](#) program, the Montana State Library expanded early-literacy resources for young children and their families.

A centerpiece of the partnership was [Books Before Bedtime](#), a free monthly virtual story-time program for Montana families with children under age five. The program was designed to reach families in rural Montana and encourage regular reading at home. By participating virtually, families could join from home regardless of their distance from a library or early-learning program. During each session, families heard a story read aloud by library and community partners, learned simple ways to talk and interact around books, and practiced ideas for building a calming bedtime reading routine. Each participating family received a mailed book box containing the featured title and activities that extended learning beyond the online session.

Books Before Bedtime distributed more than 1,600 books to families in 88 communities and featured readers from public libraries and early-learning partners across Montana. By pairing virtual story times with mailed books, the program helped families establish reading routines with books they could keep and enjoy together.

The partnership with DPHHS further expanded the availability of children's books through community food-distribution networks. In collaboration with the Montana Food Bank Network, the program supplied 5,408 books for children ages 0-5 to food banks, clinics, and laundromats across the state using books from [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#). Placing books in locations families already visit for essential services created additional opportunities for families to bring reading materials home.

Alongside Books Before Bedtime and book distribution through community partners, the Parent Powered Texting Program gave caregivers another simple way to support early learning at home. Families with children ages 0-4 received age-appropriate literacy tips, activities, and encouragement by text, helping make reading, conversation, and play part of everyday routines. Together, these connected services brought books, ideas, and practical support to Montana families, particularly those in communities where in-person early-learning opportunities may be limited.

EXPLORING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LIBRARIES

The Montana State Library Commission began a focused exploration of how artificial intelligence may affect library services, public access to information, and the work of the Montana State Library. In 2026, the Commission identified expanding its understanding of AI tools and applications as a [formal goal](#). This work reflects the Commission's recognition that AI tools are becoming part of everyday work, learning, and information seeking, and that libraries can help Montanans develop informed, responsible approaches to using them.

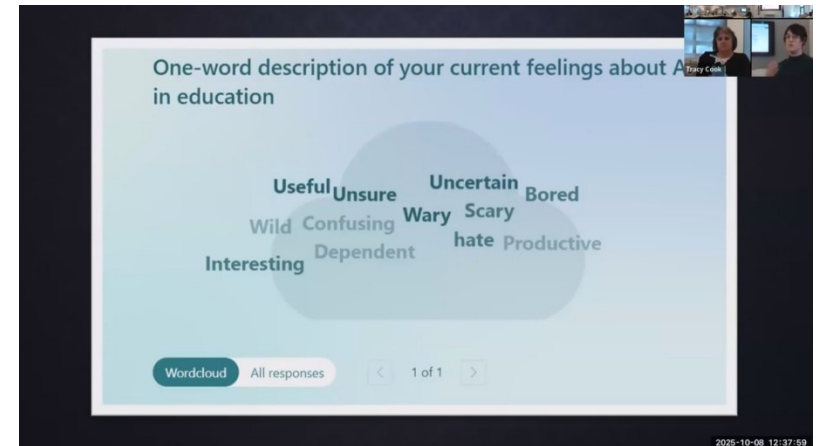
The Commission invited several speakers to provide different perspectives on this emerging topic. Taylor Moorman of Montana State University introduced the Commission to AI literacy and the role libraries can play in helping patrons understand how generative AI systems work and how to use these tools responsibly. Her presentation helped frame AI as an information-literacy topic well suited to libraries' educational role.

In February, the Commission heard from Chris Tarabochia, Montana's Chief AI Officer, about the state government's approach to artificial intelligence. His presentation addressed the state's vision for AI, potential uses for improving productivity and service delivery, and the importance of considering governance and responsible implementation as agencies explore new tools.

The Commission also welcomed Matt Sheehan for a presentation on AI and GIS. He demonstrated how AI can work with geographic information systems to help analyze complex spatial datasets, support mapping and decision-making, and make geographic information more accessible through natural-language tools and other emerging interfaces.

State Library staff also began developing learning opportunities for Montana library staff to ask questions and explore practical uses in their own settings. AI learning was included in the draft State Library Certification Course Catalog through "[AI and Public Libraries: Panel and Discussion](#)," and the State Library shared opportunities such as the [Presidential AI Challenge](#). These activities helped library staff better understand the opportunities, risks, and questions AI presents for libraries and the communities they serve.

The State Library will build on this work through a newly awarded, three-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In partnership with the New Jersey State Library, the Hawai'i State Public Library System, and InnovateUS, a project of The Governance Lab, the Montana State Library will implement a project called "Engaging Communities with Artificial Intelligence." The project will develop a replicable, scalable model for helping members of the public understand artificial intelligence and explore its potential role in civic engagement. Designed for people with no prior technical experience, the project will equip libraries with accessible training tools that demystify AI and help residents use AI to improve their lives and communities.



The slide shown above from [Taylor Moorman's presentation](#) features a word cloud reflecting the range of emotions and perspectives surrounding AI in education.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

Public Library Development

Give assistance and advice to all tax-supported or public libraries in the state and to all counties, cities, towns, or regions in the state that propose to establish libraries, as to the best means of establishing and improving those libraries. (MCA 22-1-103)

Measure: total library consultations

Five-year average (2022-2026): 722 consultations/year

Librarian Certification

Act as a state board of professional standards and library examiners, develop standards for public libraries, and adopt rules for the certification of librarians. (MCA 22-1-103)

Measure: total certifications awarded

Five-year average (2022-2026): 93 certifications/year

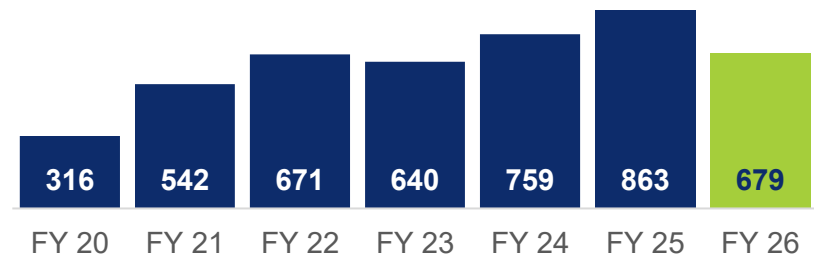
Services for the Blind

Provide library services for the blind and for individuals with physical disabilities. (MCA 22-1-103)

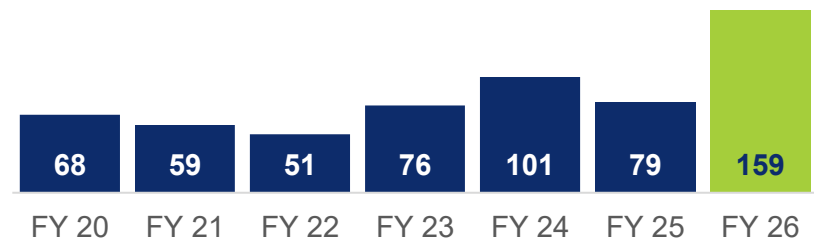
Measure: materials loaned to Talking Book patrons

Five-year average (2022-2026): 131,975 materials loaned/year

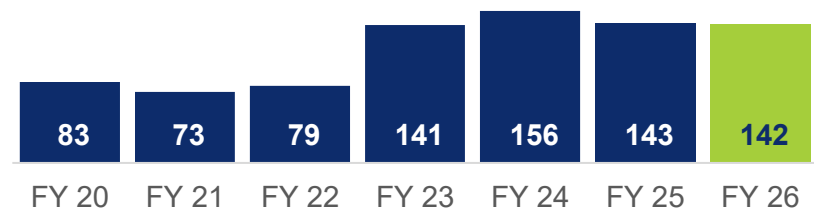
Total Library Consultations



Total Certifications Awarded



Materials Loaned to Talking Book Patrons
(in thousands)



MONTANA STATE LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

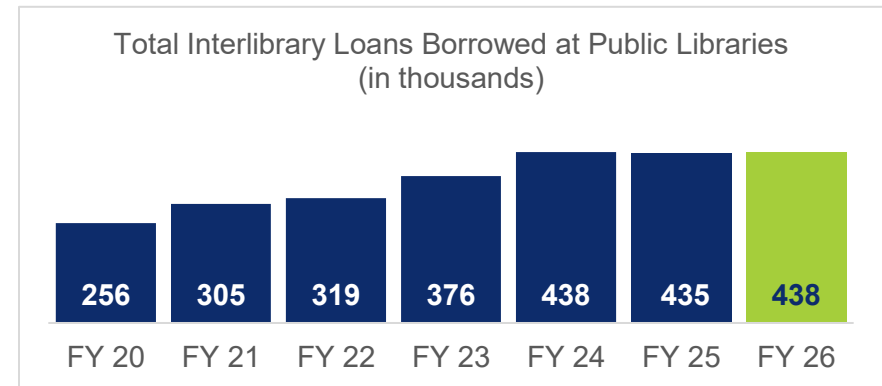
Statewide Resource Sharing

Support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana, including but not limited to public libraries. (MCA 22-1-328)

Measure: total interlibrary loans borrowed at public libraries*

Five-year average (2022-2026): 401,193 loans borrowed/year

*FY 2026 data are preliminary.

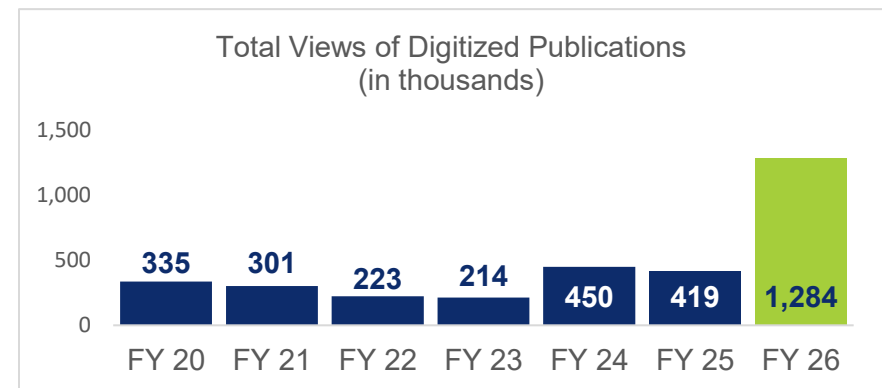


State Publications

Administer a state publications depository library program to identify, acquire, catalog, preserve, and provide access to state publications. (MCA 22-1-212)

Measure: total views of digitized publications

Five-year average (2022-2026): 518,101 views/year

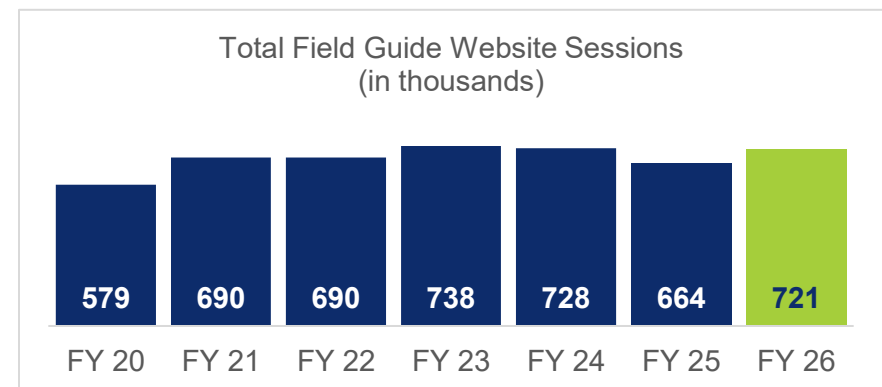


Montana Natural Heritage Program

Integrate Montana Natural Heritage data as a part of the natural resource information system. (MCA 90-15-302)

Measure: total field guide website sessions

Five-year average (2022-2026): 708,088 website sessions/year



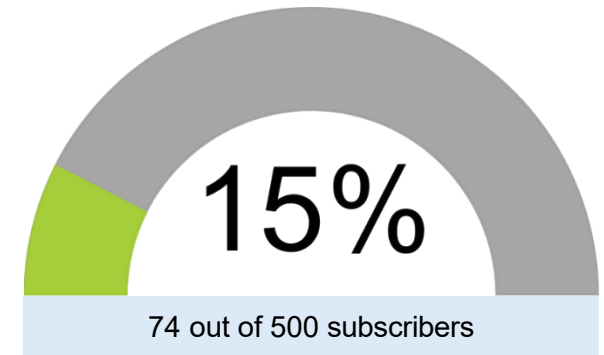
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

Montana State Reference Network

Administer a state reference network to provide real-time geospatial location data from any location within the network. (MCA 22-1-230)

Measure: % of necessary subscriptions acquired for a self-sustaining network (minimum of 500 by 2029)

Baseline: MTSRN acquired first paid subscribers in April 2024

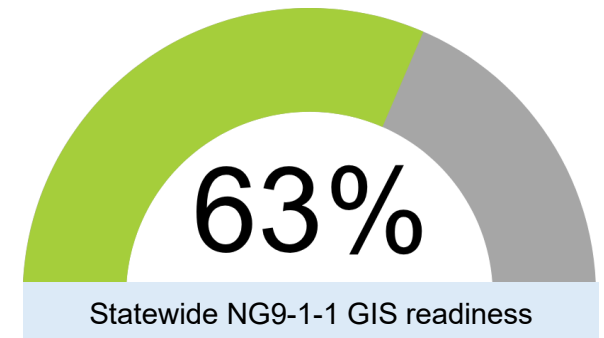


Next Generation 9-1-1

Support public safety answering points on the assessment and improvement of next-generation 9-1-1 GIS data. (MCA 10-4-310)

Measure: Statewide NG9-1-1 GIS readiness, based on each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) data provisioner's progress in validating and aggregating GIS data

Baseline: Assessment software released to PSAPs December 2022

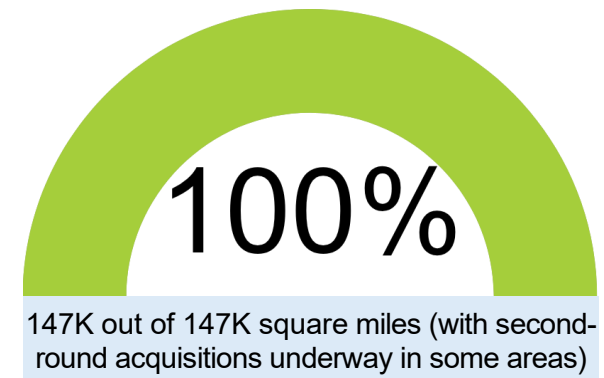


Montana Lidar Inventory

Collect, maintain, and disseminate information about the natural and artificial land characteristics of Montana. (MCA 90-1-402)

Measure: % of total collected and available within the state boundary and meeting USGS 3DEP specifications (total of 147K square miles)

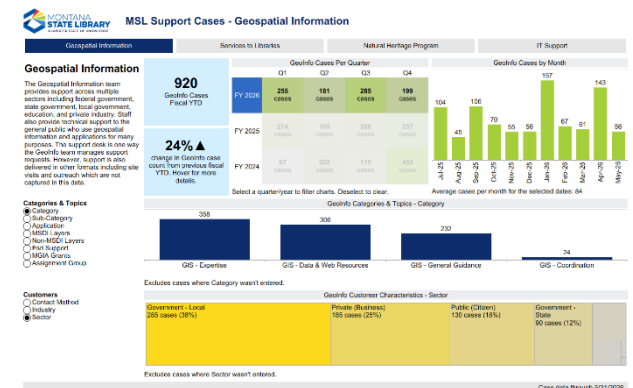
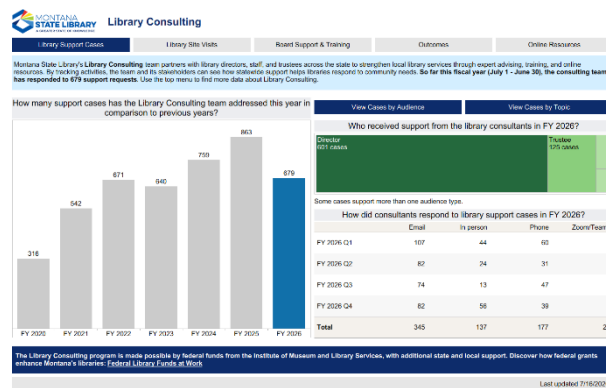
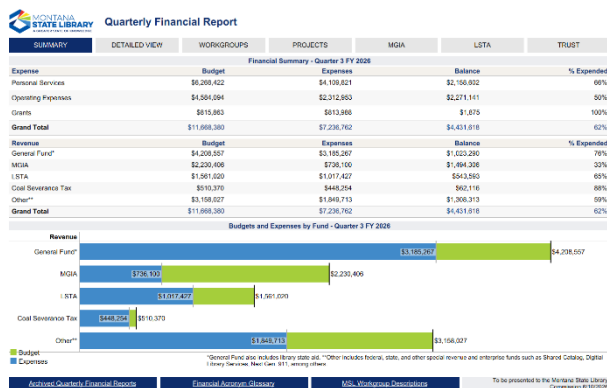
Baseline: Montana Lidar Plan published June 2019 with 42,000 square miles (28%) meeting USGS baseline specifications



MONTANA STATE LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

Interactive Dashboards

The Montana State Library maintains a series of dashboards throughout the year, with most updated quarterly to track progress on key initiatives. These interactive tools are publicly available and provide up-to-date information on the State Library's work and statewide impact. This page links to a selection of dashboards, with many more available anytime on the [Montana State Library's website](#). Montana State Library also collects data on Montana's public and tribal college libraries which can be viewed via the [Public Library Statistics dashboard](#).



FINANCIALS

A report of financial data from the most recent quarter

PROGRAMS

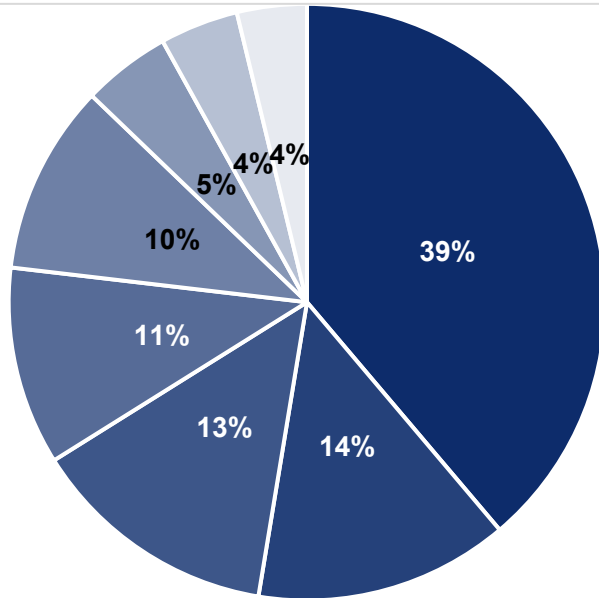
Data highlights from select programs at Montana State Library

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Data on customer support delivered through MSL's ServiceNow help desk

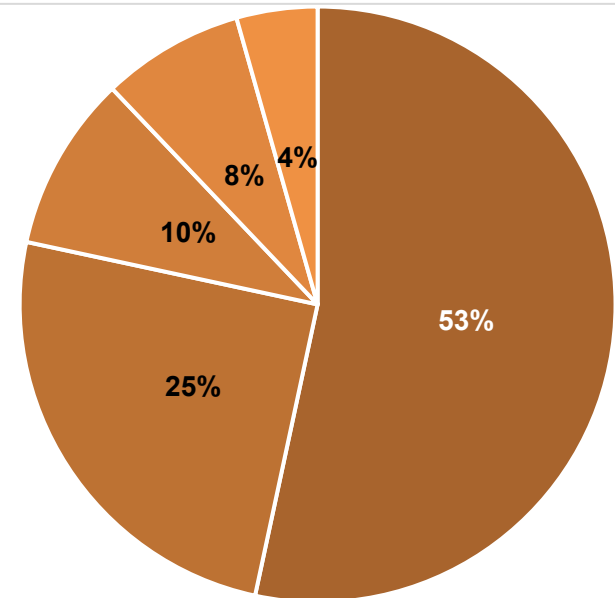
FINANCIALS

Funding Source



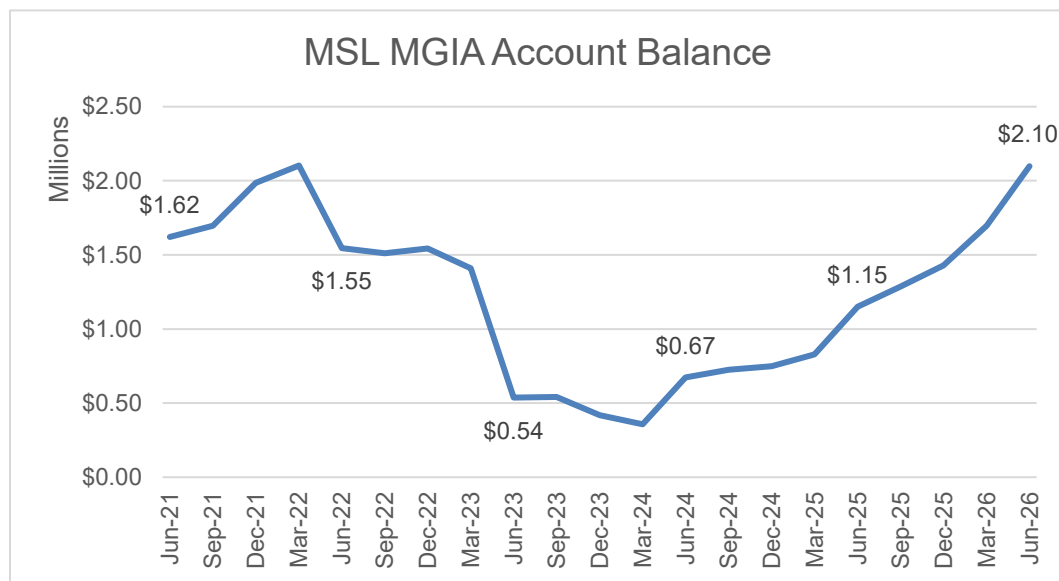
- General Fund: \$4,094,441 (39%)
- Next Generation 9-1-1: \$1,454,287 (14%)
- Library Services and Technology Act: \$1,424,093 (14%)
- Other: \$1,134,165 (11%)
- Montana Geospatial Information: \$1,087,719 (10%)
- Coal Severance Tax: \$504,959 (5%)
- Digital Library Services: \$448,803 (4%)
- MT Shared Catalog: \$399,187 (4%)

Expenses



- Personal Services: \$5,629,071 (53%)
- Operating Expenses: \$2,636,906 (25%)
- Equipment & Intangible Assets: \$1,004,362.67 (10%)
- Grants: \$813,988 (8%)

MGIA GRANTS RESUME



The Montana State Library's MGIA account balance reached a low in FY 2024, prompting a pause in the grant program. By the close of FY 2026, the account balance had increased to \$2.1 million. The improved outlook reflects time to rebuild the reserve, revenue from document-recording activity, and increased deposits to the account following [2025 legislation](#) that raised the amount deposited in the MGIA account to \$2.25 per recorded page. Beginning in July 2027, that amount will be adjusted biennially for inflation.

The [Montana Geospatial Information Act \(MGIA\) Grant Program](#) is returning after financial shortfalls in the MGIA account prevented awards in FY 2025 and FY 2026. During the pause, the Montana State Library conducted a [comprehensive internal review](#) to strengthen the program before its next funding cycle. The review examined grant priorities, financial planning, administrative processes, grant management practices, and feedback from past grantees.

The review confirmed that MGIA grants remain an important tool for helping state agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, and other partners develop and maintain the geospatial data and services Montana communities rely on. It also identified opportunities to improve the program by focusing awards on priorities within the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and supporting projects with clear, achievable scopes of work.

Renewed stability in the MGIA account supports the program's return. A revised biennial funding model will better align grant budgets with revenue trends and the state budget cycle. Because MGIA revenue comes from recording fees, annual collections can vary. Awarding grants every two years will allow the Montana State Library and the [Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council \(MGIAC\)](#) to make funding decisions

using more current revenue information and maintain a manageable portfolio of active projects.

Montana State Library Commission approved [FY 2027–FY 2028 MGIA grant awards](#) in two rounds, on February 11 and May 6, 2026. The awards provide \$500,000 for 12 projects led by counties, municipalities, and state agencies. Funded work will advance NG9-1-1 geospatial data development and strengthen Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure frameworks for cadastral, hydrography, and transportation. In keeping with the redesigned program's priorities, the FY 2027-FY 2028 cycle gave priority consideration to FY 2025 projects that had been approved but remained unfunded during the financial shortfall, when those projects continued to align with the current [Montana Geospatial Information Plan](#).

YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2026 was a year of purposeful modernization, service expansion, and strong collaboration across Montana's library and geospatial communities.

- We updated key administrative rules to give libraries greater flexibility in serving their communities and strengthened our library director certification pathway.
- We also supported the Legislature's interim study on statewide resource sharing, deepening the Legislature's understanding of how libraries work together to deliver physical and digital materials across the state.
- Our statewide courier network entered a new phase with the transition to Western Peaks Logistics bringing modern tools to improve the efficiency of this foundational resource sharing program.
- Our Montana Geospatial Information Plan (FY 2026-28) sets a multi-year roadmap for data quality, coordination, and investment in the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).
- In parallel, we modernized our GIS web-service architecture, migrating to a cloud-hosted environment provided by ROK Technologies, delivering more resilient, scalable services at gisservice.mt.gov and strengthening how authoritative statewide data reach the public, local governments, and research partners.
- In a partnership with the Department of Public Health and Human Services and Bright Futures Birth to Five, we piloted new early literacy services to understand how we and Montana libraries can improve reading scores in Montana.

This work, and more, demonstrates our commitment to our partners, to providing future-focused information services, and to being an exceptional steward of public funding and the public's trust. Thank you to our staff, the State Library Commission, the Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council and library professionals and partners throughout Montana. Together, we will continue to expand access, build trust, and deliver purposeful, efficient, leading-edge services that help all Montanans thrive.



Jennie Stapp
State Librarian



1201 11TH AVE PO BOX 201800 | HELENA, MONTANA 59620
PHONE: (406) 444-3115 | TOLL FREE: (800) 338-5087 | TTY: MONTANA RELAY 711

[WEBSITE](#) | [NEWS](#) | [DASHBOARDS](#) | [CALENDAR](#)



MEMO

To: Education Interim Budget Committee
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Montana State Reference Network update
Date: August 24, 2026

At their June 10, 2026, meeting, the Montana State Library (MSL) Commission directed MSL staff to provide information on the Montana State Reference Network (MTSRN) and future operational options. MSL Staff presented that information (below) during the August 12, 2026, MSL Commission meeting. Following that presentation and subsequent discussion, the MSL Commission directed MSL to pursue legislation ending MSL's involvement with the MTSRN. MSL is working with the Governor's Office to implement this directive.

Until current law is changed, MSL will continue operating the MTSRN in accordance with current law and will use enterprise fund revenue to cover related expenses.

MSL has informed the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) of the Commission's decision and is developing a communications plan for current and prospective subscribers.

MDT has indicated that they plan to continue operating the network to address MDT operational needs; MDT's capacity to support non-MDT users remains uncertain.



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator
Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Montana State Reference Network Budget
Date: August 7, 2026

At the June 10, 2026, Commission meeting the Commission requested information regarding the impact of lower than anticipated adoption of the Montana State Reference Network (MTSRN).

MTSRN History

- 2006-present Stakeholders began early discussions about a real-time network for Montana. Montana tribes and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) build reference stations around Montana.
- 2013 The Montana State Library (MSL) awarded a \$45,000 Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) Grant to the Chester-Joplin-Inverness School to install a Continually Operating Reference Station (CORS) to serve Liberty County. This project was completed with students and the Liberty County GIS Coordinator.
- 2015 Chester-Joplin-Inverness students presented the benefits of the CORS station to the residents of Liberty County to the MSL Commission.
- 2016 Liberty County received a second MGIA grant for \$8,500 to expand coverage of the CORS station.
- 2018-2024 Montana tribes, MDT, and MSL operated a pilot network in partnership with the Washington State Reference Network (WSRN) to test the benefits of operating a network in Montana. The WSRN staff managed pilot users during this period. Montanans were invited to use the network at no cost during the pilot phase.
- 2022 The MSL Commission authorized MSL to seek legislative authority to establish an enterprise fund to operate the MTSRN using a subscriber-based funding model.
MSL hired the MTSRN Operator who took over network and pilot user administration from the WSRN.

- 2023 The Legislature passed Senate Bill 60 that established the enterprise fund to operate the MTSRN. The Legislature also appropriated one-time MGIA monies to establish the MTSRN. The MSL Commission adopted administrative rule regarding the subscription model.
- 2024 The pilot program ended in June and MSL began accepting paid subscribers to the MTSRN.
Due to declines in MGIA revenue, MSL did not spend the full legislative appropriation. MSL did not hire a planned MTSRN tech to support the Operator and did not make planned investments in software to add more stations to the MTSRN.
- 2024-2026 MSL contracted with Real Marketing Solutions to increase awareness of the MTSRN with key targets in the agriculture and equipment industries in Montana. Their final report is included in meeting materials.

MTSRN Subscribers

MSL created a glidepath to set targets for subscriber adoption that would result in a funding model that fully funds the operations of the MTSRN. Projections were based on experiences in neighboring states where it took time for users to embrace the new technology. In Utah, for example, it took several years to reach 300 subscribers, but since they hit that benchmark usage has steadily increased.

The original target for full funding was 2029. Based on revised subscription targets we have shifted this date to 2031.

Subscriptions

Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Subscription Target	-	70	75**	150	250	400	500
Subscription Cost	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Revenue	-	\$105,000	\$112,500	\$225,000	\$375,000	\$600,000	\$750,000

Refer to the Commission's April Business Meeting materials to review the full glidepath:
[Montana State Reference Network Glidepath March 2026](#)

At the time this glidepath was revised in March, the MTSRN had 74 paid subscribers. Based on the number of renewals, new subscribers, and active users, MSL projects that the number of subscribers will increase to 77 subscribers in 2027.

Additionally, the MTSRN provides service to 26 educational users, 15 users with promotional licenses, and 20 users who have contributed stations to the network.



For users who do not require real time correction, MSL supports the option to download raw data from any station in the network for post-processing at no cost. Users have downloaded raw data two dozen times since the start of the fiscal year.

MTSRN Revenue and Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Revenues
2024	\$ 62,087
2025	\$ 103,100
2026	\$ 63,000
2027 *YTD 8/7/26	\$ 70,500

Subscription Year	Subscriptions	Revenue
2025	69	\$88,900
2026	72	\$108,000
2027 *YTD 8/7/26	68	\$102,000

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
61000 Personal Services	\$ 58,568	\$ 113,580	\$ 116,416	\$ 120,974	\$ 123,876
62000 Operating Expenses	\$ 200,073	\$ 201,240	\$ 227,195	\$ 69,397	\$ 43,182
Total Expenditures	\$ 258,641	\$ 314,820	\$ 343,611	\$ 190,370	\$ 167,059

*excluding Software Contract FY 25 and 26

MDT costs

MDT has determined that the MTSRN is a worthwhile invest for their business needs and that they will continue to support the network.

Contract costs for network hardware and software:

FY2025 - \$120,000

FY2026 - \$132,000

FY2027 - \$134,000

Additional Montana investment



The MTSRN currently consists of 80 stations managed by MDT (47), EarthScope (20), Tribal Nations (3) (Tribes have also supported 15 of the MDT and EarthScope stations), Colleges and Universities (4), Counties (3) and other partners (3). Stations cost approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 each.

In the coming weeks, the Operator will add an additional 25 stations recently completed by MDT.

MTSRN options

1) Maintain status quo investment in the current subscriber-based funding model

Under this scenario MSL continues to support the MTSRN for a prolonged period with a mix of MGIA and State General Fund until such time as the MTSRN may be fully funded from subscribers. MDT continues to fund the software contract and station construction.

Anticipated costs FY27: \$390,709 (Operator, operations costs, nodes, equipment, administrative costs)

2) Streamlined network operations

Under this scenario MSL limits investment to cover the cost of the Operator and associated operational and administrative costs which MDT will not cover. This would assume that MDT continues to cover the software contract, costs of station construction and nodes for any stations they add to the network. MDT or partners would also cover any maintenance costs for new or existing stations. This is the lowest cost option to keep the network operating as a paid service for potential Montana users to grow interest over time.

Anticipated costs FY27: \$155,000 (Operator, operations costs, administrative costs)

3) Increase investment in the MTSRN subscriber-based funding model

Under this scenario MSL continues to support the MTSRN with a mix of MGIA and State General Fund with increased investment to provide adequate support for the Operator and to drive up subscribership.

This option includes hiring a full-time tech who can provide backup support to the Operator and ongoing technology investment to ensure the system is well-managed to meet user expectations.

For this option to be successful, Real Marketing Solutions recommends that MSL hire a contract sales representative who is available to travel the state to meet with potential customers in



person. In their expert opinion this approach is what customers in Montana expect and what MSL has, here to date, been unable to offer.

MDT continues to fund the software contract and station construction.

Anticipated costs FY27: \$545,350 (Operator, Tech, nodes, marketing contract)

4) End MSL involvement with the MTSRN

Under this scenario, MSL would cease to provide operational support for the MTSRN. MDT has said they would continue to operate the network for agency needs and are willing to support existing educational users.

Should the Commission adopt this option, MSL recommends that operational support end on June 30, 2027 to give current subscribers adequate notice. Current revenue in the MTSRN enterprise fund would be expended on fiscal year 2027 expenses. The Operator position would be eliminated through a reduction in force.

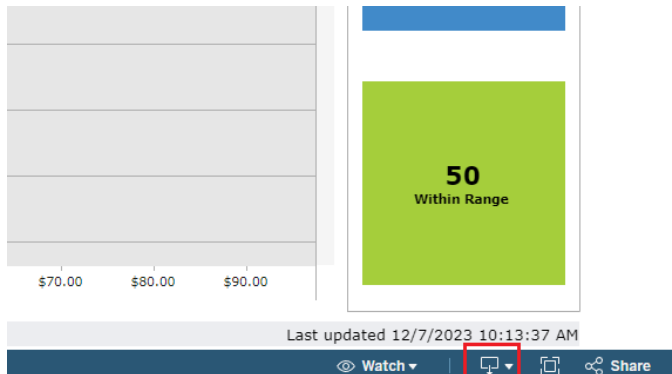
MSL may need to seek legislative approval to rescind the authorizing legislation passed in 2023.

Anticipated Costs FY27: \$150,000 (Reduction in force and winddown costs)

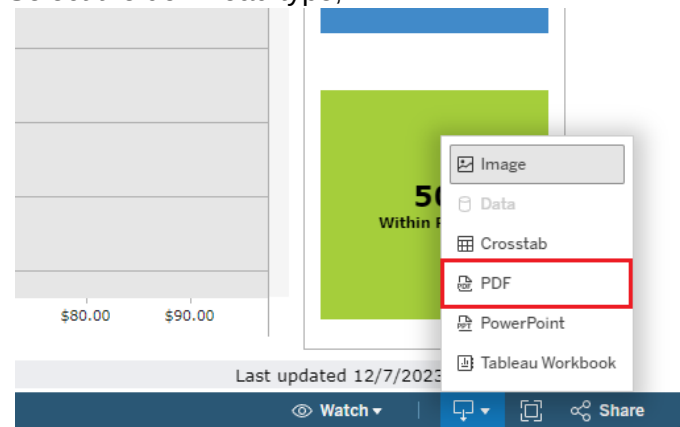
Download Dashboard with Scrolling Content

Some dashboards have a scroll bar to expand the range of data that can be presented. To download this content for later viewing, please use the following steps.

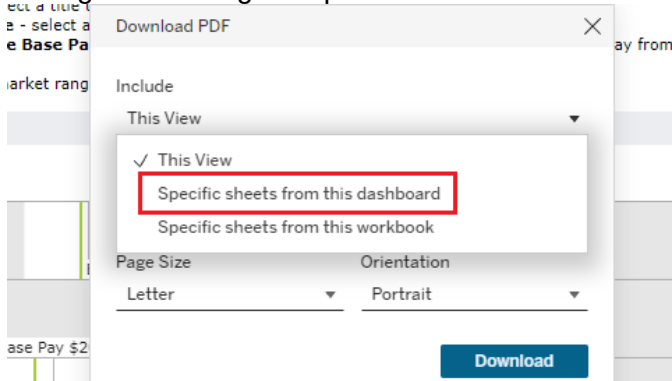
1. Click the download button at the bottom of the screen.



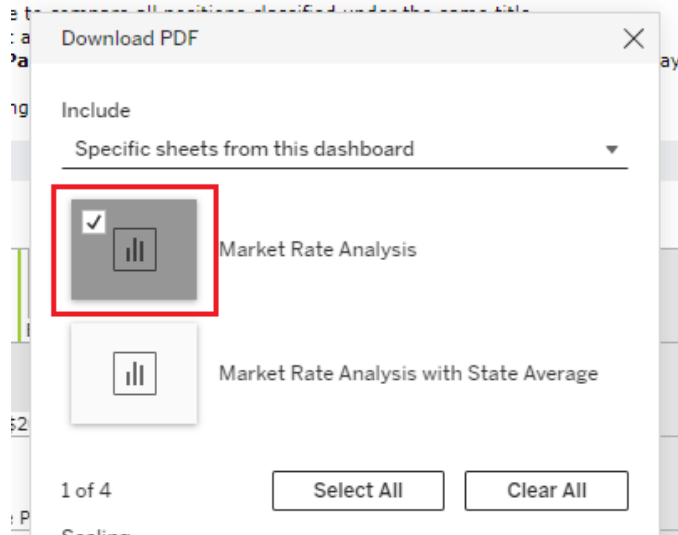
2. Select the download type, PDF.



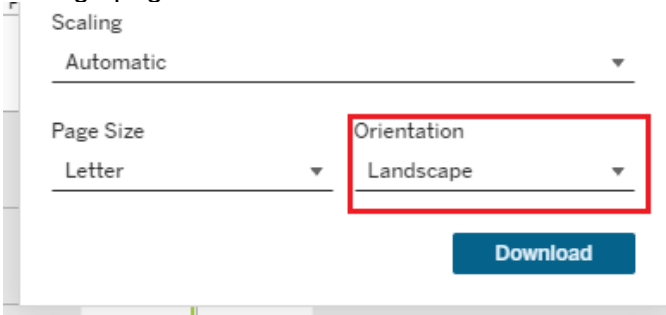
3. Change the setting to "Specific sheets from the dashboard. "



4. Select the chart you want to download.



5. Change page orientation or size as desired. Letter size and landscape often work best.



6. Click Download. Depending on your Internet browser, the download may start at the bottom of the screen or in the top tool bar. Check your Downloads folder as this is the default location for saving files when downloaded from the web.



Commission Biennial Calendar - Budget Activities

Budget

Executive Planning Process

January			February			March			April		
Even		Odd	Even		Odd	Even		Odd	Even		Odd
Budget hearings begin			Budget hearings continue			Budget hearings continue			MGIA Grant Awardees		
			MSL Quarterly Financial Report			Interim Budget Committee meeting			MSL Quarterly Financial Report		
									Start of Executive Planning Process		
May			June			July			August		
			Even		Odd				Even		Odd
			Commission adopts next fiscal year budget that refl..								
			Executive Planning Process priorities								
			Interim Budget Committee meeting						MSL Quarterly Financial Report		
			Library Federations Plans of Service								
			Staff submit Executive Planning Process proposals								
September			October			November			December		
Even		Odd	Even		Odd	Even		Odd	Even		Odd
Final Governor's Budget submissions			Federation reports			Governor's Budget Released			Interim Budget Committee meeting		
Interim Budget Committee meeting			MSL Quarterly Financial Report								



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Robyn Scribner, Chair, Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Requested Commission meeting topics
Date: October 5, 2026

The following is a list of agenda topics requested by Commissioners. At each meeting the Commission will review and prioritize agenda items for upcoming meetings. Any Commissioner may request items to be added to this list.

Agendas also take into consideration routine business requirements identified on the Commission's annual recurring activities calendar: [State Library Commission Calendar](#)

- December agenda items
 - FY 27 1st quarter financial report – Action item
 - 2028 meeting dates – Action item
 - Use of land ownership data in public and private sector web applications – Information item from staff

Future topics:

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MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Robyn Scribner, Chair, Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: 2026 Commission goals status
Date: October 5, 2026

Description	Responsible parties	Date due	Status
Improve relationship and communication between Commission and State Librarian	Robyn/Jennie	Ongoing	Active
▪ Document the procedure for updating employee job descriptions	Personnel Committee	April 2026	Complete
Review the accreditation, certification, and award of continuing education credits for library directors, staff, and board members	Committee: Tammy, Carmen, McKenna		
▪ Hold informational Q&A drop-in sessions with the subcommittee and librarians	Committee: Tammy, Carmen, McKenna	January 23, 2026	Complete
▪ Hold informational Q&A drop-in sessions with the subcommittee and librarians	Committee: Tammy, Carmen, McKenna	February 4, 2026	Complete
▪ Adopt CE Policy	Commission	May 2026	Complete
▪ Adopt Course Catalog	Commission	June 2026	Partially Complete
▪ Reconsider course submissions	CE Subcommittee	October 2026	Active
▪ Additional course adoption	Commission	Ongoing	Active
▪ Consider creating a course for managing parental concerns	CE Subcommittee	TBD	
Learn more about Artificial Intelligence	Commission		
▪ Informational presentation on the vision for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Montana State Government	Chris Tarabochia, Chief AI Officer	February 2026	Complete
▪ Informational presentation on AI applications for GIS	Matt Sheehan, geospatial and artificial intelligence specialist	April 2026	Complete

Improve public relations and increase communication with libraries	Commission/Staff	Ongoing	Active
▪ Consider issuing a bimonthly newsletter	Commission	February 2026	Complete
▪ Issue and evaluate newsletter engagement	Commission/Staff	Ongoing	Active
Description	Responsible parties	Date due	Status
Study the history and current trends of library usage	TBD	December 2026	Active
Review Public Library Standards	Commission		
▪ Consider language changes to 10.102.1159 (2)-(12) Administrative Rules of Montana Serving the Community	Cuthbertson, Goss, & Stapp	June 2026	Complete
▪ Refer language changes to work group	Cuthbertson, Goss, Taylor, Cook, & Stapp	December 2026	Active
▪ Action to initial rulemaking	Commission	February 2027	Active