Montana State Library
2023 Interim Budget Committee Report
June 2022 Updates

Montana Real Time Network

- A Real Time Network (RTN) is a statewide network of GPS base stations that provides customers access to a real-time GPS correction signal from any location in the state.
- Montana RTN is under pilot until the end of 2022, and a subscription-based model is being pursued for implementation in 2023.
  - Sixty-five organizations with 145 subscriptions are piloting the RTN, with representation from several industries. Notably the Montana Department of Transportation uses the RTN for construction and machine guidance, land surveying, and GIS. Other uses include precision agriculture (PA) and academic research.
- The Montana State Library hired a RTN coordinator to provide project management, identify standards, develop a business model, and perform outreach.
- Montana completed a successful migration from the Washington Reference Network with a launch date of March 13, 2022.
  - 54 base stations are now operational with 50% state coverage.

House Bill 50

GIS Data Readiness

- A contract was signed with 1Spatial in February for a cloud-based GIS data assessment system.
  - The GIS data assessment service will check the readiness of the following datasets:
    - Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Boundaries,
    - Emergency Service Boundaries (Law, Fire, EMS),
    - Road Centerlines, and
    - Site/Structure Address Points.
  - Montana State Library staff participated in a two-day system administrator training, and the system is currently being configured for implementation
- Metrics for this objective will be available as PSAPs are onboarded to the system, starting in Q1 of FY 2023.

Outreach, Coordination, Support

- MSL staff presented on MSL support for Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 GIS at Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) 2022 GeoCon in Missoula.
- Over the last quarter, the 9-1-1 GIS analyst spent approximately 175 hours supporting PSAPs and local government 9-1-1 GIS data providers.
  - Work featured the development of GIS data management tools and workflows, including:
    - Extract, transform load (ETL) workflows to transform local data to National Emergency Number Association (NENA) NG 9-1-1 GIS Data Model Standard,
    - Road centerline editing tools to check address ranges and streamline editing,
    - Assistance with data GIS data maintenance workflows in Butte-Silver Bow County, Teton County, City of Bozeman, Lewis and Clark County, Madison County, and Yellowstone County.
- Staff performed outreach and site visits in Butte-Silver Bow, Fergus County, Cascade County, and City of Great Falls.

For a StoryMap of this content, please visit https://arcg.is/1i8be80#ref-n-tYz5AR

House Bill 49

Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging)

- Lidar stands for light detection and ranging. It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances to the earth for precise three-dimensional information. Lidar-derived models can be used to examine natural and manmade environments.
- Staff participated in a lidar kickoff meeting with USGS, lidar vendors, and partners in May 2022.
  - Lidar acquisitions will begin in June and continue through September, increasing the percentage of lidar collected in Montana.
  - Staff began review of the 2019 State Lidar Plan and will produce an updated written data collection plan.
- The library maintains a project-based database of lidar-derived products. Lidar data can be viewed, downloaded, and requested via the [Montana Lidar Inventory](#).
- Since March 1, MSL received 123 lidar data-use surveys. Most patrons found what they needed online without staff intervention. However, 35 data requests were filled by MSL staff. All business sectors were reached, as follows: 41% private consulting, 25% general public, 15% state government, 12% federal government, 6% nonprofit, and 1% local government. Top use categories included terrain modeling/ground survey, natural resources/conservation planning, and water resources/hydrologic modeling.

Geo-Enabled Elections

- MSL has partnered with the Montana Secretary of State and local governments to collect information essential to geo-enabling elections across the state.
- Voting precinct-split boundary data has been collected and sent to the Secretary of State from 47 of 56 counties. 37 counties have 100% district collection.
- 72% of the precincts (2121 out of 2950) have been collected as of June 1, 2022.

MLIA Grant Program

- At the recommendation of the Montana Land Information Act Council (MLIAC) and MSL staff, the State Library Commission awarded a total of $250,000 across eight applicants through the MLIA FY2023 Grant Program. The following projects were prioritized:

Applicant	Identified Priority from the FY2023 Land Information Plan
Beaverhead County	Support NG 9-1-1
Butte Silver Bow	Support NG 9-1-1
Custer County	Support NG 9-1-1
McCone County	Improve Land Records: PLSS
Meagher County	Support NG 9-1-1
Missoula County	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs
Stillwater County	Improve Land Records: PLSS
Teton County	Geo-Enabled Elections

Outreach, Coordination, Support

- For the past year, staff worked with GIS consulting company, AppGeo, to create a strategic plan to guide priorities for GIS coordination in Montana. The planning process involved extensive stakeholder involvement through surveys and focus groups. At their April 2022 meeting, the State Library Commission adopted the [Montana GIS Coordination Strategic Plan](#). MLIAC further recommended the implementation of the goals identified in the strategic plan.