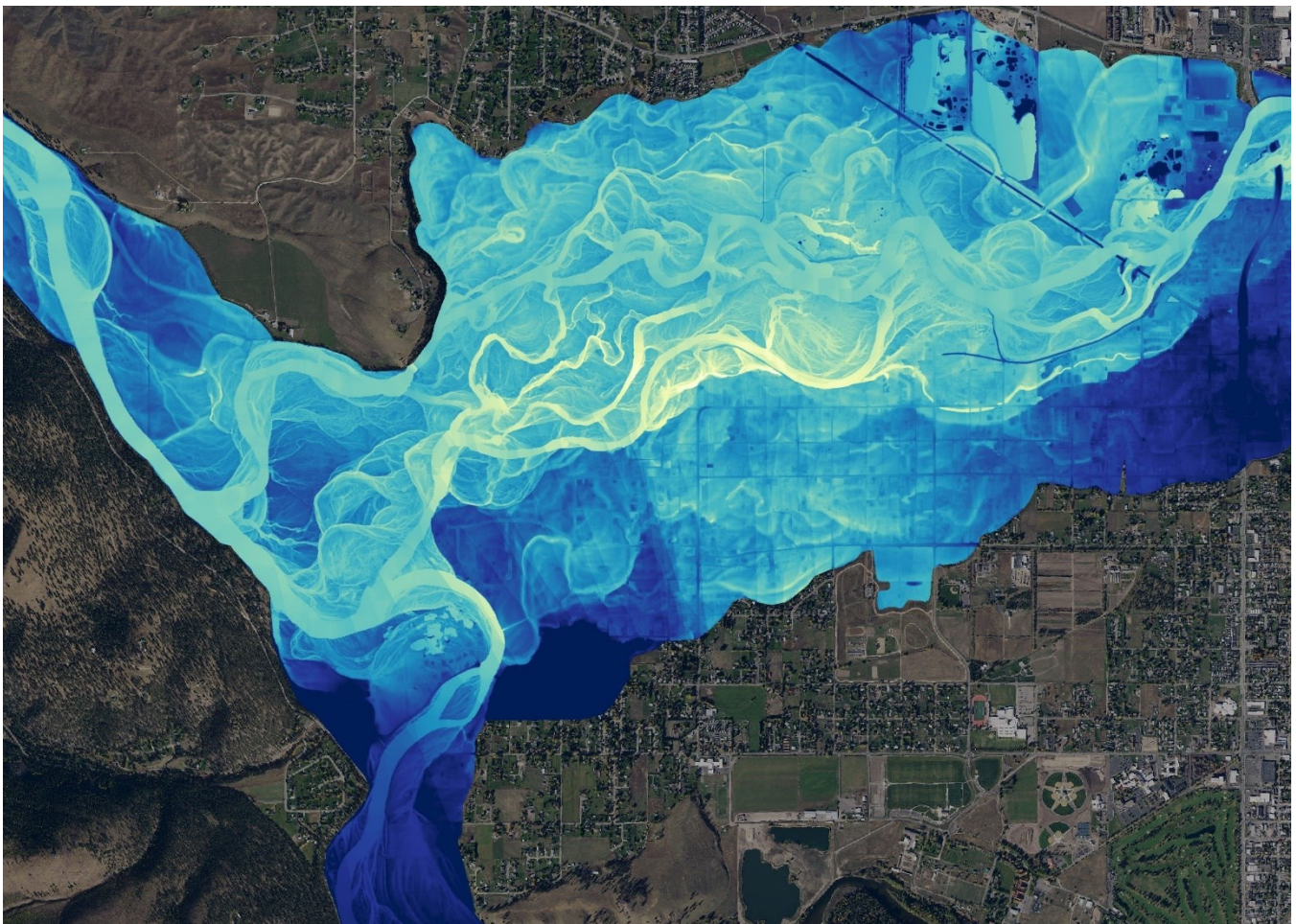# Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

Montana State Library

September 1, 2022

Relative Elevation Model atop aerial imagery - Active and past channels of the Clark Fork River near Missoula, Montana.

Table of Contents

Year in Review

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) brought with it many new opportunities for the Montana State Library (MSL). The year began with us welcoming three new Commission members: Kristin Kerr from Helena, Robyn Scribner from Geraldine, and Peggy Taylor from Whitefish. In June we also welcomed Tamara Hall from Bozeman. Our new Commissioners bring fresh perspectives and ideas that help the State Library to consider new opportunities to serve Montanans.

Jennie Stapp,
State Librarian

With newly appropriated funds from the 2021 Legislature, MSL launched two new programs, the Montana State Reference Network (MTSRN) and coordination work to assess and improve Next Generation 9-1-1 GIS data. After hiring a coordinator in December, MSL and the Montana Department of Transportation successfully stood up the MTSRN and transitioned Montana's pilot network off the network operated by Washington State. MSL is now growing the network and the number of users and has proposed a subscription-based enterprise model that would provide ongoing funding to sustain the network.

MSL also hired a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) GIS data coordinator and contracted with 1Spatial to implement a cloud-based GIS data assessment system that is available to Public Safety Answering Points and local governments statewide. By using the system, partners will be able to assess their data regularly to prioritize data improvement and to ensure that it meets the strict NG9-1-1 standards for public safety. Staff will use the data to create statewide public safety boundaries. After years of discussion and planning, MSL is so pleased that these two programs are now operational.

Like all Montanans, MSL continued to support libraries and the public with their COVID related consulting and information needs through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. MSL received $2.23 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and appropriated by the Legislature. With these monies, MSL continued to grow and sustain the hot spot lending program which now serves 53 of Montana's 56 counties. MSL is also using ARPA dollars to improve the internal networks in 26 Montana libraries so that they can ensure that they have the infrastructure to support robust broadband, and monies are being invested to increase online access to e-learning resources, including Montana related content through the Montana Memory Project.

Our GIS staff continue to support data collection and information dissemination for the Montana's COVID-19 Case Map and data hub. With case counts and vaccination information, this hub continues to be Montana's authoritative source for COVID data.

In August, the MSL Commission formally adopted revised Montana Public Library Standards. After a several month delay, MSL resumed our rewrite of the standards. These standards are incorporated in the Administrative Rules of Montana and must be met for libraries to receive state funding. MSL was collecting public comments about new draft standards when the pandemic hit. Because the pandemic itself dramatically impacted library service models in unanticipated ways, the task force felt it was necessary to take time to reflect on the nature of these changes and how they might shape the future of library services in ways that should inform the revised standards. The newly adopted standards serve as a roadmap to help libraries continue to improve library services. The standards took effect on July 1, 2022.

Finally, we are proud that, at the end of FY 22, MSL was fully staffed, a remarkable achievement in this hiring climate. By complying with our agency-wide pay plan policy and building a culture that reflects the mission and values of MSL, the Montana State Library continues to be an employer of choice.

Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

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Agency Highlights

Montanans gain access to faster broadband through their local libraries

In the 2022 BroadbandNow study of 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) broadband availability, Montana ranked last among all states with only 72.5% of people having access. 100Mbps download speeds allow multiple, simultaneous Internet users to fully participate in a synchronous online world for employment, civic involvement, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. Sufficient internet speed is essential for creating digital equity in Montana.

The Montana State Library commissioned a study of the broadband capacity of Montana public libraries, including subscribed broadband speeds and internal broadband capacity. Despite being the only source of freely available Wi-Fi in nearly 24% of Montana communities, the study revealed that 40% of libraries have outdated wiring and Wi-Fi equipment including routers older than five years.

The MSL **Consulting and Lifelong Learning** team worked with contactors and broadband providers to improve connectivity at 30 libraries in FY 22. Library participants were prioritized for the project based on several criteria including internet speed, equipment age, use per capita, and income per capita. The following map displays participating communities.

Thirty libraries participated in the internal wiring project in FY 22. After site assessments, 26 libraries ultimately needed cabling and equipment. Contractors estimate that they will finish installing cables at the final five sites by the end of October 2022.

Montana library patrons will benefit from access to increased internet speeds and more stable wireless networks so that they can achieve their desired goals for education, employment, and personal well-being. Improved capacity at Montana libraries is met with skilled staff and public use equipment. Last year, librarians provided 45,966 one-one-technology instruction sessions and access to nearly 1,000 public computers. This service is further bolstered by the Hot Spot Lending Program which provides nearly 1,000 hot spots to libraries for public checkout in 53 counties.

Librarians hone their leadership skills at the 2022 Directors' Institute

Twenty-three public library directors convened in Great Falls at the Ursuline Center in May 2022. Attendees came from 19 Montana counties and represented different sizes and types of public libraries. In addition to developing their leadership skills, directors gathered to foster peer relationships and to identify and prioritize opportunities for collaboration.

At the Institute, MSL recorded 160 comments from two facilitated focus groups. Action items were then coded to identify themes. Of the action items identified for MSL follow-up, most coalesced around the broad topics of continuing education (29%) and information resources (27%). Other issue types included collaboration, communication, fiscal, human resources, legal, planning, policies, politics, and service delivery.
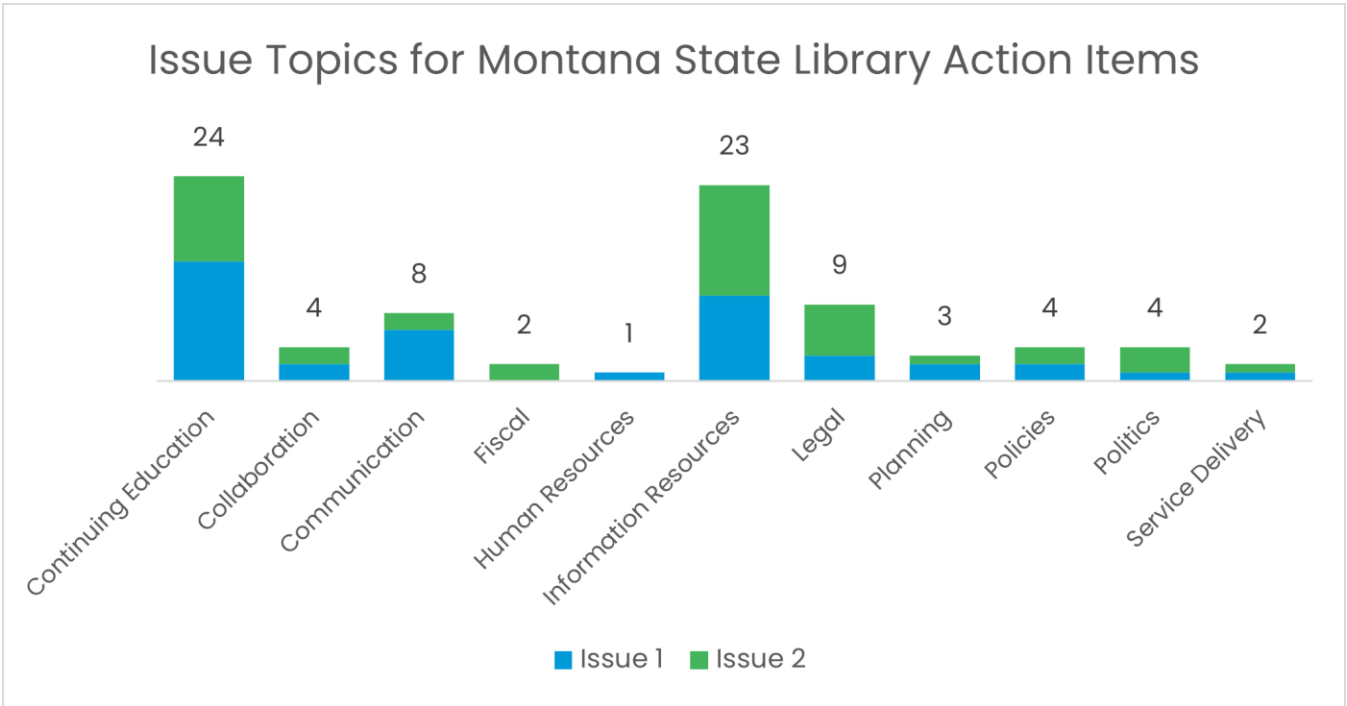
Issue topics for Montana State Library Action Items, 2022 Directors' Institute. Up to two issues were coded per comment.

Within the broad topics, multiple themes emerged:

- Salary and job description comparisons for library staff
- Censorship and material challenges
- Local government and board roles and responsibilities
- Library legal issues and questions
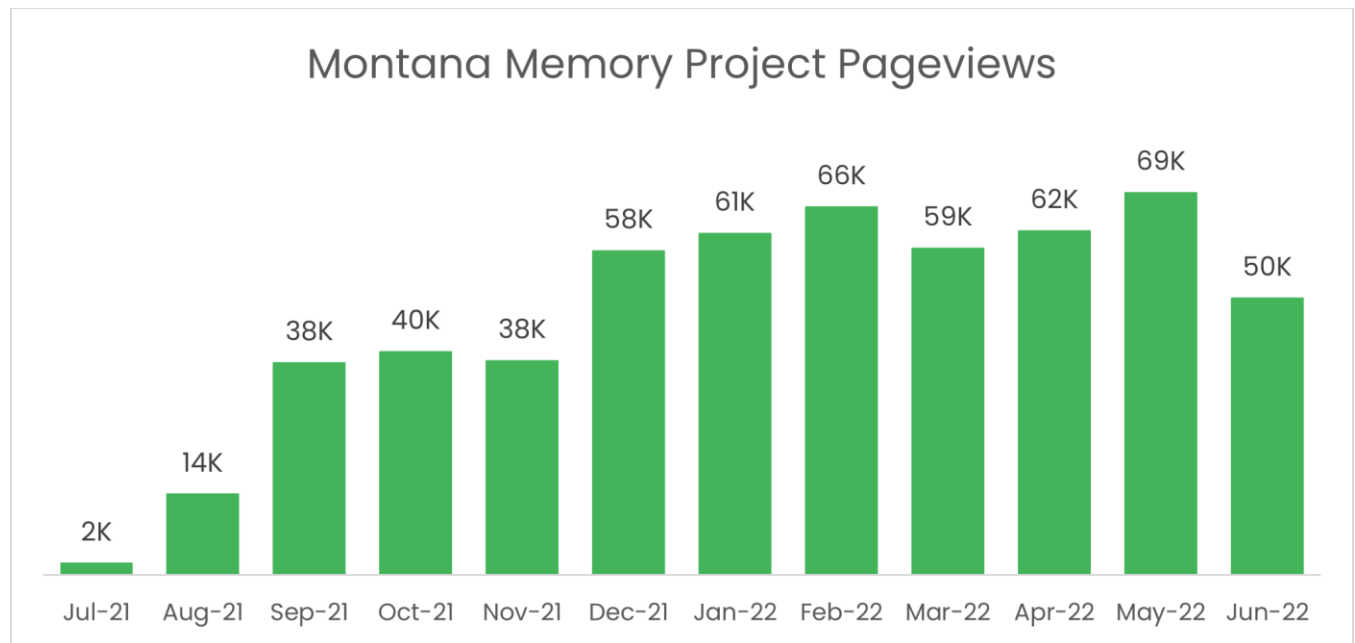- Sufficient funding and grant guidance

Word cloud for Montana State Library Action Items, 2022 Directors' Institute.

Of the action items identified by the library directors, 31% were within the State Library's domain. Other important issues remain within the scope of vested partners, such as the Montana Library Association and local library boards. **Library Development** staff will use the results to shape future training and to inform the Network Advisory Council as it prepares future Library Development Plans.

Lifelong learners use primary resources from the Montana Memory Project

Made available through the **Montana Memory Project** (MMP), historic and contemporary primary resources in digital form are essential to a Montana-focused curriculum. In 2022, lifelong learners viewed the MMP website 556,849 times to study its rich collection of photographs, art, sound recordings, yearbooks, letters, maps and other documents. Via its

new platform Recollect, MMP empowers users to interact with resources by adding tags, recollections, and other enrichments.
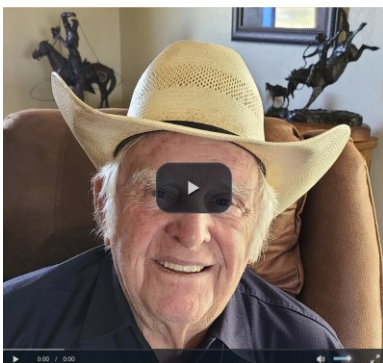
Montana Memory Project Pageviews

Month	Pageviews
Jul-21	2K
Aug-21	14K
Sep-21	38K
Oct-21	40K
Nov-21	38K
Dec-21	58K
Jan-22	61K
Feb-22	66K
Mar-22	59K
Apr-22	62K
May-22	69K
Jun-22	50K

MMP migrated to a new platform during the early months of FY 22. Since migration, MMP observed an average of 61,000 pageviews per month. The digital collection is a significant resource on Montana's rich cultural heritage.

This year, the MMP supported 15 new projects and contributors published 11 collections, including multiple oral histories and multimedia series. One ARPA-funded multimedia collection highlights the lives of five people from the Winifred area to capture their experiences living in rural Montana. They discuss their families and occupations which vary across the board including construction, ranching, horse raising, cattle buying, feed lot management, beekeeping, rodeoing, and operating a guest ranch. The collection includes a recording of Montana bronc rider Johnny Carr and a photograph of him at a rodeo in 1959.

John Carr riding the bronc Buttons, 1959.

Oral history of Montana bronc rider, Johnny Carr (transcript). This recording is part of the Winifred Oral History Project published to the Montana Memory Project in 2022.

The MMP also curated eight new digital exhibits this year that provide historical context on significant events, people, and places in Montana. For example, one exhibit focuses on the Construction of the Montana State Capitol.

Montana State Capitol Under Construction, circa 1901.

Other exhibits include:

- Bicycles for the Army: The 25th Infantry in Montana
- Evelyn Cameron
- Henry Meloy
- Bud Moore
- Glacier National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention

Readers from every corner of the state borrow e-resources from MontanaLibrary2Go

Citizens from Ekalaka to Eureka used **MontanaLibrary2Go** to borrow educational resources at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. When Montanans stayed home to slow the spread, they requested more e-books and digital audiobooks than ever before, a trend that prevails two years later. Montanans borrowed a record setting 105,946 e-books and audiobooks in May 2022, an increase of 31% from February 2020, the month before the pandemic struck Montana. With ease of access in rural places, ebooks are a primary reading format for Montanans. Demand will continue to grow as more readers leverage this important resource.

MontanaLibrary2Go Impact Report

When Montanans stayed home to slow the spread of COVID-19, they requested more ebooks than ever before, a trend that prevails two years later.

https://bit.ly/FY 22_MTLIB2GO
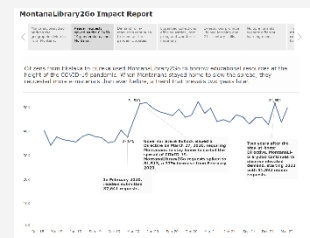
In December 2021, Montana State Library added digital learning resources available through the Overdrive app. Great Courses and Universal Class both offer lifelong learning opportunities to fit a variety of interests and professional goals. Through Universal Class, students attended 4,237 lessons, watched 3,320 instructional videos, and submitted 2,276 assignments. The top ten active courses include Accounting & Bookkeeping, Python Programming, Dog Psychology, Marketing, Microsoft Word, Anatomy & Physiology, Personal Finance, Genealogy, Business Branding, and How to Start a Craft Business.

| 450 Course Activity | 443 Course Activity | 411 Course Activity |

Accounting & Bookkeeping 101 for Everyone
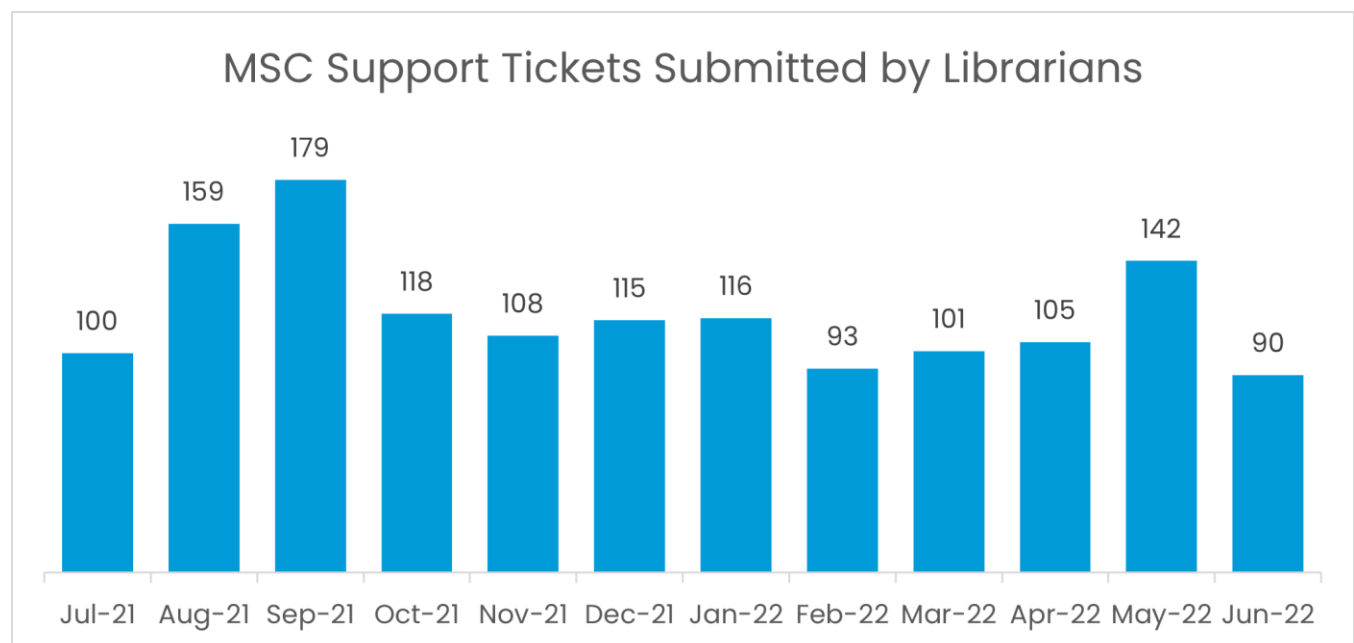
#1

Python Programming 101

#2

Dog Psychology 101

#3

Universal Class offers educational lessons that support a wide range of interests. In FY 22, Accounting & Bookkeeping, Python Programming, and Dog Psychology were the top three most popular courses.

Conrad Public Library patrons discover more books through the Montana Shared Catalog

This year the Conrad Public Library migrated to the **Montana Shared Catalog** (MSC), joining nearly 200 other libraries across the state. Membership means that the staff at Conrad Public Library receive professional training and support from MSL system administrators, a comprehensive suite of library software, and a committed network of library peers.

MSC Support Tickets Submitted by Librarians

Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
100	159	179	118	108	115	116	93	101	105	142	90

MSL staff received 1,426 support tickets from MSC member librarians in FY 22. Staff answered questions on circulation, cataloging, statistical reports, and software configuration, helping ensure uninterrupted access across Montana.

The residents in Conrad benefit from an expanded catalog of library materials that they can search from home or in the library. In a patron survey, 39.5% of respondents indicated that access to a wide variety of materials, especially in rural communities, was the most valuable aspect of the Montana Shared Catalog. One reader said the following:

> **Living in a small and rural town, MSC has been tremendously helpful in the education of my children and the continued learning of myself and my husband. Being able to get items not available in our local library is wonderful!**
>
> - Montana library patron, *Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Program Implementation Evaluation Federal Fiscal Years, 2018-2022.*

Librarians that participate in the MSC provide collaborative cataloging so that library materials can be quickly added to existing bibliographic records for patron discovery through the online catalog and mobile app. The MSC now offers over 3.5 million books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other library materials. Montanans can use the shared catalog to find a wide range of titles, from the latest top-sellers to unique publications on local history.

The Montana Land Information Act Grant Program funds projects that develop and maintain services related to GIS and land information

In accordance with the Montana Land Information Act (MLIA), the Montana State Library administers an annual grant program. The Land Information Plan establishes the goals and objectives that guide the MLIA Grant Program. State agencies, local governments, and Indian tribal governments are eligible to apply, and preference is given to applicants that demonstrate intergovernmental or interagency partnerships in their grant projects. All information or products created or updated through the MLIA Grant Program must be made publicly available.

At the recommendation of the Montana Land Information Act Council (MLIAC) and MSL staff, the State Library Commission awarded a total of $250,000 through the FY 22 MLIA

Grant Program. The Commission granted the first $170,141 to eight applicants, in ranked order:

Rank	Applicant	Land Information Plan Priority	Awarded
1	Missoula County	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs	$39,046
2	Flathead County	Improve Land Records: Public Land Survey System (PLSS)	$42,500
3	City of Libby	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs	$5,126
4	City of Thompson Falls	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs	$10,000
5	Pondera County	Support NG 9-1-1	$17,769
6	Town of Sunburst	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs	$27,600
7	Anaconda Deer Lodge	Build GIS Capacity: Local Information Needs	$16,700
8	Phillips County	Geo-Enabled Elections	$11,400

An additional four grants totaling $79,859 were awarded off-cycle with remaining funds:

| Rank	Applicant	Land Information Plan Priority	Awarded
Unranked	City of Great Falls	Improve Land Records: Public Land Survey System (PLSS)	$18,500
Unranked	McCone County	Improve Land Records: Public Land Survey System (PLSS)	$20,000
Unranked	Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	Improve Land Records: Public Land Survey System (PLSS)	$20,000
Unranked	Stillwater County	Improve Land Records: Public Land Survey System (PLSS)	$21,359

Multiple business sectors use lidar-derived data to examine natural and manmade environments

Lidar (light detection and ranging) is a remote sensing technology that uses pulses of light to measure distance with high accuracy. Products derived from lidar reveal Montana landscapes in ways previously unseen.
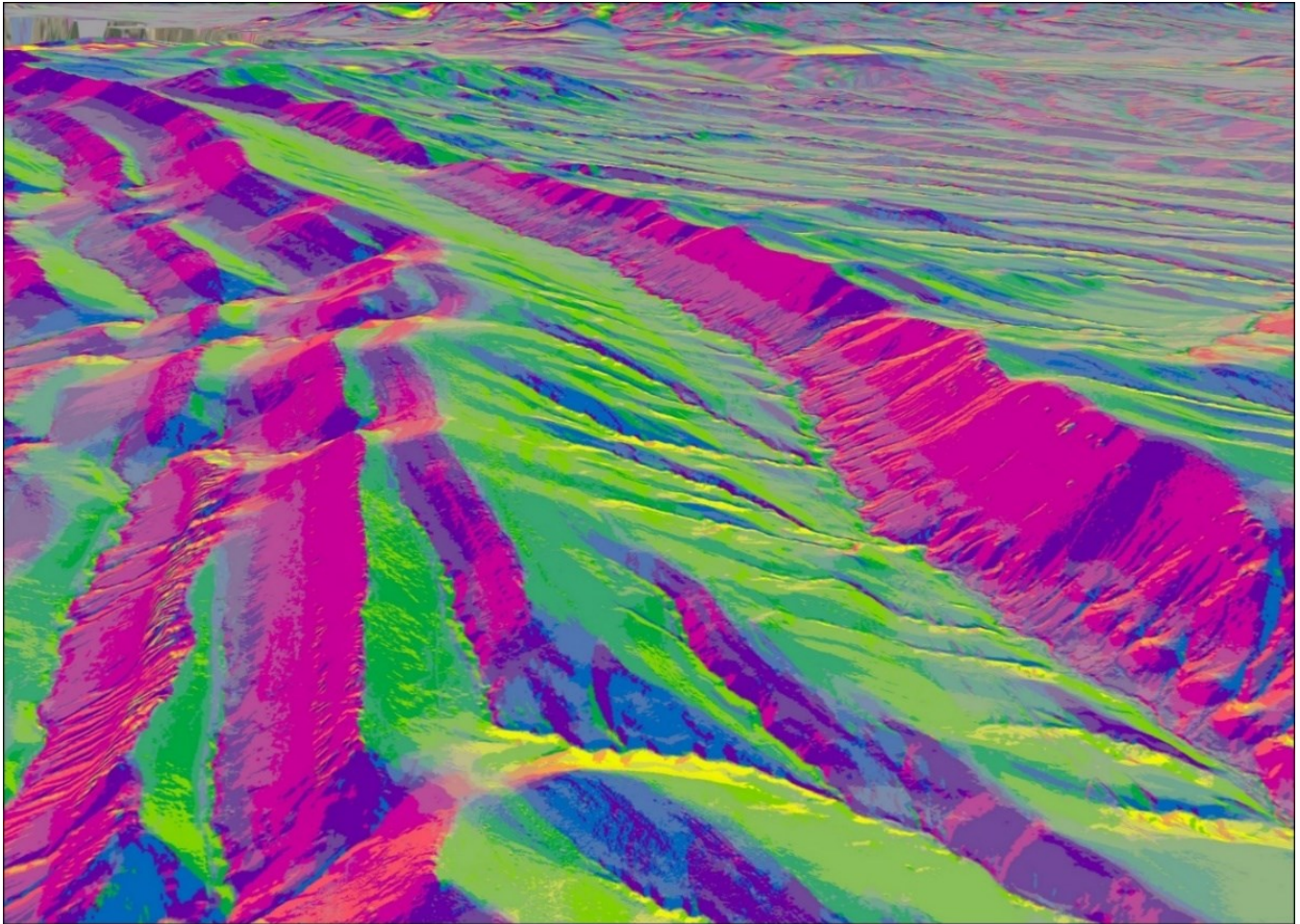
This aspect and slope analysis was derived from lidar data collected in Montana. It shows the east and west slopes near Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park. Slope aspect maps can help ecologists study microclimates and biodiversity.

Federal, state, tribal, and local coordination efforts are underway to make statewide high-resolution elevation data reality. **Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure** (MSDI) 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.
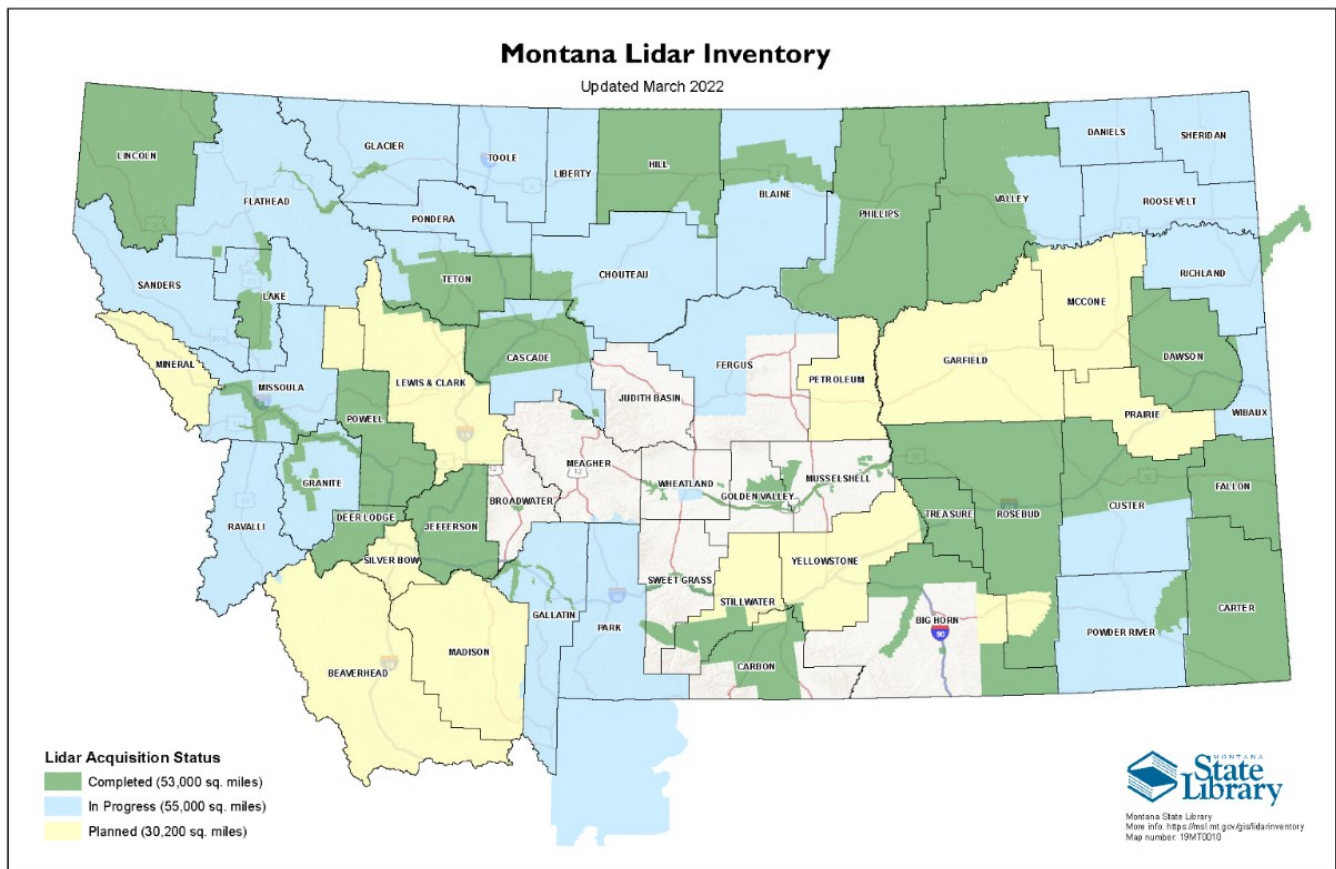
Montana lidar acquisition status as of March 2022.

In FY 22, Montana State Library conducted a data-use survey and received 535 responses from individuals accessing the Montana Lidar Inventory. The results indicate that the inventory was used by all business sectors but most commonly by private consulting and the public.

Montana Lidar Inventory Use by Business Sector
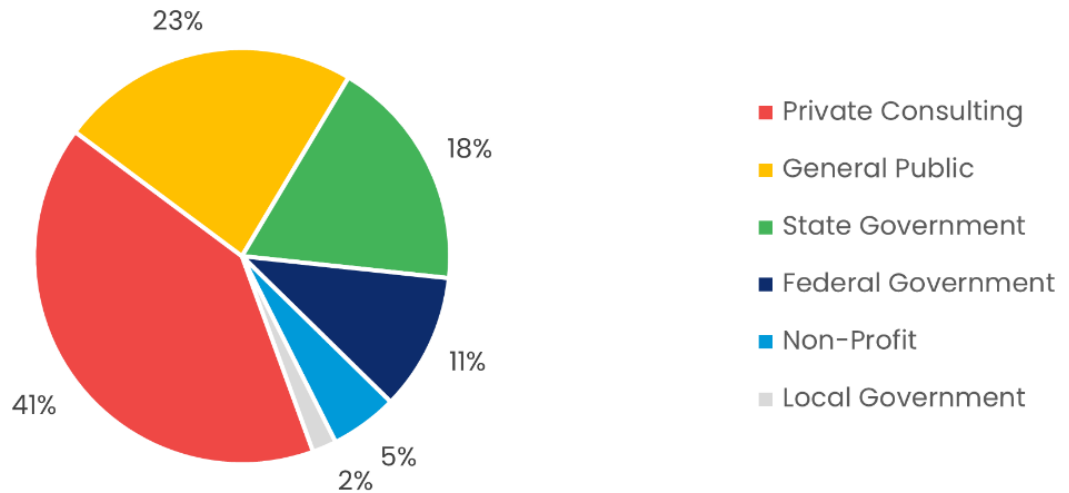
FY 22 Montana Lidar Inventory uses were attributed to private consulting, general public, state government, federal government, nonprofit, and local government.

The utility of the data spans multiple industries ranging from ecology to private development. Often professionals consult lidar for cross-sector collaborations. The following quote from the Montana Lidar Inventory use survey illustrates how projects can involve multiple vested partners:

> *We are partnering with a landowner, water user, FWP, and NRCS to remove a significant diversion dam on the lower Boulder River. The project will improve fish passage, eliminate entrainment, and improve water delivery while leaving more water instream.*
>
> - Montana non-profit organization, *Lidar Inventory Use Survey, FY 22.*

Like the partners pursuing the project on the lower Boulder River, Montanans reported using lidar-data for performing hydrologic modeling and studying water resources in 21% of all

cases. For example, lidar-derived products can be used to study groundwater flow, irrigation ditches, and flood risk.

This year, the State Library released Relative Elevation Models that explore Montana's rivers, and the project won the "best web application" award at the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals conference in April.

Relative Elevation Models
Explore Montana rivers and streams using LiDAR-derived
relative elevation models
https://bit.ly/REMforRivers

MSL is also working with DNRC Floodplain Management on a pilot called Montana Lidar for LOMA which enables citizens to use lidar elevation data to request a determination from FEMA about whether a property is in or out of a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Structures or areas of naturally high ground that are above the base flood elevation can be removed from the SFHA with an approved Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) from FEMA. This can remove a lender's federal flood insurance requirement.

Montana Lidar for LOMA
Use lidar elevation data to request a determination from FEMA
about whether a property is in or out of a Special Flood Hazard Area
https://bit.ly/LidarforLOMA

Montana State Reference Network supports surveying needs for infrastructure projects and precision agriculture

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. The **Montana State Reference Network** (MTSRN) 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. 55 base stations are now operational with 50% state coverage.
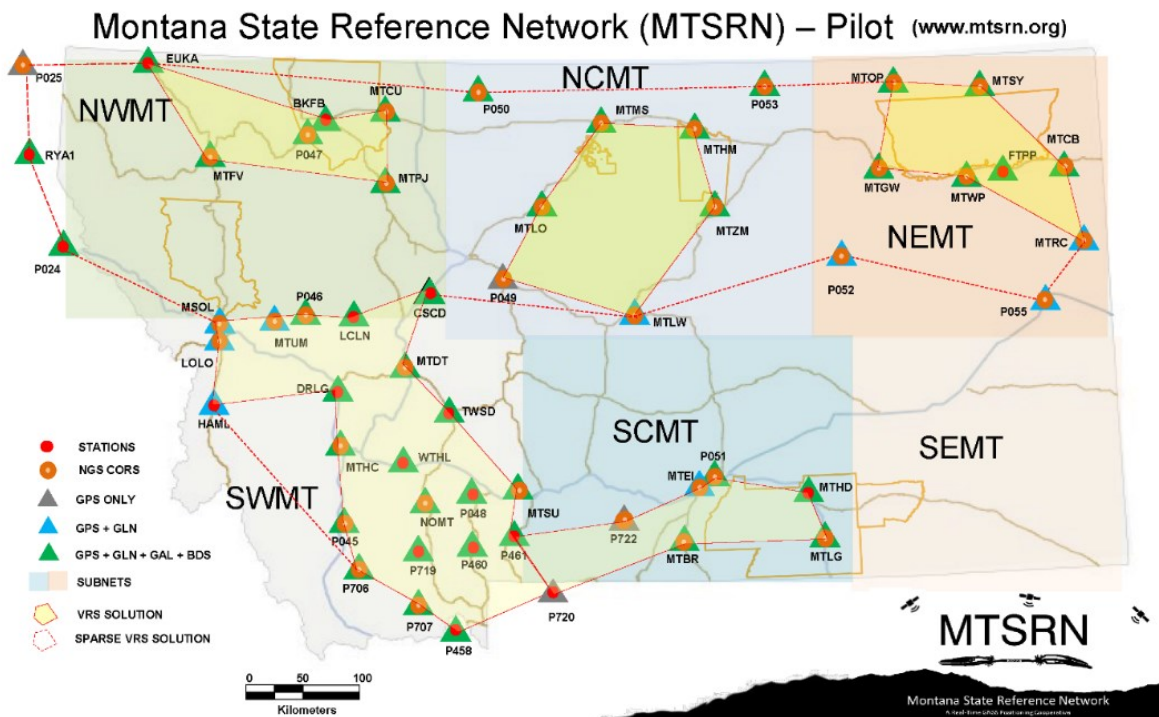
Montana reference stations as of August 11, 2022.

Geo-Enabled Elections strengthen the accuracy and reliability of Montana's electoral system

Montana State Library partnered with the Montana Secretary of State and local governments to collect information essential to geo-enabling elections across the state. Each county's data will be integrated into one standardized statewide boundary layer. GIS enhances efficiency and accuracy in election management and allows for greater quality control and audits. Using GIS technology in elections ensures that voters are placed in the right voting districts, receive the correct ballots, and vote in the right electoral contests.

Voting Precinct Splits Status Dashboard
Montana Geo-Enabled Elections –
Supported by the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure
https://bit.ly/GeoEnabledElections
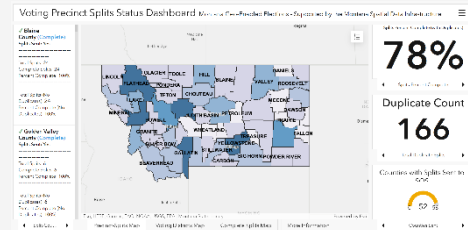
Coordinated by **Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure** (MSDI) staff, the state has now collected voting precinct-split boundary data from 52 out of 56 counties. As of August 2022, the Secretary of State has received 78% of the precincts (2290 out of 2937).

Next Generation 9-1-1 provides emergency responders with data that saves time and lives

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 intended for wireline phones to an all IP-based architecture capable of communicating voice and multimedia data with any network connected device. This migration includes transitioning from Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) and Automatic Location Information (ALI) tabular datasets to using GIS database layers for 9-1-1 call location and routing. NG9-1-1 uses GIS data in real-time for all location validation, call routing, and mapping. As a result, 9-1-1 call centers can communicate accurate information to emergency responders so that they can more effectively respond to people in crisis. Because the difference in data quality saves lives, NG9-1-1 GIS data must be complete, accurate, and up to date.

Montana State Library signed a contract with 1Spatial in February 2022 for a cloud-based GIS data assessment system. The GIS data assessment service will check the readiness of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) boundaries, emergency service boundaries (law, fire, EMS), road centerlines, and site/structure address points.
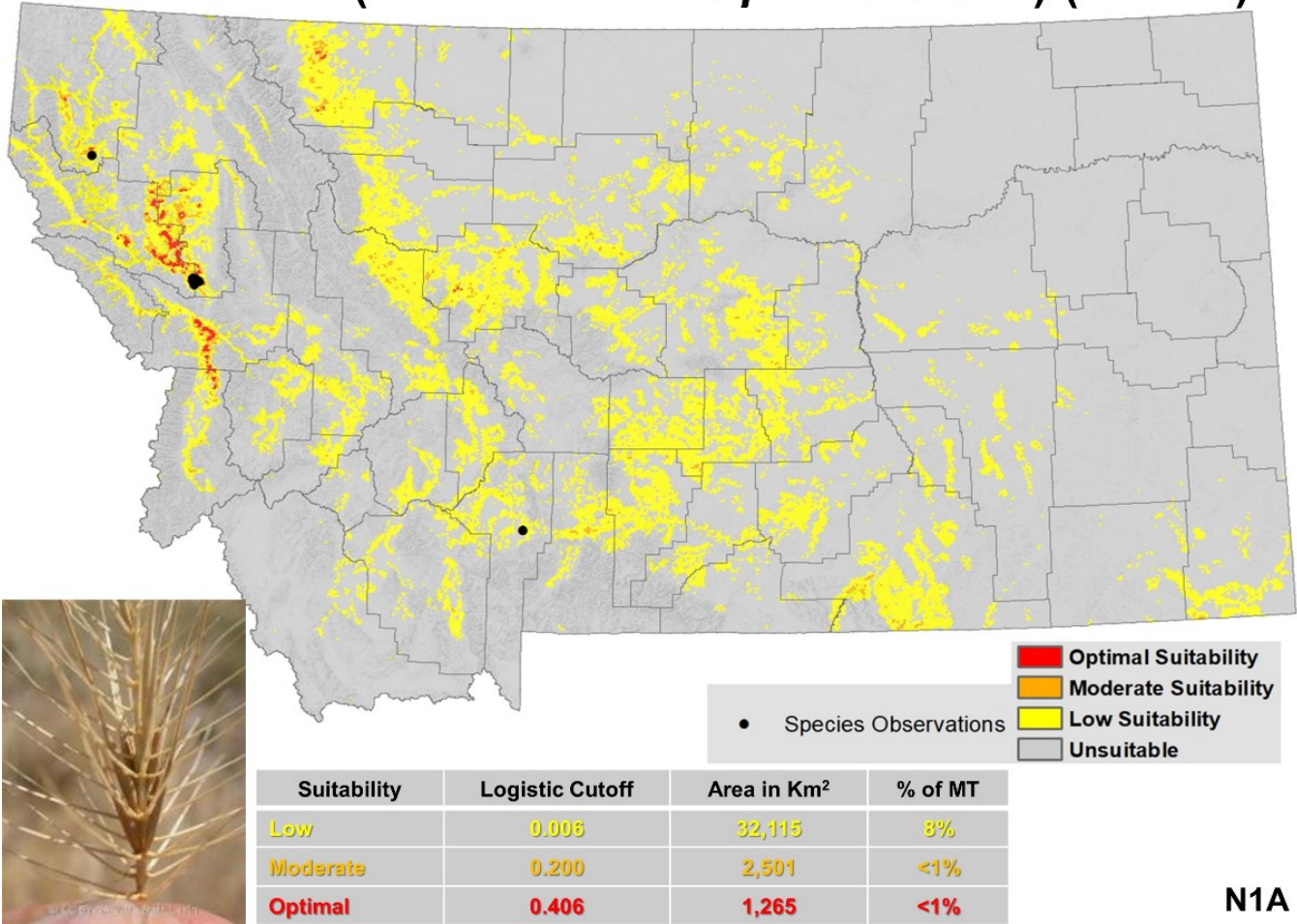In FY 22 Quarters 3 and 4, the **9-1-1 GIS analyst** spent 175 hours supporting PSAPs and local government 9-1-1 GIS data providers. Work featured the development of GIS data management tools and workflows, including:

- 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, and
- Assistance with data GIS data maintenance workflows in multiple cities and counties.

Models of predicted invasion risk assist rapid response to noxious weeds

The **Montana Natural Heritage Program** (MTNHP) now has models of predicted invasion risk in place for all state and county-listed invasive plant species. The models help weed managers identify the risk of invasion by individual plant species and the cumulative risk for all state-listed noxious weeds.

Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) (6/28/22)

Suitability	Logistic Cutoff	Area in Km²	% of MT
Low	0.006	32,115	8%
Moderate	0.200	2,501	<1%
Optimal	0.406	1,265	<1%

N1A

The predictive habitat suitability model for Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) was added to the Montana Natural Heritage Program in 2022. Models for all noxious weeds are available via the Montana Natural Heritage Program website.

When combined with environmental data, species observations allow MTNHP to produce predictive risk models which can inform rapid response and control efforts for non-native species. Structured surveys from Fish Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Environmental Quality, and other agencies contribute to model development.

In addition to [models](#) for 184 non-native species, MTNHP published complete [Field Guide](#) accounts that include distribution and general information on 32 aquatic invasive species (AIS), 45 state-listed noxious weeds, 13 forest pest species, and two agricultural pest species. Through the [Map Viewer](#) web application, weed coordinators and agency resource managers can access observations, survey locations, and predicted habitat suitability. This centralized data facilitates coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response, and control efforts as outlined in Appendix A of the [State Weed Management Plan](#).
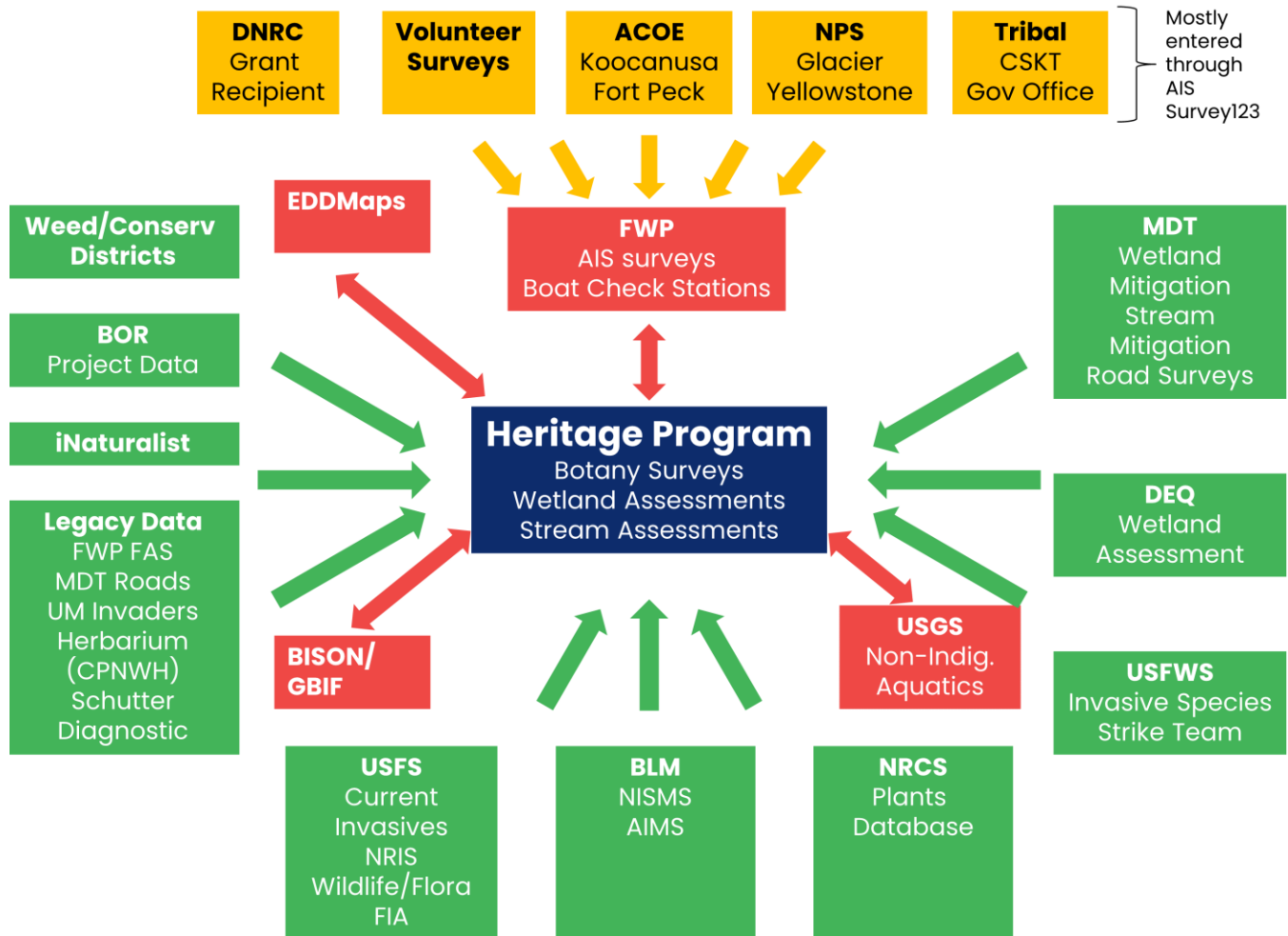
Invasive species observation and survey data flow. MTNP received 869,358 observation records, including 611,513 for vascular plants, and 115,456 structured surveys, including 48,974 surveys for vascular plants.

## Specimen data illustrates the importance of mosses in Montana's diverse habitats

With 541 observed species, Montana has significant documentation of moss flora. The variety of mosses found in Montana can be attributed to the diversity of climates and

habitats across the state. In FY 22, **Montana Natural Heritage Program** (MTNHP) staff added 6,083 records of mosses from reliable data sources, 45% of the 13,450 moss observations in the state database.
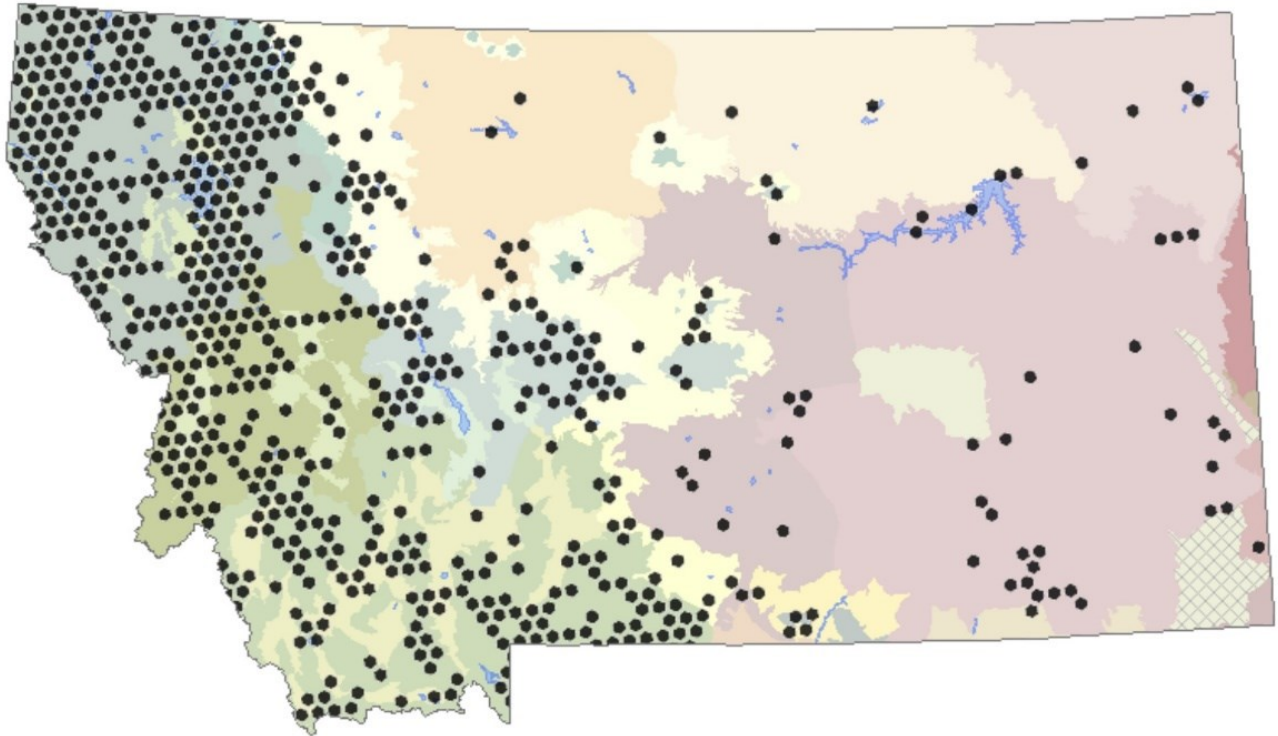
Point observations for all mosses with Montana's major land resource areas, August 2022.

With moss observations dating back to 1829, Map Viewer provides comprehensive, accurate, and scientifically credible information on Montana's moss species. Moss data has many different scientific uses. A U.S. Forest Service (USFS) agreement emphasizes that survey and inventory of lichens and mosses is a first step in the evaluation of landscapes and their ability to support species of concern. For example, the USFS studies mosses and lichens as a bioindicator of forest health. Because these species do not have roots, they absorb moisture and nutrients from the atmosphere which means they can also contribute to studies on air quality and pollution.

Montana Moss Observations by Year
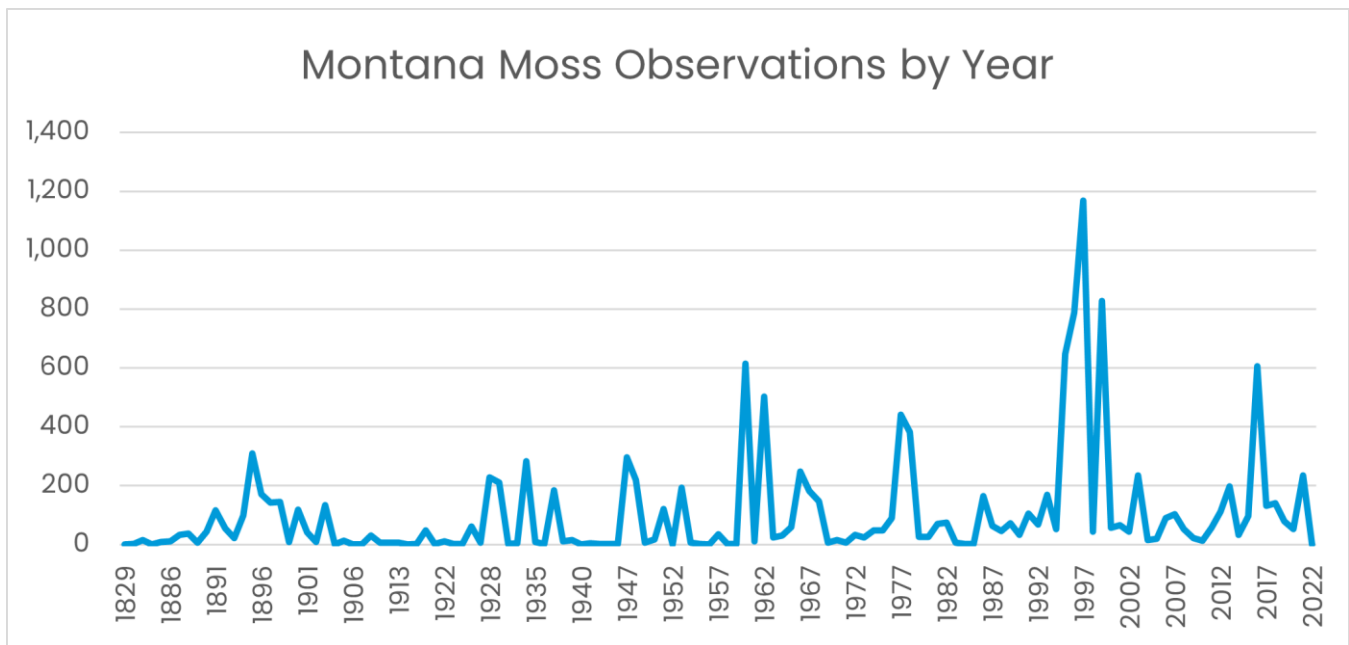
Moss data added by MSL staff in 2022 includes observations from reliable sources made across multiple years. All observations are documented in Map Viewer.

MTNHP's centralized data helps answer important questions about species distribution, status, taxonomy, identification, biology, ecology, and management. The significant addition of moss observations in FY 22 aligns with MTNHP's strategic goal to obtain survey, detection, and status information from existing data sources and through field surveys for species belonging to taxonomic groups that are currently under-represented in the program's information systems.

Observations help inform reports on the status of bird species of concern across Montana

Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) staff appended 2,503,901 bird records from eBird and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 67% of the 3.7 million bird records available in the state database. Observations help reveal how pressures like habitat loss and environmental change impact birds.
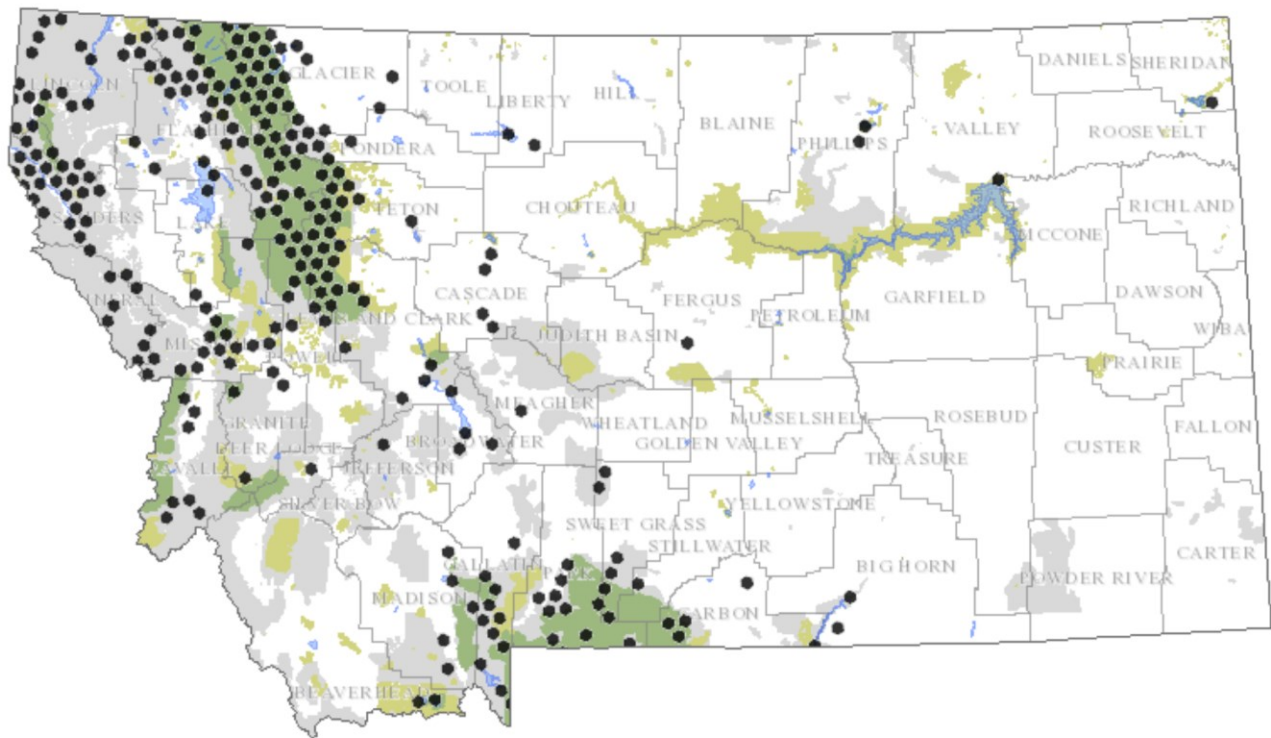
Point observations for Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) with Montana's managed protected lands, August 2022. Harlequin Ducks are a species of concern because of their extremely limited breeding range in Montana. Species occurrences have been verified in Carbon, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Sanders, Sweet Grass, Teton counties.

Added bird observations ensure accurate ornithological data is included in environmental impact studies for building and development. MTNHP Environmental Summary Reports inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. In presenting this information, MTNHP allows users to rapidly assess the known or potential species, biological communities, land management categories, and biological reports.
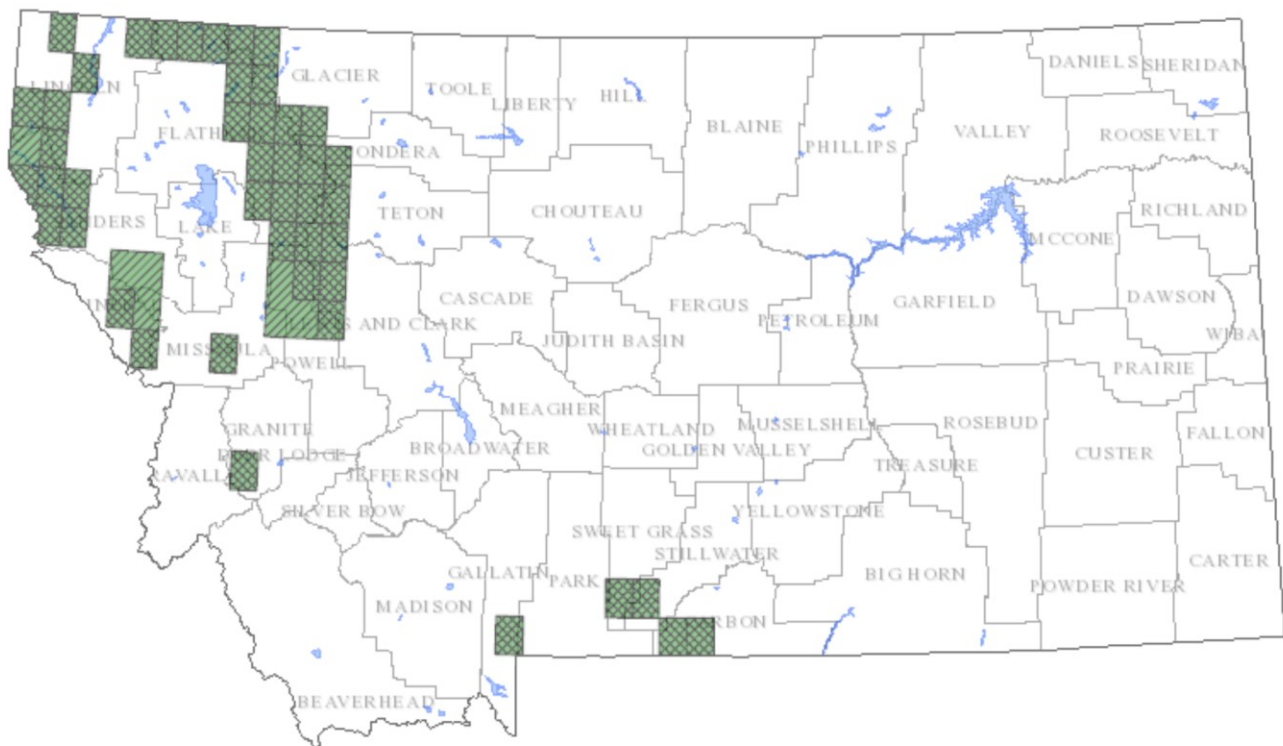
Direct evidence of breeding for Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), August 2022. The species has a state rank of S2, meaning it is "at risk because of very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state."

MTNHP prioritizes data collection on species of conservation concern. The Montana Animal Species of Concern report is produced jointly by the MTNHP and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP). Montana animal species of concern are native Montana animals that are at risk due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, and/or restricted distribution. Among Montana native birds (*Aves*) there are presently 66 species of concern, 17 potential species of concern, and 2 special status species.

Montanans experience improved accessibility and navigation through the State Library's website

The **Information Products** team at MSL unveiled a new agency website. The website includes improved navigation and accessibility upgrades so that all citizens can find the State Library information they need. The migration to the Cascade Content Management System (CMS) also featured enhancements to the web editing and publishing experience for MSL staff.

FY 22 Quarter 4 Top Pages by Views

April
- Geographic Information Home: 1,523
- MSDI Cadastral: 1,624
- 2022 Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibility!: 780
- Montana Talking Book Library Home: 548
- Montana State Library Commission: 521

May
- Geographic Information Home: 1,508
- MSDI Cadastral: 1,509
- 2022 Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibility!: 1,212
- Montana Talking Book Library Home: 519
- Montana State Library Commission: 131

June
- Geographic Information Home: 1,392
- MSDI Cadastral: 1,037
- 2022 Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibility!: 509
- Montana Talking Book Library Home: 525
- Montana State Library Commission: 513

Legend:
- Geographic Information Home
- MSDI Cadastral
- 2022 Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibility!
- Montana Talking Book Library Home
- Montana State Library Commission

In FY 22 Quarter 4, library users viewed the MSL website 56,980 times. The above chart shows the top five pages by views (other than the home page). The topics explored during this period reflect the diversity of services offered by the State Library.

Along with improving user and staff experience, the team deployed a single sign-on service called Okta in June 2022. Okta allows users to securely login with the same credentials for ASPeN library directory, Montana Geographic Information hub, Data List, Data Bundler, Digital Atlas, and 1Spatial for Next Generation 9-1-1. Through Okta, citizens can access MSL web applications by creating a username and password or with a third-party social identity provider such as Facebook, Google, or Microsoft. Residents' Okta credentials will grant them access to other State of Montana services like TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid.

Citizens can now read digitized Montana Council, Senate, and House journals online

The Montana State Library's **Government Information** librarian completed digitizing all the historic print series of Council Journal, Senate Journal of the Legislature of the State of Montana, and the House Journal of the Legislature of the State of Montana.
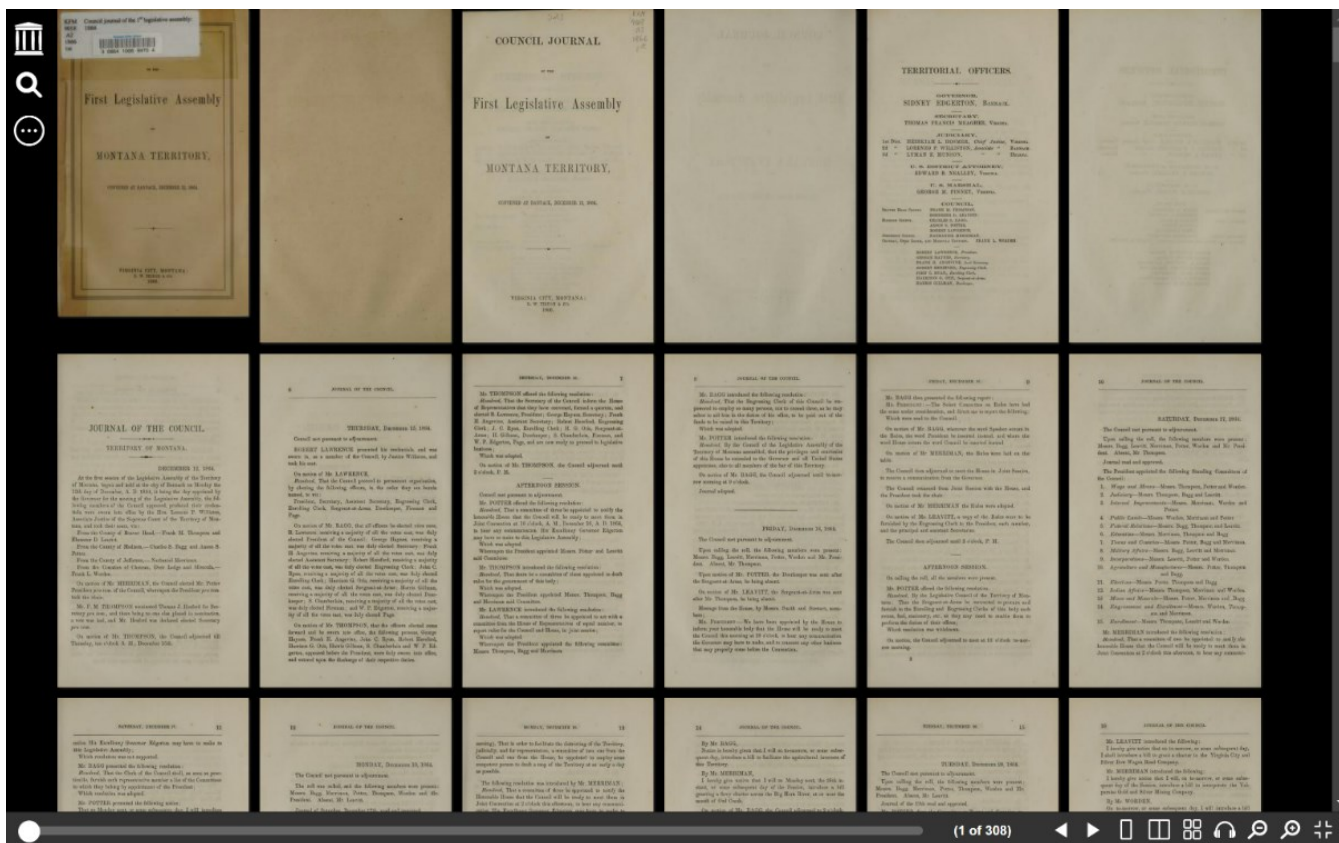
The digitized collection now includes this Council Journal from the first session of the [Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana](#) which convened in Bannack on December 12, 1864.
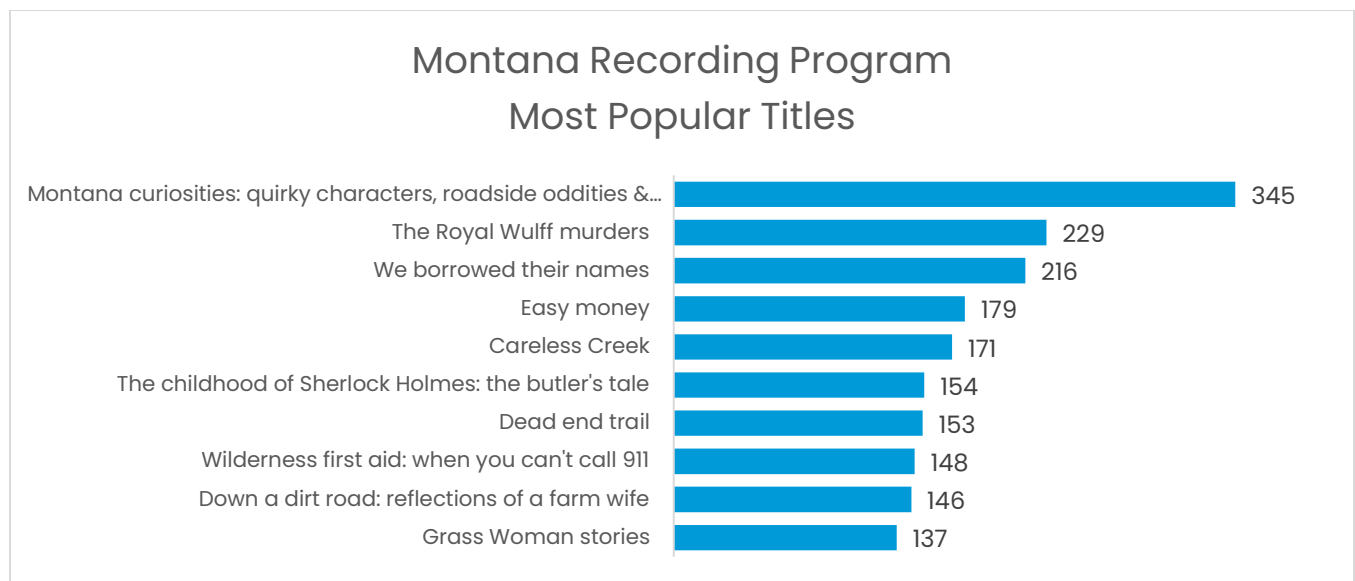
The digitization project includes 187 volumes (135,447 pages) dating from 1866 to 2021. Readers can view the journals online through the [Internet Archive](#). This expansive scanning project marks the conclusion of a joint effort between MSL and legislative staff to digitize the entire Legislature Reference Center print collection.

Staff is nearly finished loading the State Library's complete Archive-It (23 terabytes) and Internet Archive (3.2 terabytes) collections to the Montana State Data Center to ensure citizens possess secure and permanent access to important government information.

Talking Book patrons receive more resilient service through a new contract with Utah State Library

A major flood at the Montana State Library in July tested the resiliency of the Talking Book service. Flood damage rendered the processing area unusable, forcing building rehabilitation workers to box and move circulation equipment and the entire cartridge collection to an offsite location. Thanks to a new contract established with Utah State Library (USL) earlier in the year, MSL was able to meet its patrons' needs without interruption.

At its April 2022 meeting, the Montana State Library Commission approved restructuring the Talking Book program to leverage contracted services available through Utah State Library. USL has managed a robust Talking Book program for over 50 years, providing service to the residents of Utah, Wyoming, and Alaska. The new contract expands existing Braille service from USL to include book cartridge circulation, reader's advisory, Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) account administration, statistical reporting, newsletter mailings, and some book recording.

Montana Recording Program
Most Popular Titles

Title	Downloads
Montana curiosities: quirky characters, roadside oddities &…	345
The Royal Wulff murders	229
We borrowed their names	216
Easy money	179
Careless Creek	171
The childhood of Sherlock Holmes: the butler's tale	154
Dead end trail	153
Wilderness first aid: when you can't call 911	148
Down a dirt road: reflections of a farm wife	146
Grass Woman stories	137

Montana Recording Program books were downloaded 19,171 times in FY 22 by BARD patrons across the country. Recordings range from popular fiction set in Montana like *The Royal Wulff Murders* to non-fiction guides useful for outdoor recreationists like *Wilderness First Aid*. The chart above shows the top ten most popular titles by download count in FY 22.

The Montana State Library anticipates more service enhancements from working with USL. Prior to the arrangement, MSL recorded an average of 30 Montana-specific titles per year. Patrons will now benefit from USL's ability to record over 200 titles annually. USL will also take over recording some Montana serials and manuals, freeing up the MSL recording program to record more Montana literature. These items will be uploaded to BARD to not only be enjoyed throughout the United States, but internationally thanks to the passage of the Marrakesh Treaty in 2019 which provides for the open exchange of accessible-format books across borders.
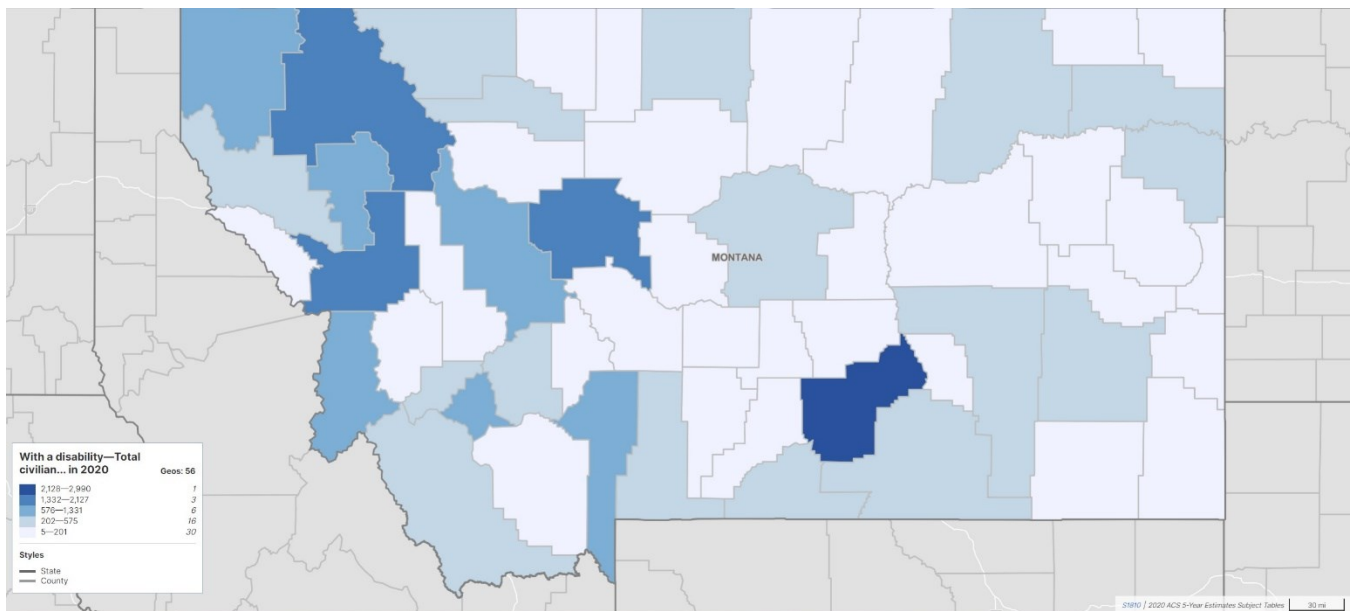
A map shaded by Montana county based on the estimated population with vision difficulty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020, ACS S1810). MSL currently serves less than 2,000 Talking Book patrons, but the US Census estimates 22,973 people with vision difficulty reside in Montana. The restructure will allow MSL staff to perform outreach to new populations.

By relying on USL to manage circulation and to record some of Montana's items, staff will be able to work on expanding the program through targeted outreach and partnerships. The State Library will leverage a new staffing model that positions MSL to greatly increase the number of people who are aware of and use Talking Book services in Montana. Staff will concentrate on building relationships with organizations throughout the state that interact with the target demographic including public libraries, optometrist offices, Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS), and schools. Recording staff will expand the program through partnerships with organizations throughout the state such as theaters and colleges, as well as Indigenous communities.

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Goals & Objectives

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

Goal One: Foster partnerships

Partnerships are necessary to ensure that Montanans thrive. Through partnerships, MSL and those we serve will continue to move Montana forward.

Goal Two: Secure sufficient and sustainable funding

We have the funds and capacity to meet the expectations of our partners and Montanans. We are an innovative, forward thinking, and fiscally responsible organization in fulfilling our mandates and meeting the expectations of our partners and Montana citizens.

Goal Three: Create a useful information infrastructure

Montanans have the information and library services they need to understand and influence change in their community. Others follow Montana's model of open, transparent, cooperative information management practices.

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Finances

Revenue

Category	Amount
General Fund	$2,579,105.81
LSTA	$2,552,750.91
Montana Land Information	$1,974,473.13
Other	$841,409.34
Coal Severance Tax	$510,300.00
Montana Shared Catalog	$489,719.49
State Aid	$433,690.00
Digital Library Services	$398,698.00
Next Gen. 911	$333,096.32
TOTAL	**$10,113,243.00**
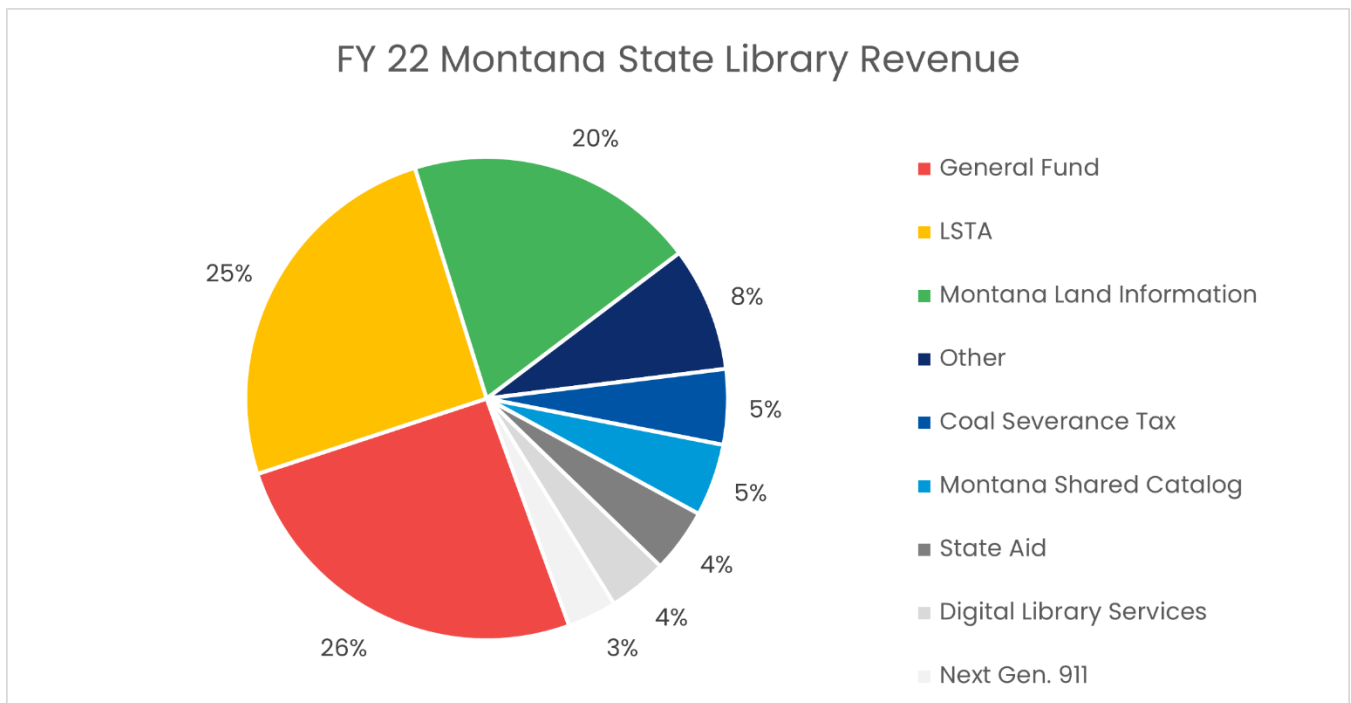
Top FY 22 revenue sources included General Fund , LSTA, and Montana Land Information.

Expenditures

Category	Amount
Central Services	$2,033,940.44
Information Management	$1,354,132.20
Statewide Projects	$1,339,221.58
COVID Funding	$1,314,276.03
Consulting	$1,205,931.44
Natural Heritage Program	$826,026.24
Land Information	$792,505.69
Information Products	$768,228.70
Patron Services	$478,980.68
TOTAL	**$10,113,243.00**

FY 22 Montana State Library Expenditures

- Central Services
- Information Management
- Statewide Projects
- COVID Funding
- Consulting
- Natural Heritage Program
- Land Information
- Information Products
- Patron Services
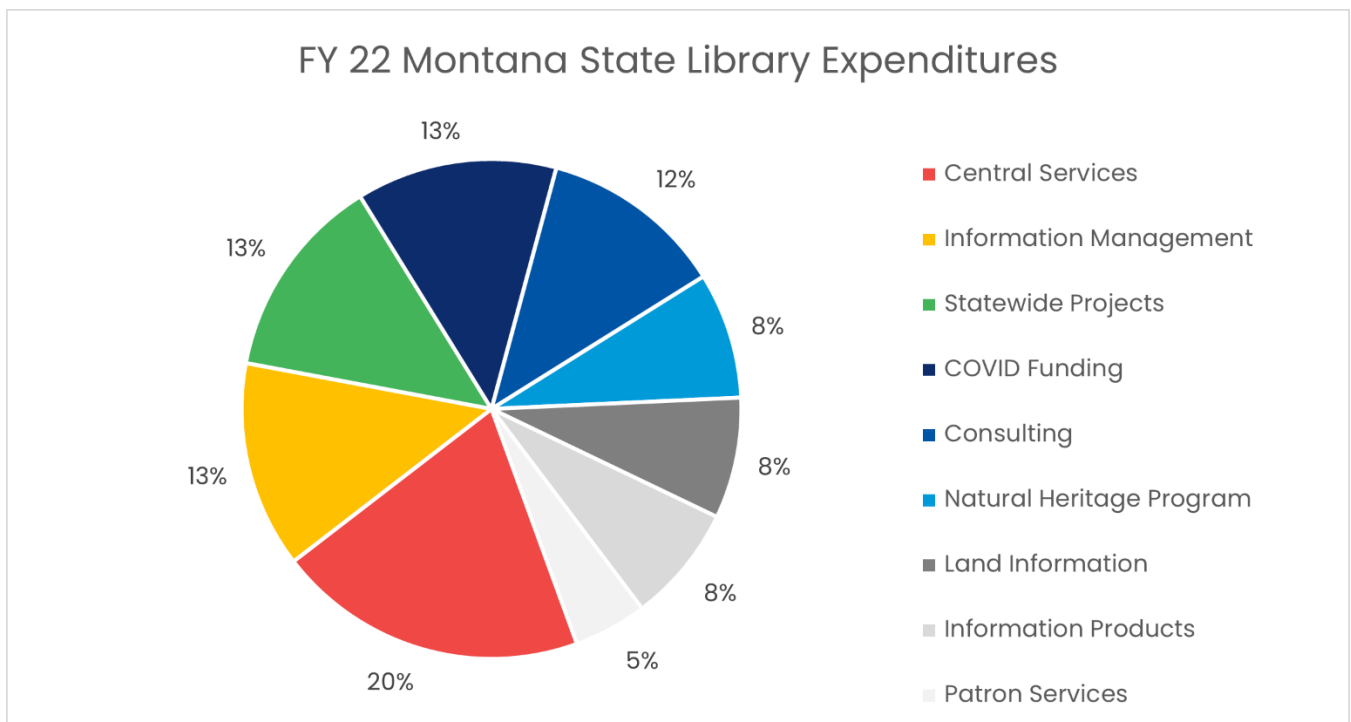
Top expenditures included Central Services, Information Management, Statewide Projects, and COVID Funding.
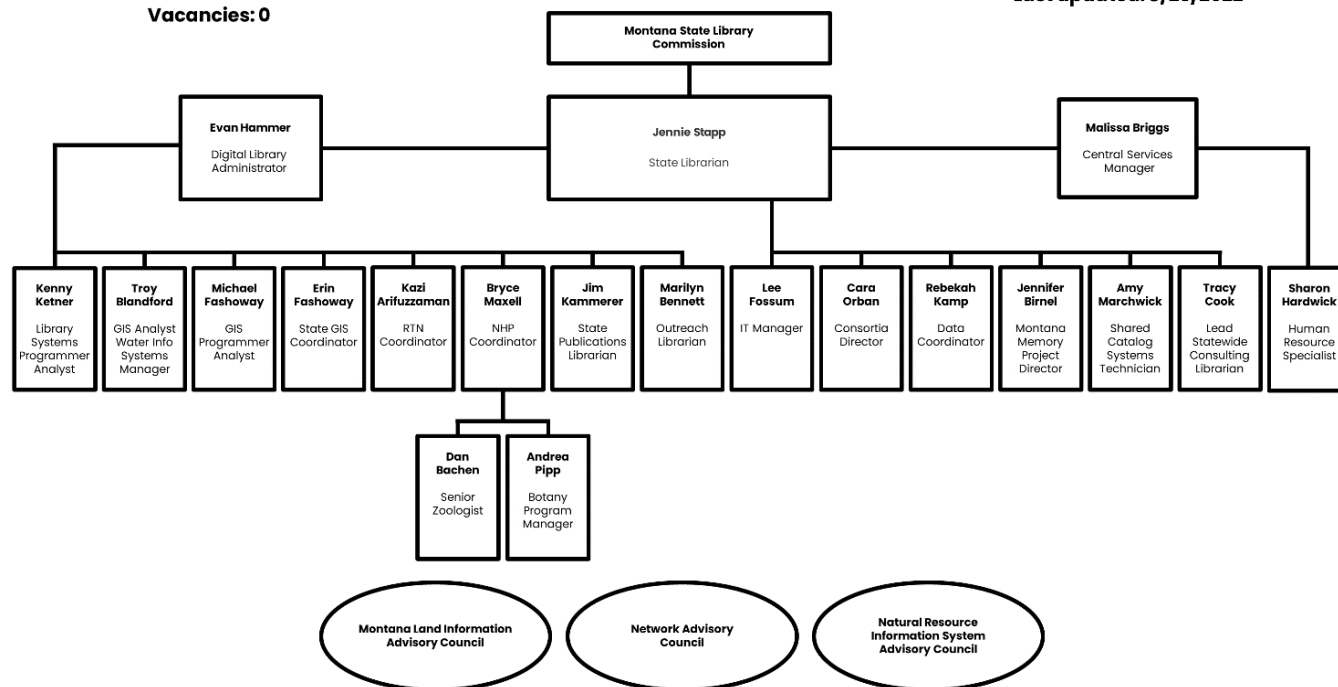
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Structure

Montana State Library – Lead Organization Chart

Total FTE: 56.35
Vacancies: 0

Last updated: 8/23/2022

Montana State Library Commission

Evan Hammer — Digital Library Administrator

Jennie Stapp — State Librarian

Malissa Briggs — Central Services Manager

- Kenny Ketner — Library Systems Programmer Analyst
- Troy Blandford — GIS Analyst Water Info Systems Manager
- Michael Fashoway — GIS Programmer Analyst
- Erin Fashoway — State GIS Coordinator
- Kazi Arifuzzaman — RTN Coordinator
- Bryce Maxell — NHP Coordinator
- Jim Kammerer — State Publications Librarian
- Marilyn Bennett — Outreach Librarian
- Lee Fossum — IT Manager
- Cara Orban — Consortia Director
- Rebekah Kamp — Data Coordinator
- Jennifer Birnel — Montana Memory Project Director
- Amy Marchwick — Shared Catalog Systems Technician
- Tracy Cook — Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian
- Sharon Hardwick — Human Resource Specialist

Under Bryce Maxell:
- Dan Bachen — Senior Zoologist
- Andrea Pipp — Botany Program Manager

- Montana Land Information Advisory Council
- Network Advisory Council
- Natural Resource Information System Advisory Council

Montana State Library Lead Staff Organizational Chart as of August 2022 – Staff Directory

Commission & Councils

Montana State Library Commission

The State Library Commission is the governing body of the State Library in accordance with 22-1-101, Montana Code Annotated. The seven-member Commission seeks advice from a number of standing advisory councils and ad hoc task forces on issues of importance to the communities served including the Network Advisory Council (NAC), Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC), and the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Advisory Committee.

Montana State Library Commission. Back Row: Dalton Johnson (Chair), Tammy Hall, Peggy Taylor (Vice-Chair). Front Row: Kenning Arlitsch (former commissioner), Kristin Kerr, Robyn Scribner, Elsie Arntzen

Network Advisory Council

The Network Advisory Council (NAC) represents the interests of all types of Montana libraries and maintains the perspective of statewide geographical balance as it explores ways to help libraries; assesses community needs; identifies innovation opportunities; reviews and evaluates the feasibility, design, and outcomes of statewide library projects; assists with statewide planning, and advises the State Librarian and the State Library Commission.

Library Development Plan

Montana Land Information Advisory Council

The Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC), as required by statute, advises the State Librarian and the State Library Commission on issues related to land information, on the priority of land information, including data layers to be developed, on the development

and management of the Montana Land Information Act grant process and on the distribution of funds collected in the Montana Land Information Account.

Montana Land Information Plan

Natural Resource Information System Advisory Committee

The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Advisory Committee, as required by statute, advises the State Librarian and the State Library Commission on the categories and types of data to be collected for a natural resources information system, criteria for the format of data collection, existing sources of relevant data in the public sector, and methodologies for management of and access to that data.

Central Services

Central Services staff provide accounting, human resources, and information technology assistance across the agency, as well as general administrative support.

Library Development Services

The Montana State Library provides leadership and guidance to libraries in order to improve programs, services, and facilities.

Consulting, Training, and Lifelong Learning

MSL provides consulting services, continuing education opportunities, and learning programs for library employees across Montana. These resources, training sessions, and professional development opportunities help library staff meet the needs of their patrons and create thriving opportunities for their communities.

Montana Memory Project

The Montana Memory Project (MMP) supports the creation of, and provides free access to, digital collections of items relating to Montana's cultural heritage and government. Libraries, museums, local government agencies, and historical societies across Montana contribute content to the website.

MontanaLibrary2Go

MontanaLibrary2Go is an online service that offers registered library patrons of participating libraries free access to a collection of contemporary, classic, and bestseller audiobooks, e-books, and magazines. These books check out just like a physical book or audio CD, except that users can check them out at any time, from anywhere – an online

library "to go." Registered library patrons can download the books to their electronic devices or computers, or they can read or listen to books in an online browser.

Montana Shared Catalog

The Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) is a consortium of multi-type libraries and branches across Montana, allowing libraries to share an online catalog and system administrator staff. The libraries that enjoy the greatest benefit from MSC membership also participate in sharing groups in which library patrons can seamlessly place holds on items from dozens of libraries around the state and pick up the item soon afterward. This program is made cost-effective through the use of a courier service, in which crates of items are delivered from library to library.

Digital Library Services

The Digital Library collects and provides access to multiple types of information of interest to state employees, federal partners, and the citizens of Montana.

Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) is made up of 15 "framework" geographic databases vital for making maps of Montana and understanding its geography. MSDI datasets are generally accepted as the best available, standardized, statewide data that meet the essential, digital geographic information needs of Montana's citizens, its government, commerce, legislature, area researchers, and more.

Montana Natural Resource Information System

Established in 1985 by the Montana Legislature, the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) was designed to simplify the task of identifying and acquiring natural resource information. NRIS's mission is to make information on Montana's natural resources easily and readily accessible.

Montana Natural Heritage Program

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is the state's source for reliable, objective information and expertise to support stewardship of our native species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern. MTNHP strives to provide easy access to information in order for users to save time and money, speed environmental reviews, and inform decision making. The MTNHP manages information on native and non-native species and biological communities which can be accessed on the Montana Field Guide, Natural Heritage Map Viewer, Species Snapshot, and Species of Concern web pages and applications.

Research Resources

MSL provides [research and professional development resources](#) for state employees and contractors as well as for Montana library staff.

State Publications

MSL makes a concerted effort to create citizen access to state publications to fulfill MCA 21-1-212: "The state library shall administer a state publications depository library program to identify, acquire, catalog, preserve, and provide access to state publications." Digitized publications are available via the [Internet Archive](#) and state web pages dating back to 1996 are archived at [MT.GOV Connect](#).

Talking Book Services

The [Talking Book](#) program works with the [National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled](#) to provide free library services to Montanans who cannot read standard print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. The program aims to improve patron quality of life and offer ease of access to reading materials so that patrons have opportunity to educate themselves and become informed voters connected to society, make informed and healthy decisions to be productive in the workforce, and contribute to society.

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