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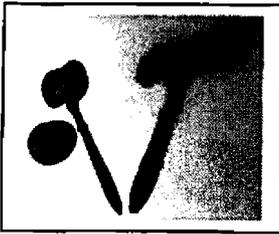
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LEGAL SERVICES SUPPORT



MONTANA COMMISSION ON SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

PO Box 203004 Helena MT 59620

(406)444-3660

March 4, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant that you are proposing is supported by the Montana Supreme Court's Commission on Self-Represented Litigants, and is consistent with the goals of the Commission.

Our mission is to propose, encourage, oversee and improve programs that will assist the large number of Montanans who cannot afford to hire attorneys. Among society's most vulnerable, they face life's most traumatic and wrenching situations such as:

- Having protected funds such as social security and child support illegally attached by unethical financial institutions
- Losing parental contact with children
- Having their homes foreclosed upon
- Dealing with the death of a parent and not knowing how to close the estate.

The Commission oversees and approves forms and instructions so that our citizens can appear in court to represent themselves. We also work closely with our partners to provide free or low cost legal representation in the cases that absolutely require an attorney's advice.

One of our goals is to enlist the assistance of our public libraries as partners in providing access to justice. We have been actively engaged in training the librarians for two years, with somewhat success. By having more computers and faster access, legal forms and instruction can be deployed faster. We also will be better able to train the librarians in how to work with self-represented litigants through webinars or other online training modes.

The funding provided by the grant will improve technology and faster communication for our libraries which will in turn help to provide equal access to justice for Montanans.

Yours sincerely,

Judith A. Meadows, Chair

Co-Chairs

Hon. Russ Fagg
Judy Meadows

Members

Peg Allison
Shirley Faust
Neil Haight
Corbin Howard
Monte Jewell
Hon. Michele Snowberger
Tara Veazey

Supreme Court Liaison

Hon. Karla Gray

State Law Library of Montana



Justice Building • 215 North Sanders
PO Box 203004 • Helena, MT 59620-3004
Phone (406) 444-3660 • Fax (406) 444-3603
www.lawlibrary.mt.gov

March 4, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The State Law Library enthusiastically supports the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant that you are proposing.

Our public libraries are not just information providers but also critical elements of Montana's communities. By providing more computers and faster broadband speeds, we will be better able to partner with the libraries to provide faster and more appropriate information to Montana's citizens who cannot afford attorneys. The State Law Library is anxious to work more efficiently with the public libraries in partnership to increase access to the doors of the courthouse. By having more computers and faster access, legal forms and instruction can be deployed faster. We also will be better able to train the librarians in how to work with self-represented litigants through webinars or other online training modes.

Rural Montanans deserve the same services and information as those who live in more populated areas. Improved technology and faster communication are the keys to equalizing access to justice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith A. Meadows".

Judith A. Meadows
Director and State Law Librarian

Montana Legal Services Association

Provide, protect and enhance access to justice.



Alison L. Paul
Deputy Director
Montana Legal Services Association
616 Helena Avenue, Suite 100
Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406) 442-9830 Ext. 15
Fax: (406) 442-9817
Toll Free: (800) 666-6124
E-mail: apaul@mlsa.org
Website: www.mtlsa.org

March 5, 2010

Mr. Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) is pleased to support the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

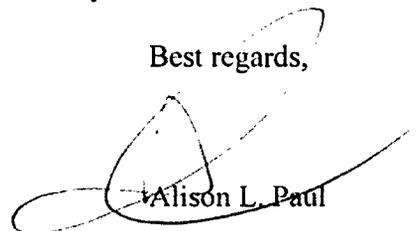
The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local libraries across the state will provide an important resource we can leverage to deliver legal services to low income people across Montana.

MLSA has attempted to bridge the geographic barriers that impact service delivery with technological innovations such as MontanaLawHelp.org, a website where consumers can gain access to legal information, and through the development of automated forms for self-represented litigants. This grant would provide opportunities for Montanans to access these technological resources, increasing the availability of legal resources, especially in the remote areas across the state where MLSA does not have a physical presence.

MLSA believes this proposal is an important next step to ensuring access to justice for all Montanans. MLSA is in full support of the Montana State Library's vision to increase the availability of technology so that more Montanans can gain access to necessary services.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Best regards,



Alison L. Paul

Administrative Office

616 Helena Ave., Ste 100
Helena, MT 59601
Toll Free: (800) 666-6124
Phone: (406) 442-9830
Fax: (406) 442-9817

Statewide HelpLine Number ☎ 1-800-666-6899

Websites:
www.MontanaLawHelp.org
www.mtlsa.org

Funded in part by:

Montana Justice Foundation
&



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORT



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

March 3, 2010

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is pleased to be an ardent supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide an essential resource we can promote to schools and parents of school-aged students to achieve our goal of participation in the Montana Virtual Academy project recently funded by the Montana Legislature. The Office of Public Instruction has played an integral role in developing the first ever virtual school in the state of Montana and the Montana Legislature has charged us with making these educational opportunities available to all of Montana's students. Providing this increased level of access and connectivity will only strengthen our ability to meet the charge of the Legislature and provide increased access to the unique and needed educational service.

The scope of this project is particularly important to a rural/frontier state like Montana. All states have rural regions, but Montana is one a few truly rural states. This circumstance has its own challenges and needs. This project will only strengthen our abilities to serve more of Montana in an effective manner, that otherwise may not be available.

We are proud to support the Montana State Library in its efforts and encourage your sincere consideration of its proposal.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis J. Parman".

Dennis J. Parman
Deputy Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction

The Office of Public Instruction is committed to equal opportunity and non-discriminatory access to all our programs and services.
For information or to file a complaint, contact OPI Title IX/EEO Coordinator at (406) 444-2673 or opipersonnel@mt.gov.

2715 Dickinson
Miles City, MT 59301
www.milesc.edu



(406) 874-6100
Fax: (406) 874-6282
*Equal Opportunity in
Education and Employment.*

March 5, 2010

I am the Library Director of the Miles Community College and I am writing a letter of support for the *Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries*. I believe that there are major reasons 'why' you should consider our request.

- Montana is the 4th largest state in the union based on geographic area, yet it has less than one million people living within its borders.
- We have little access to high-speed broadband services.
- We lack adequate educational and health resources (including trained teachers and doctors).
- We have little access to proper legal information (or lawyers for that matter).
- And we have little access to job resources.

Miles Community College is located in the eastern half of the state. If you were to place a ruler north and south on a map of Montana which would go through Billings, Montana, you would see how large the area is, and the population in that area contains about 90,000 people, not families. We are considered 'frontier' at this end of the state. Needless to say, our state's population has to be frugal in order to provide library services, including internet access especially for the smaller libraries in Montana.

I work with our public librarian and we are part of a consortium of about 100 libraries from east to west. We share our materials, our insights and support each other in any way we can. Miles City is one of the largest towns east of Billings, with a population of about 8,000 people.

With your help and support Montana small public libraries would be able to provide:

- More educational opportunities, vocational training using the internet, which would increase the job skills of our work force.
- Needed broadband access to the world and the technology especially for our youth, the elderly and the poor.
- A partnership that would be established not only in our community, but across the state. (We are accustomed to partnering with our neighbors).

Montana citizens are rather isolated. When you have fewer resources, you partner with your neighbors and share your resources, enabling all of you to be cost and time effective.

- I have been in this position for 5 ½ years, and a librarian for 19 years, K-24. I will tell you that the Montana State Library is one of the most organized, committed and dedicated to the Montana citizens that I have ever worked with. They work tirelessly, continue to increase their knowledge at every opportunity and provide training and support for all of our librarians and their staff in the state. They will not disappoint you or the state should you decide we qualify for your generous grant. You will make a huge difference for our communities, especially for our youth, the elderly and the poor.

Ann Rutherford, Library Director
Miles Community College
406.874.6196
rutherforda@milesc.edu

Start Here... Go Anywhere.



*Improving Lives
Through Learning*

Flathead Valley Community College

777 Grandview Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901 • 406/756/3822 • Fax 406/756/3815
fvccinfo@fvcc.edu • www.fvcc.edu

3-5-10

Montana State Library
Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
P.O. Box 201800, 1515 E. 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Bob:

I take great pleasure in participating in the Public Computer Center (PCC) grant from the Montana State Library as a supporting institution. The Flathead Valley Community College Library shares a common bond with all public libraries in Montana as a member of the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), pooling our resources under one central catalog used by over 100 libraries. In a like-minded way, our academic library endorses the concept of your PCC grant proposal, recognizing that increased broadband speed and additional public-access computer workstations can only enhance the service model that all Montana libraries embrace: enhancing library services to all of Montana's citizens.

In our Community of Kalispell, the Flathead County Library's public library system serves a population of nearly 80,000 citizens in a county that is larger than the state of Connecticut. The focal point for the information needs of those citizens remains the public library system. Our college library is open to the public and, like the public county library's main library and branches, serves to broaden this public access to folks seeking job postings, health care facts, consumer information and legal services. But even further, as our public libraries extend and improve services, our FVCC students benefit because we rely heavily on their collections, hours, services and staff to reach our own institutional goals. Our students are also their patrons and many have been lifelong public library users.

Montana's libraries are the natural sites to fashion a strong community connection to the Internet and all of its attendant services for the many citizens who have no access to Internet workstations. Broadband strength is the key to all of this. And I particularly wish to extend my support to the concept of mobile computing labs for the many remote areas of Montana. Montana is very rural, with only 5.6 people per square mile. It is essential that all of our citizens, including those residing in remote areas, have equal opportunity to utilize Web-based resources in an information age when speed and facts are so essential for quality of life and clear decisions.

Count the Flathead Valley Community Library in as an enthusiastic supporter of your PCC grant application. I applaud the State Library's efforts to strengthen our state's library services and urge a favorable review of the application from all levels. Thanks for the opportunity to lend our support.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Ober
Library Director



*Improving Lives
Through Learning*

Flathead Valley Community College

LINCOLN COUNTY CAMPUS

225 Commerce Way • Libby, MT 59923 • 406/293/2721 • Fax 406/293/5112
lccinfo@fvcc.edu • www.fvcc.edu

March 8, 2010

Mr. Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper,

As Director of The Lincoln County Campus of Flathead Valley Community College I am pleased to be a strong supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide our students and our communities a crucial resource we can leverage to achieve our goal of providing post-secondary and lifelong learning opportunities to the citizens of Lincoln and Flathead counties. The Lincoln County Campus houses the Extended Learning Division whose mission is to provide distance learning opportunities in the form of online and interactive teleconferencing courses as part of our commitment to bring education to students who otherwise could not attend class in a traditional method. Our purpose is to provide students with educational opportunities beyond the brick and mortar classrooms.

The Lincoln County Campus already partners with the Lincoln County Libraries, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Lincoln County Government, the City of Libby, the Libby, Troy and Eureka Public School Districts and economic development agencies as part of our efforts to make education accessible and affordable to our communities. This project expands all of those partnerships by making technology available in a broader sense than now exists. Increasing access to web based technology will provide more opportunities for our students to take online courses, look for much needed jobs, and utilize the internet to gather whatever information one desires. We all realize that access to information is critical to a strong, healthy and growing community.

I am excited about supporting this grant proposal and see this grant as a major move forward in providing dependable broadband access to web based resources for our communities.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Pezzelle, M.A. Ed.
Director

SPECIAL NEEDS AGENCY SUPPORT



MONTANA RADIO READING SERVICE

P.O. Box 4126, Missoula, MT 59806

406.721.1998 / 1.800.942.7323

March 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Cooper:

We are pleased to express our support of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library. The library does a great deal toward supporting the mission of the Montana Radio Reading Service and helping us to provide service to our patrons.

The Montana Radio Reading Service is a state wide audio newspaper information service for blind, low vision and physically print impaired Montanans. Our mission is to empower the lives of those who cannot read because of a visual loss or physical disability; to decrease their sense of isolation; to increase their independence and to help maintain a sense of connection to their individual communities. We provide information from the state's newspapers, which is critical to the successful daily living and independence of our patrons. This information is not available on commercial radio or television stations. For thirty-one years, we have provided this 24-hour service through broadcasts over closed circuit radio, but we will soon be streaming our broadcasts over the internet as well as exploring other technologies for alternative forms of transmission. These changes are critical to assisting us in reaching the growing number of individuals in need of our service.

The proposal's goal of providing more computer stations with increased broadband speeds will help to increase the opportunities for our patrons to stay connected with their communities. Many of our patrons are on limited incomes and rely on library services to get critical information. Installing more computers with increased broadband speeds in libraries across Montana would greatly benefit the patrons we serve throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Cotnoir,
Director

Montana Radio Reading Service

WESTERN MONTANA AREA VI AGENCY ON AGING, INC.

110 Main St., Suite 5
Polson, MT 59860-2316
(406) 883-7284 800-551-3191
Fax (406) 883-7363
www.westernmontanaagingservices.org

Duane E. Lutke, Director

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Area VI Agency on Aging is pleased to be a supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The Agency on Aging is an administrator of programs and services for individuals 60 years of age and older. The Agency works closely with Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and many other programs that help older individuals remain in their own homes. Our mission is to not only fully utilize existing services for Seniors, but to help develop new and additional resources as well.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers at the local library would enhance Seniors ability to access important information. Medicare and Social Security now have up to date information online, as well as downloadable forms and online applications. Families are staying in touch via email and share pictures through Facebook. Many Seniors currently do not have access to the internet and need help navigating their way through new systems. Having computers available at the library would give them the access they need plus help in learning how to use the computers.

This project is consistent with the vision of the Agency on Aging by creating opportunities for Seniors to be proactive in their lives. It empowers individuals to learn new skills and find their own answers. Computers at the local library would provide a safe place where people can learn technological skills, advocate for themselves with federal and state programs and stay in touch with loved ones.

Duane E. Lutke, Director

Programs

***Retired
Senior Volunteer
Program***

***Foster
Grandparent
Program***

***Case
Management***

***Information
&
Assistance***

***Long
Term Care
Ombudsman***

***Advocates
In Medicare
Savings***

***Older
Americans Act
Programs***



Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana

Helping People. Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities.

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Main Office

214 Main Street
P. O. Box 8300
Kalispell, MT 59904
Phone: 406-752-6565
Fax: 406-752-6582

Outreach Offices

933 Farm to Market Rd.
Suite B
Libby, MT 59923
Phone: 406-293-2712
Fax: 406-293-2979

110 Main Street
Suite 6
Polson, MT 59860
Phone: 406-883-3470
Fax: 406-883-3481

*Serving Flathead,
Lake, Lincoln and
Sanders Counties
since 1976 as
Northwest Montana
Human Resources, Inc.*

HRDC District 10

www.nmhr-dist10.org

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana is pleased to be a supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide an important and valuable resource we can leverage to assist our clients in becoming self-sufficient.

Community Action Partnership's mission is to provide services and advocacy to improve lives and strengthen our communities. Community Action Partnership has a commitment to utilizing all programs and opportunities to their fullest and using them as a tool for developing additional resources for the low-income in the communities they serve; located in Lake, Flathead, Lincoln and Sanders counties.

I believe this project will provide needed educational opportunities, vocational training and job skills access to the community. Through this project our community will be strengthened by the potential to expand e-learning opportunities through a potential partnership with the Montana Virtual Academy, increasing the availability of vital legal resources through a potential partnership with the Montana Department of Justice, and expanding job resource availability at local libraries through a potential partnership with the Department of Labor and Industry.

Sincerely,

Leslie DeWitt
Employment & Training Dept. Director



Cooper, Bob

From: Claudette and Rodger Beckendorf [becks2@bresnan.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:40 PM

To: Cooper, Bob

Subject: library project goals from MAB of Polson

Dear Mr. Cooper,

MAB (Montana Assoc. for Blind) is pleased to be a supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library. The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide a important resource we can leverage to achieve our goals. MAB'S goals are to have greater accessibility computers throughout all state libraries and having funds for various computer peripherals and software to help all of those with low vision.

Sincerely,

Beckendorf

President of Polson MAB Chapter

Roger

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITY
SUPPORT**



110 Broadway • Townsend, Montana 59644
(406) 266-3911 • Fax (406) 266-4042
Email: cityoftownsend@mt.net

"First City on the Missouri"

March 3, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P. O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The City of Townsend has learned that the Broadwater Community/ County Library is pursuing a federal grant to expand the community library computer center with increased broadband speeds as an aid in providing greater opportunities, vocational training and needed job skills.

As a City which hopes to retain as many of our younger citizens as we can, we are certainly aware of how much we depend on the excellent services offered by our library and are very interested in increasing their ability to provide the training necessary to make this happen. The more they can learn locally and put to use in life skills, the better for all. This is especially important for autistic persons and those who have special needs and who would be better served with enhanced computer tools.

We support this grant request for this worthwhile purpose.

Sincerely,


Mary Alice Upton
Mayor of Townsend

MAU:S



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

March 8, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am writing in support of the Montana State Library's pursuit of a federal grant to enhance computing centers at local public libraries in Montana.

As the mayor of Montana's second-largest city, I'm acutely aware of the need for local government to communicate quickly and well with the citizens we serve. My staff members increasingly use electronic means of communication, especially since we launched our new City of Missoula Web site last year. Some of our services are now online; citizens can pay their sewer bills, read about our newest initiatives and look up how to apply for a business license in the same place.

Most Missoulians work hard and are busy. Some don't have computer access in their homes. We know that many of them visit our Missoula Public Library to go online. When they do, they look for a variety of information outside the realm of City government. They may also be accessing employment and unemployment information, educational opportunities, job-enhancing training and other valuable services vital to the economic climate of our community.

More computers and increased broadband speed at our local library would help us as we move toward an increasingly informed citizenry who have all the advantages that that technology offers. I wish you success in your Enhancing Computer Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant.

Sincerely,

Mayor John Engen

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am writing as a Bozeman City Commissioner to strongly support the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

Before entering public office, I served on our community's foundation that raised private funds for our local library, and I appreciate that public libraries in Montana play a wide variety of crucial roles in Bozeman and in towns and cities across the state. As such, I am fully supportive of the goal of this proposal to increase the number of computers and broadband speeds available at our libraries as it will help meet a number of missions important to our library and our city.

The changing economy and technology has placed greater and greater expectations and demands on the computing ability that the public expects from public libraries. Long-distance education, independent research, networking, and other uses of a library's computer lab increasingly require high capability computers connected by fast, reliable broadband.

The recent economic difficulties also mean that demands on library services—especially computing services such as employment searches, interview preparation, and continued learning—are at record levels at the same time that it is the most difficult for small Montana communities to provide assistance for their libraries.

Any financial support provided for computing upgrades and expansion would be utilized to the fullest extent. It is rare that any computer in Bozeman's library is idle for more than minutes, and the terminals are in use by visitors from the building's opening to close.

In Bozeman, our community fully embraces our public library as one of the pivotal social, cultural, and education centers of our community—as a meeting place, for music and lectures, for literature and research, or for continuing education. All of it available for free; and open to everyone. This grant is an important part of making sure that goal and vision remains viable for the coming years.

Sincerely,

Chris Mehl
Bozeman City Commission
406-581-4992
cmehl@bozeman.net



Polson School District #23

March 4, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dr. Mr. Cooper,

I'm writing to support the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library. I fully support the effort to provide our community with access to more and better technology.

In particular, I think the planned laptop lab at the Polson City Library would be used by a multitude of stakeholders including students who do not have access to technology at home, senior citizens and those who are looking for employment. In a small rural community this level of access to technology would open doors that otherwise might be totally unavailable.

I'm especially pleased to hear of plans to provide technology services to library patrons who have vision difficulties. This technology, which many cannot afford, could bring the world to them, enhancing their lives and allowing them to read, and communicate more freely.

Our culture uses technology as a critical communication tool. Being able to provide these services to a rural community through their public library will benefit untold numbers of people. I fully support this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Marsha Zell Anson
Director of Community Services
Polson School District

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Bicentennial Library of Colstrip is pleased to be an active partner in the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide a important resource we can leverage to achieve our goal. The Bicentennial Library of Colstrip's goal is to provide timely, useful information and reading materials to all residents of southern Rosebud County. Advances in technology will continue to improve the speed and efficiency of patron services.

Thank You for putting together this fine project. The full impact of it will be quickly felt in the remote community of Colstrip.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Bullard
Branch Director
Bicentennial Library of Colstrip
PO Box 1947
Colstrip, Mt
59323

Linda Dingman
1004 Wedum Drive
Glasgow, MT 59230

March 9, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 2018000
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

My name is Linda Dingman and I worked at the Glasgow City-County Library for 10 years. I retired due to my multiple sclerosis. I am pleased to support the Enhancing Computer Centers at Montana Public Libraries. The goal of this grant is to provide better, faster, and additional computers for our library. However, the Glasgow City-County Library does not have handicapped accessible doors. If they were awarded this grant, they would use the grant to purchase these doors.

In my time at the library there were complaints about the lack of handicapped doors. Since retiring from the library I have found it very difficult if not impossible to pull open the heavy library doors. There is a doorbell that a person can ring to have a librarian come and open the door. However, this is not a very effective solution and should really be considered a temporary solution. Also, a power chair requires two people to open both doors so that an adult chair will fit through, and there may be just one employee working.

We are an aging population and with age people tend to lose some of their strength. There is going to be more people that experience the above mentioned problems. We also have young people that are wheel chair bound, and we would like to encourage them to use the library. Not having the handicapped accessible doors is just one more obstacle for many library patrons.

We currently have no idea how many patrons do not come to the library due to the difficulty of getting into and out of the library. I feel that the library is currently not handicap friendly. We need to make it more handicapped friendly and getting the automatic doors will be a big step to the library moving in that direction.

Like all libraries, Glasgow City-County Library funds are short. Most libraries run on barebones funding and do not have the means to put in the handicapped accessible doors. Also libraries are public buildings and as such are supposed to meet ADA standards.

Sincerely,



Linda Dingman

JOB SERVICE SUPPORT

Working Innovations, Inc.

...for those journeying toward success

March 4, 2010

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Working Innovations, Inc. is pleased to be a supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

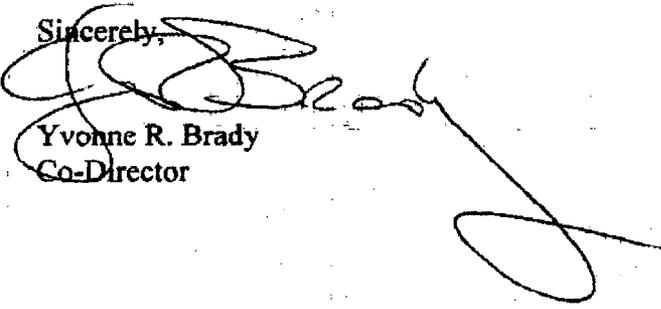
The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide an essential resource we can leverage to assist our clients to return to the workforce and begin the journey towards living without public assistance.

Working Innovations, Inc., administers the WoRC program (Work Readiness Program) which assists Lake County residents receiving public assistance to re-enter the work force and eventually live without any public assistance.

Learning to access the local resources, including the free services provided by our local library here in Lake County, is crucial to our clients' journey toward permanent self-sufficiency. We would like to see increased use of common word-processing and spreadsheet tutorial programs to enhance our clients' marketable skills and add to their resumes, especially in the current economy.

Please consider assisting this valuable local resource to enhance their services in this community.

Sincerely,



Yvonne R. Brady
Co-Director

P.O. Box 1688
Polson, MT 59860

(406) 883-6717
1-800-477-8992
FAX (406) 883-4134



Governor Brian Schweitzer

Montana

Department of Labor and Industry Workforce Services Division

Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, Mt 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper,

The Northeast Montana Job Service Workforce Center is excited to hear about the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library. The Sheridan County Library in Plentywood provides the Northeast Montana Job Service Clients with access to the resources that we provide. Without the Sheridan County Library it would be very difficult to provide the residents of Sheridan County with workforce information and job searching skills. The Northeast Montana Job Service relies on the Sheridan County Library as an access contact for the area residents to get our information in a timely manner, as we are only able to physically be Sheridan County once every two weeks. Our coverage area happens to be the five northeastern Counties.

The proposals' goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at the local library computing centers will provide a very valuable tool, as the Job Service's goal is that every person in our five county area have easy access to the job listings (local, state and national), Job service skills assessments (skill testing and job matching), Resume assistance, access to labor market information, access to Labor law information and Internet job seeking sites. The Sheridan County Library is a great partner in assisting the Northeast Montana Job Service, but due to their limited public use computers they are not always able to assist our employers or job seekers with their need. The library attempts to assist Job Service when they can. Through this grant the Northeast Montana Job Service will have a daily presence in Sheridan County and will be able to provide essential employer and job seeking services to our clients.

The Sheridan County Library is committed to providing the clients with the best service available. They certainly provide the Northeast Montana Job Service with job seeker and employer internet access whenever they can. I certainly think that the residents of Sheridan County and their partners would benefit tremendously from this grant.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael W. Hughes".

Michael W. Hughes
Workforce Consultant



NORTHEAST MONTANA JOB SERVICE WORKFORCE CENTER
74 4th St N., Glasgow, MT 59230
PHONE (406) 228-9369 FAX (406) 406-228-8793
"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"





Governor Brian Schweitzer

Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Workforce Services Division

March 3, 2010

Bob Copper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Sidney Job Service Workforce One-Stop Center is pleased to be a supporter of the Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal of the Montana State Library.

The proposal's goal of providing more computers and faster broadband speeds at local library computing centers will provide a crucial resource we can leverage to achieve our common goal of assisting others in accessing lifelong learning opportunities. The Sidney Job Service Workforce One-Stop Center's motto is that of the Montana State Department of Labor and Industry:

The Workforce Services Division motto of 'Superior Service for a Working Montana,' coupled with our main focus of Continuous Improvement for Increased Customer Satisfaction, allows us the ability to continually develop and maintain a high quality workforce system that provides a prepared workforce and supports and enhances the economic health of Montana's business communities.

In our effort to provide a prepared workforce we rely on partners such as the Sidney -Richland County Library. Essentially to assist in providing e-learning access and opportunities for both the job seeker and businesses alike who are participating in further education.

In closing I would ask your weighted consideration in funding the Sidney-Richland County Library for their grant request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernetta Torgerson".

Vernetta Torgerson
Manager



Sidney Job Service Workforce Center
211 N Central Ave
Sidney MT 59270
PH: 433-1204 Fax: 433-7453



Internet Service Provider Support

Qwest Communications
441 North Park Avenue, Room 005
Post Office Box 1716
Helena, MT 59624
406 441-7700 (phone)
406 441-7372 (fax)
E-mail: David.Gibson@qwest.com



David Gibson
State President – Montana
State Office

March 1, 2010

Mr. Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Cooper,

The purpose of this letter is to convey Qwest Communications' support for your Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries grant proposal. Expanding access to computers and broadband connectivity is vitally important to our state's economic strength and the vitality of our individual communities. The education of our students and the training of our workforce also depend on continually expanding access to technology. Your grant proposal takes a significant step forward in providing that access.

Qwest is a Tier 1 telecommunications carrier and is one of the nation's largest providers of telecommunications services to individuals, businesses, and community institutions. It has been the largest provider of these services in Montana for more than 100 years and has an extensive network throughout the state. Should you be successful in receiving this grant, Qwest has the ability to provide the products and services you will require and stands ready to work with your team to implement the grant.

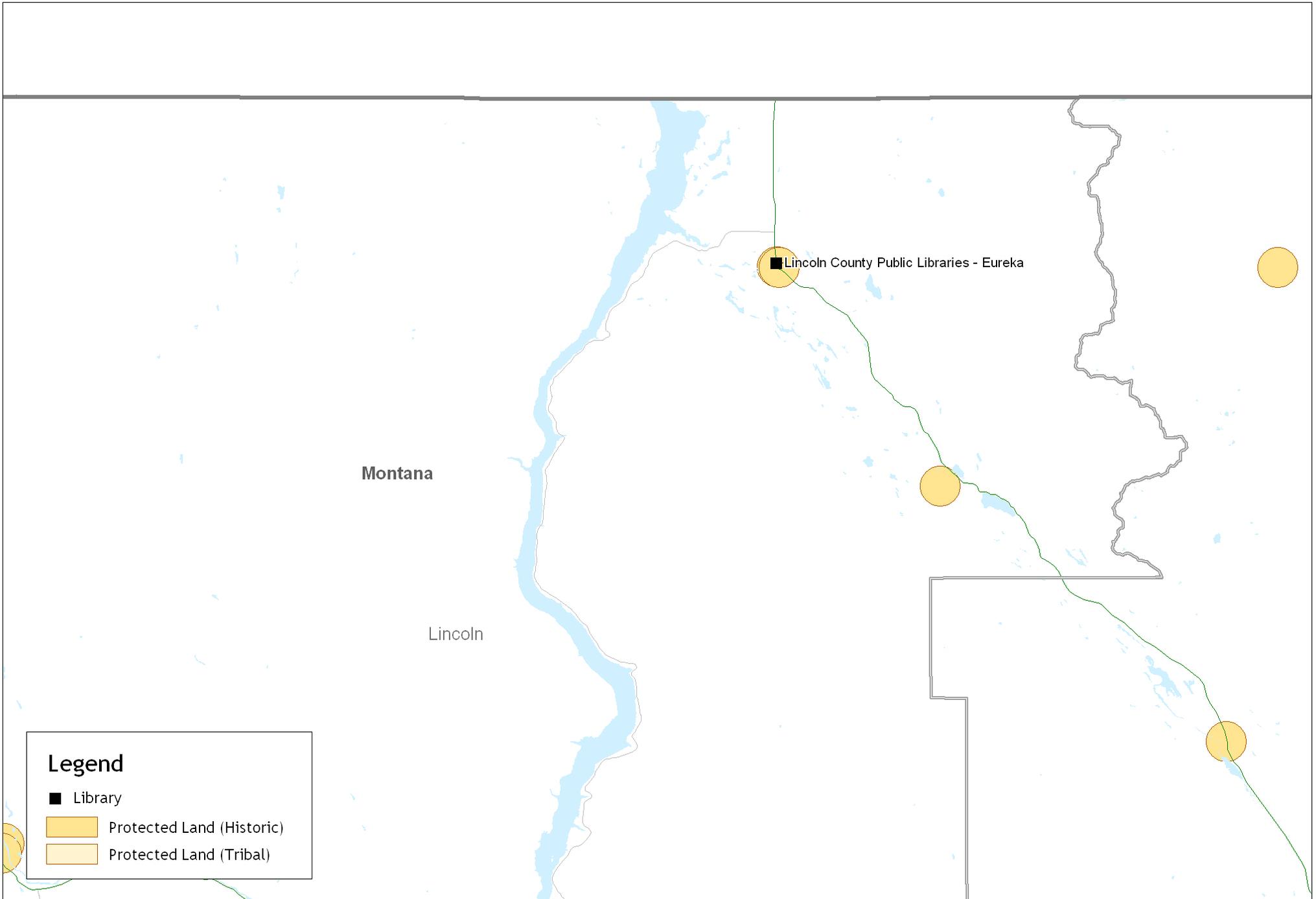
I appreciate the time your staff has spent explaining your proposal and working with Qwest to develop your plan for the types of equipment and services your grant proposal will entail. On behalf of Qwest, I also want to thank you for your hard work on this proposal and your obvious commitment to making Montana a better place to live and work.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to support this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Gibson
Montana President
Qwest Communications



Legend

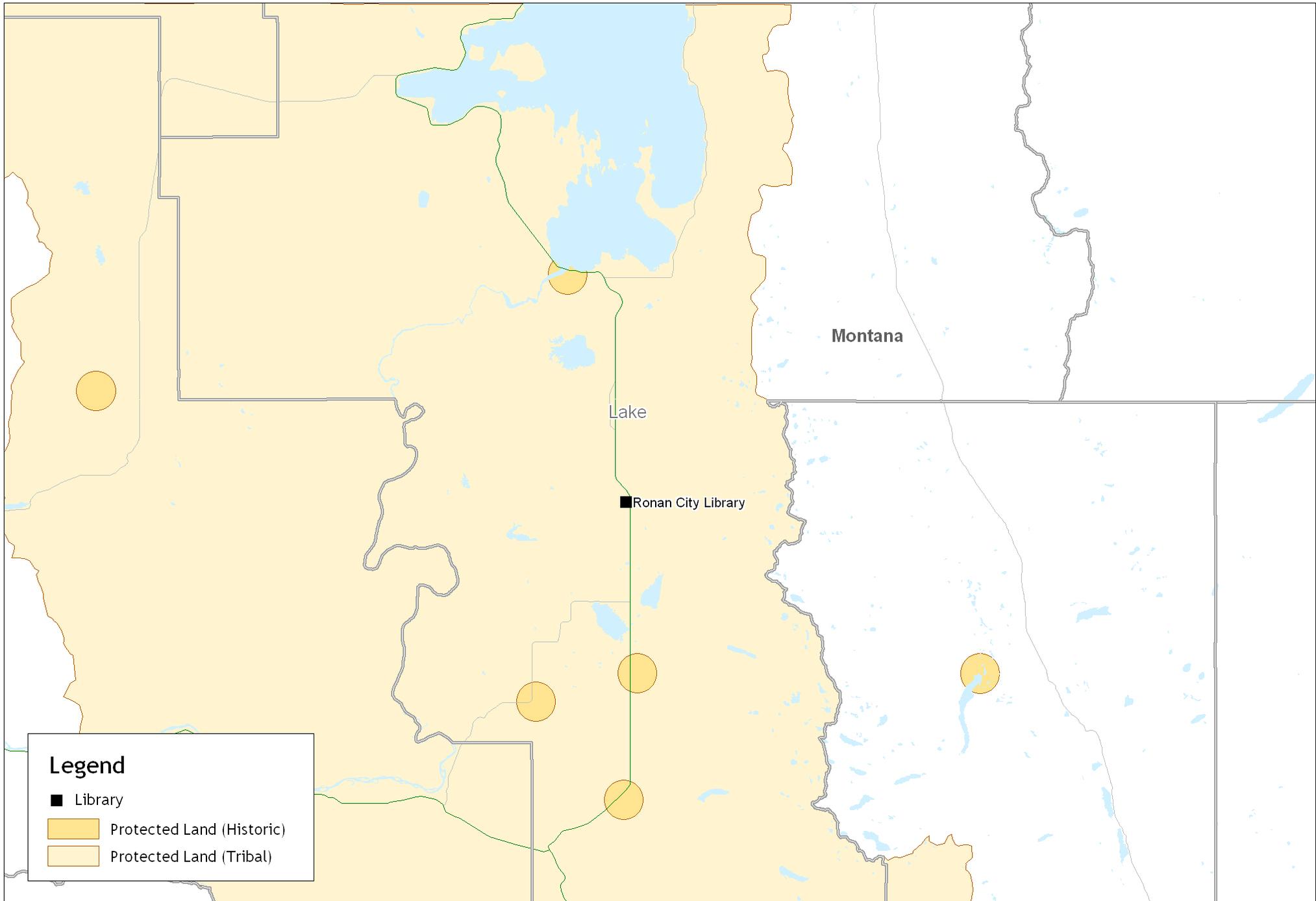
- Library
- Protected Land (Historic)
- Protected Land (Tribal)

Montana

Lincoln

Lincoln County Public Libraries - Eureka





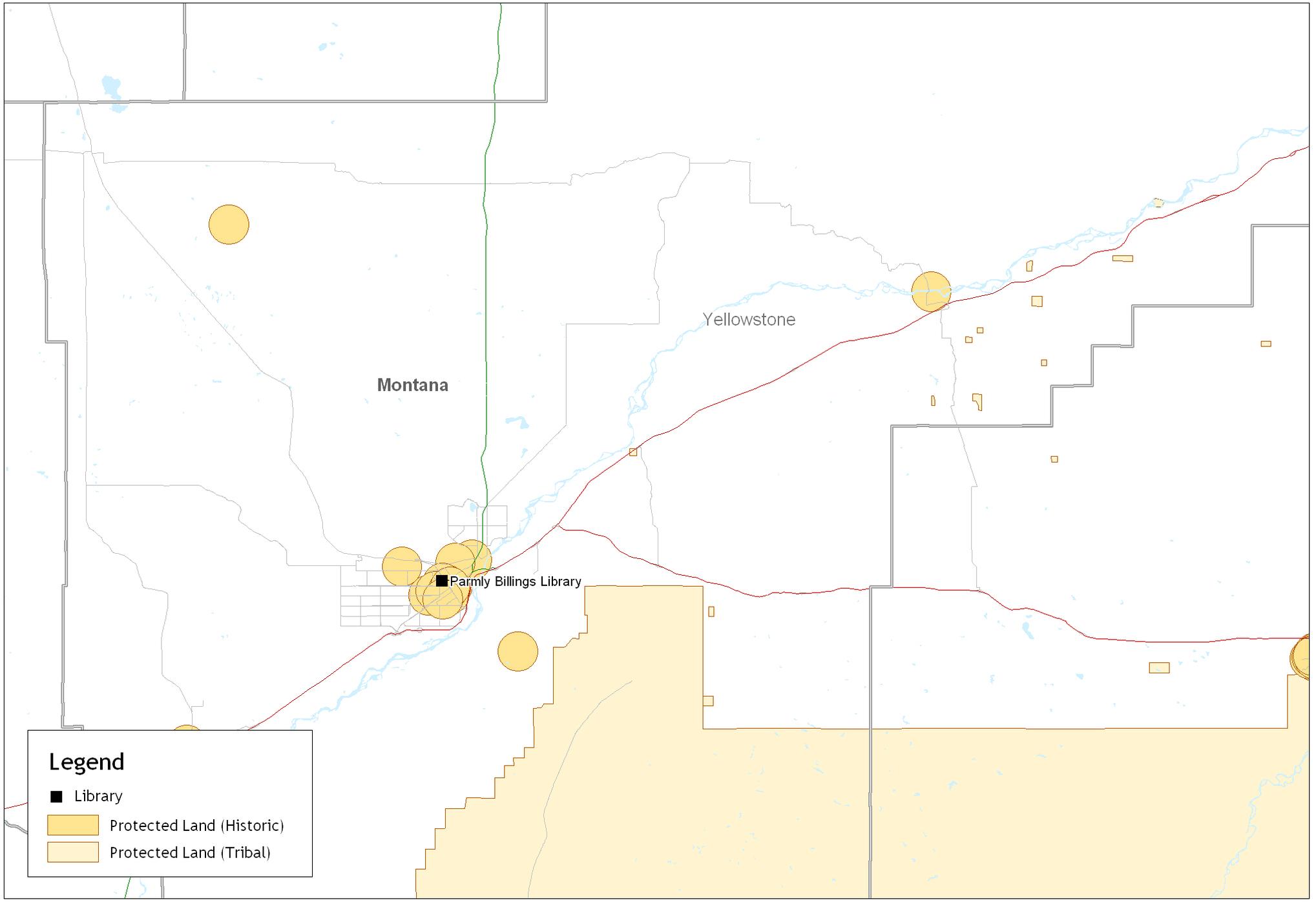
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- Library
- Protected Land (Historic)
- Protected Land (Tribal)

Montana

Lake

Ronan City Library



Montana

Yellowstone

■ Parmly Billings Library

Legend

- Library
- Protected Land (Historic)
- Protected Land (Tribal)

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 - › Glasgow City-County Library
 - › Lincoln County Public Library
 - › Parmly Billings Library
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Missoula Public Library Mobile Computing Lab Program Description

Montana must work hard to mend its large and increasing digital divide. In western Montana, Missoula County encompasses several rural areas and hard-to-reach populations, most with limited or no access to a library. With BTOP funds, Missoula Public Library's (MPL) *MoveIT* project will directly address the technology needs of Montanans in underserved communities by providing Internet access, technical instruction and support from a Reference Librarian, and remote library services.

MPL's *MoveIT* is a mobile library computing lab, equipped with ten computer learning stations plus one instructor station for demonstration. Each computer has high-speed internet access, a collection of useful software, and the ability to print hardcopy. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn how to use library resources (e.g., the catalog and electronic databases), how to search the Internet and use a variety of web resources, and how to use popular computer programs like Microsoft Excel and Word. Initially, *MoveIT* will service the following areas on a rotating ten-day schedule: Swan Valley, Seeley Lake, Clearwater, Greenough, Potomac, Clinton, Bonner, Milltown, Rock Creek, Lolo, Woodlawn, Lolo Hot Springs, Florence, Desmet, Huson, Arlee (Lake County), Alberton (Mineral County), East Missoula, and various locations throughout the Missoula city limits including Southgate Mall, Hellgate Elementary, Evaro Hill, and Target Range Elementary.

Based on statistics from MPL's current bookmobile outings as well as those from a similar program sponsored by the University of Montana in the 1990's, it is estimated that, given a six-month timeline, *MoveIT* would provide approximately 5,740 county residents with Internet access and library instruction. This translates into over 34,000 people potentially affected by *MoveIT* in a positive and meaningful way over a three-year period.

In addition to *MoveIT*, MPL plans to use BTOP funds to increase its broadband access internally by purchasing additional notebook computers for in-house circulation and enhancing wireless performance. MPL will use learning and support materials provided by the Gates Foundation to complement instruction sessions.

To evaluate its efforts, MPL will gather statistics from its website, run reports from its Integrated Library System (holds, home delivery service), collect visitor counts, and distribute surveys at *MoveIT* outings. This feedback, reviewed at various stages of the project, will offer continuous improvement opportunities as the project progresses. And while the initial ten day service rotation for *MoveIT* targets Missoula County and limited locations in Mineral and Lake County, MPL is willing to expand service areas to include additional areas in Mineral and Lake County, the Flathead Reservation (Salish-Kootenai) and other native reservations or communities that express need.

Missoula Public Library has earned a reputation for providing cutting-edge technologies and taking innovative approaches to library services; these efforts have resulted in strong community support. If successful with BTOP, MPL is confident in its ability to sustain this project (upon completion of the three-year term) using local funding sources. MPL's proposed project will greatly increase broadband access in underserved and un-served Montana communities and will promote computer literacy and IT skill sets to Missoula County residents and Missoula Public Library patrons.

Cooper: Project Management Team Resume for BTOP Application - March 2010

Name: Bob Cooper

Title: Director of Statewide Library Resources

Summary of Position Responsibilities and Activities:

This position is responsible for the management and supervision of the Library Development Division (LDD), Talking Book Library (TBL), the Montana Shared Catalog, and development and promotion of statewide projects of the Montana State Library. LDD provides consulting assistance on library matters to all Montana's public librarians, library trustees, and local governments. LDD is responsible for coordinating training activities, communication, statewide resources, and on-site visits to improve library services throughout Montana. LDD also makes application for and obtains federal and private grants; through a sub-granting process manages the distribution of funds received; monitors sub-grantee activity; and prepares and submits the reports required by grant sources. TBL provides eligible Montana residents who are unable to use standard print materials due to visual, physical and/or reading disabilities free mail loan of recorded books and playback equipment. Currently, 2,600 eligible Montanans actively use this free service. MSC is a cooperative project involving over 100 libraries. Public, school, academic, medical, and special libraries have pooled their resources together to purchase a robust library automation system. Members also enjoy the benefits of shared expertise and the ability to provide great service to library customers. Statewide projects involves the creation, management, and evaluation of a range of participatory group contracts and service agreements. These agreements bring to participating groups of smaller libraries the cost and access benefits of large scale vendor-provided content and services usually available only to very large libraries.

The position also has the role of Assistant State Librarian, performing the duties of the State Librarian in her absence. The position provides leadership and guidance to the Federation Coordinators of Montana's six library federations. The position directly supervises 10 full time employees and reports to the State Librarian.

Years in this Position: Have served for 4 years in this position and been employed by the Montana State Library for 16 years. Have moved into positions of increased professional responsibility every 3 to 5 years.

Years of Experience and Expertise Relevant to this BTOP PCC Project:

Have been involved with the implementation of various MSL statewide grant projects for 11 years and responsible for the planning, oversight, and direction of such projects for the past 5 years. Currently serve as chair of the Network Advisory Council which assists the State Librarian and the Montana State Library Commission with the planning, budgeting, and evaluation of statewide projects.

Previously worked for 10 years at Oklahoma City Community College as a faculty member and program manager responsible for budget preparation, hiring and supervision of adjunct instructors, and curriculum design.

Member of MSL project team for the following grant-related projects:

Applied for and received numerous Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) grants over the past several years. For example, MSL assumed responsibility for management and oversight of several BMGF public Internet access initiatives in Montana including the Gates State Partnership Grant (\$801,233), Gates Staying Connected Grant (\$198,720), Gates Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (\$295,500) and Gates Rural Library Sustainability Grant (\$31,650). These projects helped Montana's public libraries provide needed computer and Internet access for their citizens.

Annual application and implementation of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services of approximately \$1,000,000 per year. These funds are used to support statewide initiatives and services. Based on priorities of the LSTA, MSL develops the goals and objectives for its five-year plan to strengthen the efficiency, reach and effectiveness of library services in the state.

Two Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) Scholarship grant applications prepared and awarded via the Institute for Museums and Libraries Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century grant program. Montana was awarded over \$650,000 and we were able to provide scholarships for seventeen individuals to receive their professional librarianship education and provided stipends for several Montana libraries to help pay for professional positions at their libraries for at least two years.

Staffeldt: Project Management Team Resume for BTOP Application - March 2010

Name: Darlene Marie Preble Staffeldt

Title: State Librarian

Summary of Position Responsibilities and Activities:

The Montana State Librarian provides leadership and articulates a vision for statewide library services; recognizes divergent library objectives; and develops statewide consensus among Montana's libraries. The State Librarian directs the Montana State Library (MSL), serves as executive officer of the State Library Commission, conducts strategic long-range planning and evaluation of library services, administers library development and assistance to statewide libraries, and advises the Governor and Legislature on library and information services and new programs or legislation necessary for effective library service to the people of Montana. The position reports to the State Library Commission, and is responsible for executive management of approximately 30 full time employees.

Years in this Position:

Have served for 5 years as the Montana State Librarian. Have been employed by the State Library for 33 years. Have moved into increasingly higher managerial positions every 5 to 8 years.

Years of Experience and Expertise Relevant to this BTOP PCC Project:

For 27 years have been on project teams or supervised staff working directly with grants, statewide projects, and fiscal management. Have developed grant applications, provided day to day operations supervision of grant projects, developed sub-grant contracts, provided fiscal management and written reports for grants. Hold a Masters in Librarianship, University of Washington, School of Information Science and Librarianship, Seattle, WA.

As the Director of Statewide Library Resources served as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) coordinator for the State of Montana and supervised all federal grant programs coming to Montana via the State Library. As Director of Information Resources, was responsible for all library collection purchases including both print and electronic materials. As Library Development Consultant was responsible for the statewide training program as well as budget for the Pilot Moncat project, a union catalog which was the first of its kind in Montana.

Supervisor of MSL project team for the following grant-related projects:

Applied for and received numerous Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) grants over the past several years. For example, MSL assumed responsibility for management and oversight of several BMGF public Internet access initiatives in Montana including the Gates State Partnership Grant (\$801,233), Gates Staying Connected Grant (\$198,720),

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Schmitz: Project Management Team Resume for BTOP Application - March 2010

Name: Kristine M Schmitz

Title: Central Services Manager

Summary of Position Responsibilities and Activities:

The Centralized Services Manager is responsible for planning, directing, and evaluating accounting, budgeting, purchasing, property/inventory control, payroll/employee benefits, personnel, and other administrative services functions for the Montana State Library (MSL). Duties include providing budget analysis, oversight, and direction; developing and administering agency accounting and fiscal management policies and systems; and developing, allocating, monitoring and managing agency resources (e.g., budget, staff, equipment, facilities). The position reports to the Montana State Librarian, and manages 3 FTE Administrative and Accounting Technicians.

Years in this Position:

Served for 18 years as the Central Services Manager for the State Library, having been employed by the State of Montana for 26 years.

Years of Experience and Expertise Relevant to this BTOP PCC Project:

For 26 years worked directly with grants, statewide projects, and fiscal management. Developed grant applications budgets, provided day to day tracking of grant projects, developed sub-grant contracts, provided fiscal management and written reports for grants. Hold a Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Carroll College, Helena MT.

As Budget Analyst for Department of Corrections, was responsible for the design, plan and coordination of agency budget. Prepared and accounted for correctional Institution federal grants and all related reports. As Accounting Specialist for Department of Corrections was responsible for the preparation and maintenance of department records, payroll and accounts. This included recording and tracking all federal grants which were received by the agency.

Member of MSL project team for the following grant-related projects:

Applied for and received numerous Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) grants over the past several years. For example, MSL assumed responsibility for management and oversight of several BMGF public Internet access initiatives in Montana including the Gates State Partnership Grant (\$801,233), Gates Staying Connected Grant (\$198,720), Gates Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (\$295,500) and Gates Rural Library Sustainability Grant (\$31,650). These projects helped Montana's public libraries provide needed computer and Internet access for their citizens.

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Groves: Project Management Team Resume for BTOP Application - March 2010

Name: Sara J. Groves

Title: Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Summary of Position Responsibilities and Activities:

Develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive plan to enhance library visibility and branding through public relations, marketing, promotion and publicity, advocacy, communications, development, fundraising, and special events.

Selected Accomplishments

- Established strong image for Montana libraries through development of multi-year statewide marketing campaign, including Web site message/design, logo development, and promotional materials, such as TV and radio ads, and a wide range of print materials. Results included significant additional funding from state legislature and partners for special projects.
- Increased online product usage by 217% through combination of marketing strategy and strategic alliances.
- Four statewide initiatives are now promoted as national models for use by libraries and partners, such as the American Library Association and the National Library of Medicine.

Years in this Position: 5

Years of Experience and Expertise Relevant to this BTOP PCC Project:

10 years of marketing and promotion experience at the national, regional, and state level. Hold Master of Fine Arts, University of New Orleans.

2 years with Senior Fund Counsel, Charles H. Bentz Associates, Warren, Ohio. Created and implemented successful strategies, communication planning, marketing, and branding for non-profit clients throughout the nation with the goal of increasing the number of donors and the number and level of gifts to clients.

Selected Accomplishments

- Assisted in the development of marketing plans and high-quality materials for campaign solicitation packages, focusing on helping potential donors understand the project and the value of their gift as well as deepening their connection with our clients.
- Worked with clients, boards, advertising agencies, and freelance designers to collaboratively develop award-winning marketing and fundraising materials.
- Initiated, planned, and managed a wide variety of development and special fundraising events and projects with budget amounts of approximately \$10,000 - \$50,000 each.

2 years as Campaign Director, Montana History Foundation, Helena, MT

Provided leadership and strategic direction in the delivery and execution of major initiatives and activities in the areas of sponsored programs, corporate and foundation relations, individual giving, planned giving, development communications, and special gifts.

Selected Accomplishments

- Organized multiple organizations under one umbrella to increase effectiveness and lessen competition for dollars. Provided leadership in contract negotiation and campaign development.
- Focused staff efforts on qualification of high-yield prospective clients, leading to 500% increase in revenue.
- Developed marketing packages for corporate partnership and sponsorship opportunities and presented packages to major corporations, such as Pepsi and Chrysler.

2 years Marketing Coordinator, American Library Association, Chicago, IL
Developed, implemented, and managed a consistent, high-quality national outreach and education effort aimed at increasing awareness and value-image of libraries through the use of integrated communications and marketing, publications and collateral materials, advertising, promotions, and electronic media.

Selected Accomplishments

- Composed all print materials for use by libraries worldwide, including letters to the editor, press releases, talking points, FAQs, alerts, and fact sheets, many of which are still in use today.
- Developed partnership and sponsorship opportunities with various corporations, including 3M, Morningstar Foods, NASCAR, and ABC Television.
- Became sought-after speaker on marketing and communications issues for libraries, traveling the country to provide keynote speeches and training sessions.

Example projects and outcomes:

Ready 2 Read – This statewide marketing and education effort works to promote early literacy awareness and skills to parents and caregivers of children, aged birth – five years old. I have worked to provide educational opportunities to librarians, conduct a statewide survey of existing early learning programs in libraries, and developed a range of marketing and educational resources, such as a Web site and brochures, that libraries can share with parents. Since this program launched approximately one year ago, we have seen a significant increase in the number of libraries that are providing services to their littlest patrons with new “Mom and Baby” story hours and new programs like the “Storytime Express” with librarians visiting local preschools, daycare centers and Head Starts to provide a story hour experience and reading materials. Our success has also been dependent on new relationships with partners such as Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), specifically their Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program and Head Start, and with HOPA Mountain, which works to provide books and tribal nations in Montana.

Ask Montana – This 24/7 online reference service was not being used enough to warrant the cost to the State Library and participating libraries. I developed and implemented a statewide marketing campaign, which included the use of emails to teachers and superintendents, ready-made presentations that participating libraries could give in their communities and schools, press releases, talking points, and a slew of marketing materials that included everything from posters and brochures to magnets. The result was an increase in use of 18%.

Database promotion – Like a lot of great library services, our statewide databases weren't being used nearly as much as we would have liked them to be. I worked to develop a statewide marketing campaign that involved many different tactics to increase usage. Some of our efforts were very traditional and included radio commercials and press releases. But others efforts included providing a new method of discovery with a public-friendly Web site (<http://mymontanalibrary.com>) and iPod-sized decals featuring outlines of dancing people that ended up being traded as a hot commodity among high school students. Over the course of a year, we saw a 217% increase in use.

Reymer: Project Management Team Resume for BTOP Application - March 2010

Name: Suzanne Reymer

Title: Statewide Consulting Librarian

Summary of Position Responsibilities and Activities:

Serve as State E-rate Coordinator for Montana public libraries. Keep librarians apprised of program developments and deadlines and work with them on technology planning and integrating new technologies into their libraries. Consulting area covers a wide swath of central and eastern Montana, including rural areas. Maintain strong working relationships with librarians, have a good understanding of local issues and concerns, and work with rural and urban libraries on strategic planning. Provide research and analysis on innovative technologies for libraries to the Montana State Library and many librarians in the state. Findings are shared via a technology-related blog and at training venues around the state.

Years in this Position: 10

Years of Experience and Expertise Relevant to this BTOP PCC Project:

10 years working with rural libraries on their technology needs, connectivity and E-rate issues. Hold a Masters in Library and Information Science from University of Washington Information School. Regularly participated in Gates Foundation/American Library Association sponsored E-rate trainings. Participated in numerous online and in-person training venues with a primary focus on Web-based collaboration tools. Previously employed at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library where the focus was to promote the purposeful use of information as well as the concept of delivering it to the point of need.

Member of MSL project team for the following grant-related projects:

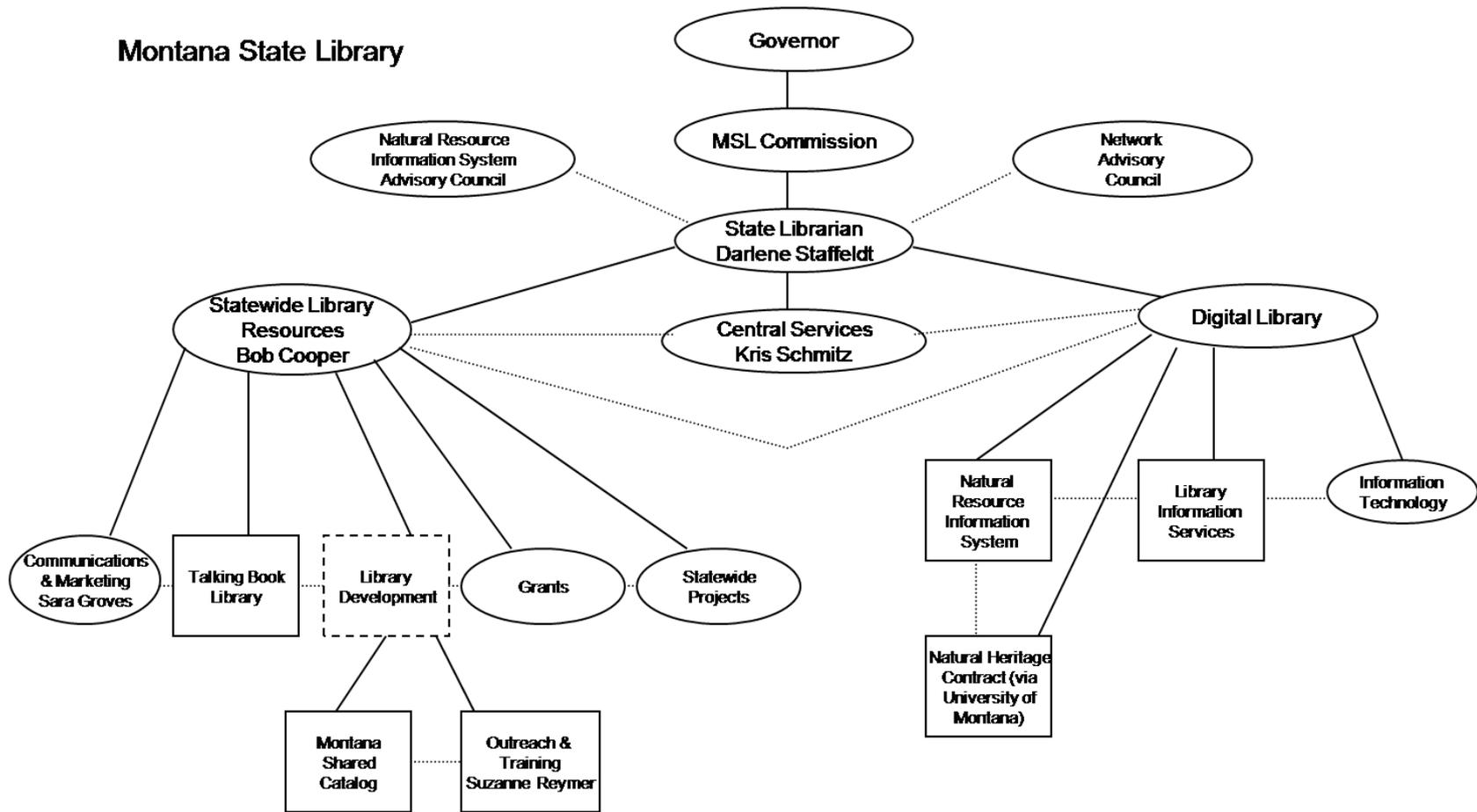
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Montana State Library



 Indicates agency wide impact



MSL Org Chart 2/8/10
Broadband info