



**MIDAMERICA
GIS**



**MSDIS
Making
Missouri
Available
Digitally**

MSDIS Geospatial Data Clearinghouse Update

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Service and Jason Warzinik
representing Missouri GIS
Advisory Council**

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Starved Rock State Park, IL
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A Little History

- Following the nationally reported troubles on the Mizzou campus in the fall of 2015 state politicians threatened cuts to MU budget.
- 2010 Census had indicated a downturn in enrollment at MU – prefect storm brewing
- By spring of 2016 evidence began to emerge of looming budgetary crisis

Slow Collapse

- In Spring 2016, MSDIS consisted of
 - Program Director
 - Program Manager
 - Research Specialist
 - GIS Specialist
 - Internet Administrator
 - Two other staff with very good GIS skills but not directly MSDIS
- By midsummer 2016, perfect storm blew up culminating in the first layoff of MSDIS staff
- In fall 2016, interim Dean of Arts and Science wanted to cut MSDIS entirely.
- Chair of Geography persuaded Dean not to cut. I was asked to provide evidence of traffic using MSDIS service services by State Dept. stakeholders.

Bad & a little good news

- Late fall 2016, GIS Specialist hours were cut to 75% FTE. He found a new position with State of MO and left end November
- By early spring 2017 Chair of Geography Dept. had convinced Dean of value of MSDIS 😊
- Nonetheless and unfortunately Research Specialist saw writing on the wall and at end of March 2017 took a new position with State of MO

Further Cuts

- The University made clear by May 2017 that further significant cuts across the board need to balance budget
- Mizzou had to cut \$60 million from system budget. 300 positions eliminated.
- Deans passed responsibility to each department to make decisions on cuts.
- College of Arts & Sciences is largest and bore lions share of cuts \$9.6 million and 70 jobs
- Geography small dept. Chair recommended ending of MSDIS – hands tied - retreated to core teaching mission
- MSDIS program director position eliminated.

Current State of Affairs

- MSDIS given reduced budget by Dean of A&S to cover 1 year of operation until June 30th, 2018.
- Dean understood value of MSDIS services to end users in particular agencies of the State of Missouri.
- Internet Administrator retained to keep MSDIS core functions up and running.
- Graduate student recruited to help out with adding new data and services.

The Future

- Is very uncertain.
- Dean of A&S plus Chair of Geography and Jason Warzinik representing MGISAC have met with state of MO stakeholders in effort to secure funding.
- Meetings held with potential partners – other centers on campus and university extension.
- MSDIS servers may be relocated from UMKC data center back to Columbia in effort to reduced IT support costs.
- If funding can be found MSDIS needs visionary leadership and re-staffing. Modernize website.
- Move away from owning hardware to “cloud” based VM environment