

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Montana Land Information Act Grants

From the Montana State Library

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SNAPSHOT #13

When the city of Shelby wanted to map its utility infrastructure, staff turned to the Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) Grant program. With the help of a MLIA grant, the city trained staff, purchased hardware and software, and collected data on water, sewer, and storm water utility systems. The grant enabled the city to build geographic information system (GIS) mapping capacity; today, with their Utility Map, city personnel collect data in a timely and efficient manner.

For the past ten years, the Montana Land Information Act Grant Program has funded more than \$1 million in geographic information projects like Shelby's across local, tribal, and state governments and the Montana University system.

In Fiscal year 2017, the program awarded 11 grants:

- Carbon and Teton counties will standardize, maintain, and disseminate data and workflows in preparation for Next Generation 9-1-1.
- Lewis and Clark County will digitize corner record documents and load them into a searchable GIS database.
- Lake, Powell, and Park counties will fund survey work, in selected areas, to enhance accuracy in the Public Land Survey System database.
- McCone County will inventory and map county road assets: culverts, cattle guards, signs, low water crossings, and bridges.
- Belgrade and Lewistown will collect water, sewer, and storm water utility information and make it available in a GIS for the first time.
- Miles City will purchase and install a Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS), to improve accuracy for local surveying and location based projects.

Montana Land Information Act Grants, continued

- The Montana Department of Commerce worked with local governments to update existing and create new Census Designated Place boundaries within the state. These boundaries define demographic data for unincorporated communities, which are required by many federal grant programs.

County and city workers, and seven teachers implemented the Chester-Joplin-Inverness Schools MLIA Grant, which fostered a unique partnership between Liberty County Schools and local government. In addition to the technical training of county/city, teachers, and students, the group used grant dollars to install a community GPS (global positioning system) base station for high-accuracy GPS/GIS positioning. The base station will improve location accuracy that surveyors, farmers, contractors, state and federal agencies can use when surveying near Chester.



Liberty County GIS:GPS Community Partnerships-2014 MLIAC Grant