

# MONTANA LAND INFORMATION ACT GRANT APPLICATION PACKAGE FISCAL YEAR 2018



***Produced by  
the Grant Review Subcommittee of the Montana Land Information  
Advisory Council in cooperation with the Montana State Library***

Pursuant to Section 4 (c) of the Montana Land Information Act  
(Senate Bill 98) and Administrative Rule IV of the Montana Land  
Information Act.

January 14, 2017

# MONTANA LAND INFORMATION GRANT APPLICATION

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018

## APPLICATION MLIA GRANT FUNDING

### SECTION 1 – APPLICANT, PARTNER, AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

<b>Primary Applicant:</b>	
Name of principle individual:	Bill Cassel
Name of agency/entity:	Petroleum County
Street:	302 East Main
City:	Winnett
County:	Petroleum County
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59087-0226
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:cassell1b@aol.com">cassell1b@aol.com</a>
Contact fax address:	406-429-6328
Contact phone:	406-429-6511
Department:	County Manager
Division:	N/A

<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Laura Nowlin
Name of Agency:	Musselshell Watershed Coalition
Street:	803 North Broadway
City:	Winnett
County:	Petroleum
State:	Montana

Fiscal Year 2018 Montana Land Information Act Grant Application Package

Zip Code:	59087
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:musselshellwc@gmail.com">musselshellwc@gmail.com</a>
Contact phone:	406-429-4832

<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Diane Ahlgren
Name of Agency:	Winnett Conservation Collaborative
Street:	98 Rowton Road
City:	Mosby
County:	Petroleum
State:	MT
Zip Code:	59058
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:skipndiane@midrivers.com">skipndiane@midrivers.com</a>
Contact phone:	406-429-6851

<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Tom Iverson, Chair
Name of Agency:	Petroleum County Planning Department
Street:	302 East Main
City:	Winnett
County:	Petroleum
State:	MT
Zip Code:	59087
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:55clerk@midrivers.com">55clerk@midrivers.com</a>
Contact phone:	406-429-2334

<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Carie Hess
Name of Agency:	Petroleum County Conservation District
Street:	803 North Broadway
City:	Winnett
County:	Petroleum
State:	MT
Zip Code:	59087
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:petroleumcd@midrivers.com">petroleumcd@midrivers.com</a>
Contact phone:	406-4429-6646

<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Julia Haggerty
Name of Agency:	Montana State University
Street:	226 Traphagen Hall
City:	Bozeman
County:	Gallatin
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59715
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:julia.haggerty@montana.edu">julia.haggerty@montana.edu</a>
Contact phone:	406-994-6904

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<b>Project Partners:</b> <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of contact:	Michael Stone
Name of Agency:	Consultant
Street:	223 S. 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Apt. B
City:	Bozeman
County:	Gallatin
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59715
Contact email address:	<a href="mailto:mfs@michaelfosterstone.com">mfs@michaelfosterstone.com</a>
Contact phone:	406-945-1323

<b>Proposal Information</b>	
Date Submitted:	2/15/2017
Date Received by State:	
Short Title of Proposal:	
Petroleum County Community Planning Project	

Executive Summary (*required – 200 maximum word count*):

The Petroleum County Community Planning Project aims to develop and encourage localized GIS solutions by: (1) demonstrating the value of GIS in grassroots driven rural community planning; (2) providing the training and equipment needed for localized GIS solutions; and (3) demonstrating how GIS can facilitate multi-jurisdictional approaches to problem solving, inform policy-makers, and facilitate regional collaboration. Additionally, the project will pilot an innovative approach to analyzing land tenure as a component of community planning using a revised Petroleum County cadastral geospatial dataset to further improve and promote local GIS capacity for rural communities confronting changing trends in land tenure.

**List All Past Awarded MLIA Grants:**

None

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## SECTION 2 – RELEVANCE

The Petroleum County Community Planning Project is designed to satisfy the third priority of the FY2018 Montana Land Information Plan: local and tribal GIS development. Currently, Petroleum County and regional organizations do not have the skills and/or capacity to produce GIS products for local and regional planning purposes. This project aims to develop the capacity for localized GIS solutions under a grassroots driven local-regional planning framework by: (1) training community stakeholder(s) in GIScience, ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop, cartography and, (2) providing instructional materials in conjunction with geodatabase spatial data models for self-initiated guidance in data updates and planning map production.

The project will also pilot an innovative approach to analyzing land tenure changes using a revised county cadastral dataset. This land tenure analysis dataset, in conjunction with other relevant GIS planning tools, will demonstrate and promote the robust capabilities of GIS for local and regional rural planning through two stakeholder meetings. The first meeting will bring stakeholders together to identify local and regional issues derived from previous growth policy meetings and other needs as identified by attendees. The second meeting will reveal the finalized growth policy to local stakeholders along with the analytical results of the project.

The project will explore opportunities to create a regional GIS consortium by engaging with regional organizations to create grassroots driven regional planning documents and a complete Petroleum County growth policy (as specified in MCA 76-1-6). Additionally, the resulting growth policy and planning documents will be used to engage regional administrative agencies to facilitate cross-jurisdictional problem solving between local, county, state, and federal agencies.



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## SECTION 3 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Montana Cadastral is the first GIS-based statewide cadastral system in the nation and has been shown to reap many benefits for the citizens of Montana.<sup>1</sup> However, the cadastral is plagued with issues that reduce its potential for informing important questions relevant for local stakeholders and community planners. For example, the inconsistent attribute table schemas and PARCELIDs between years make time series analyses difficult for large-scale analysis. As contemporary research has demonstrated, Montana is undergoing a variety of changes related to land tenure patterns which have impacted communities, economies, and land access.<sup>2</sup>

The Petroleum County Community Planning Project will benefit the citizens of Montana and enhance the land information needs of local, state, and federal agencies by producing a pilot geospatial dataset designed to answer important land tenure questions, help identify issues, and facilitate cross-boundary stewardship from grassroots planning. Additionally, the project will contribute to the production of Petroleum County's first Growth Policy thus providing county residents and regional stakeholders with the geographic information and tools they need to plan for and address contemporary and future challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> The Big Sky State Finds Gold in Statewide Cadastral Database | ArcNews Online. <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer11articles/the-big-sky-state-finds-gold-in-statewide-cadastral-database.html> (last accessed 14 February 2017).

<sup>2</sup> For example, amenity migration and impacts to elk management and ranching operations. See the following articles:

Proffitt, K. M., J. A. Gude, K. L. Hamlin, and M. A. Messer. 2013. Effects of Hunter Access and Habitat Security on Elk Habitat Selection in Landscapes With a Public and Private Land Matrix. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 77 (3):514–524. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23470746>.

Proffitt, K. M., S. Thompson, D. Henry, B. Jimenez, and J. A. Gude. 2016. Hunter access affects elk resource selection in the Missouri breaks, Montana. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 80 (7):1167–1176. <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-84983499027&partnerID=40&md5=6430178f0b0aa72f57940e2ad9072104>.

Haggerty, J. H., and W. R. Travis. 2006. Out of administrative control: Absentee owners, resident elk and the shifting nature of wildlife management in southwestern Montana. *Geoforum* 37 (5):816–830.

The pilot dataset will be based on the Montana Cadastral and will improve this MSDI theme for the purpose of land tenure analysis by cleaning, reorganizing, and integrating the data into a standardized geospatial database schema and by demonstrating its potential for addressing land tenure planning needs. In conjunction with the development of local GIS capacity, the pilot land tenure analysis dataset will be utilized to identify strategies for addressing community needs identified by growth policy priorities determined in community planning meetings.

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## SECTION 4 – SCOPE OF WORK

The Petroleum County Community Planning Project consists of two major components which are reflected in the two project goals listed below. The first is to build and promote local GIS capacity in Petroleum County for grassroots local and regional planning. The second is to create, promote, and implement a pilot land tenure analysis dataset from current and historical Cadastral data. The second component compliments the first as an innovative approach to local and regional planning through land tenure analysis. The land tenure analysis dataset is warranted by the importance of tracking patterns of land tenure change for the residents of Montana.

The impetus for tracking land tenure changes varies from county to county. For example, in Gallatin County and other counties around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the warrant is derived from issues arising out of amenity migration for elk management and the concerns of the livestock industry about the spread of brucellosis. Cross-boundary stewardship is built on relationships between local land owners, wildlife management agencies, local, county, and state government. A land tenure analysis dataset can be used to facilitate these relationships by providing contact information, the ability to record interactions with current landowners, the ability to monitor the different types of land tenure practices important for exploring the social impacts of elk management, the ability to ask questions about ownership changes, and more.

Petroleum County is an ideal site for the pilot project for several reasons. First, the county has a population of approximately 500 people which translates to a manageable dataset for the production of a pilot project. Second, the county exhibits the typical land tenure complex of a Western county consisting of a patchwork of local, state, and federal lands with privately held lands under different land tenure practice regimes (e.g. amenity, agricultural production, investment). Third, elk management issues mentioned in the previous paragraph apply to Petroleum County but without the threat of brucellosis transmission. Instead, one concern expressed is over crop losses from elk grazing. Elk populations for the region are well over objectives set by the Montana FWP. A land tenure analysis dataset would empower the local stakeholders to present data-driven arguments for communicating elk management concerns to state and federal management agencies. Finally, this project would complement other efforts in Petroleum County. For example, the Petroleum County Conservation District has

partnered with other local organizations to apply for funding for a study to assess the feasibility of forming a Winnett Conservation Collaborative (WCC). The WCC would seek to purchase ranchlands for collective management under best practices for livestock management and conservation as defined by local experts and professionals in the fields of rangeland management and wildlife ecology. This effort would not only help preserve the working landscape for future generations but also assist in the protection of critical sage grouse habitat. The Petroleum County Community Planning Project would be complimentary to these efforts and pioneer innovative and collaborative land management practices for rural communities.

**Goal #1:** To build and promote local GIS capacity in Petroleum County for grassroots local and regional planning.

Objective 1: Identify the geospatial data and mapping needs of Petroleum County and partner organizations for the mapping supplement of the Petroleum County Growth Policy (in progress) and other organization planning documents.

Task a: Gather current data for the county growth policy from previous community meetings.

Task b: Hold a stakeholder meeting with representatives from partner organizations to identify geospatial data and mapping needs.

Objective 2: Build local capacity in GIScience and ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop.

Task a: Identify one or more county residents interested in learning GIScience and ArcGIS Desktop software with a demonstrable stake in the community and commitment to carrying out annual updates so as to preserve the progress of the project beyond the grant period. Basic cartographic principles will also be taught for quality map production.

Task b: Purchase one Lenovo ThinkCentre M700 10HY computer, one Dell UltraSharp U2415 24" LED Monitor, two 500GB Seagate Expansion EDD, and one single use ESRI ArcGIS Desktop with Spatial Analyst extension

Task c: Create training schedule involving a total of 25 hours of immersive GIScience and ArcGIS Desktop training with designated trainee(s) with final 5 hours devoted to understanding and using the Petroleum County geodatabase.

Task d: Create, edit, and finalize lesson plan and training materials.

Task e: Hold trainings.

Objective 3: Create a Petroleum County planning dataset and geodatabase with features, tools, and models necessary for annual updates to local growth policy maps.

Task a: Collect relevant geospatial datasets and metadata as specified by organization partners.

Task b: Process collected data and create necessary tools and models for quickly reproducing data transformation processes in future updates.

Task c: Integrate land tenure analysis data and other data into a geodatabase.

Task d: Create metadata and data dictionary documentation.

Task e: Create instructional documentation on updating growth policy data and maps with the Petroleum County geodatabase and tools.  
Append other training documents.

Objective 4: Promote resulting local GIS capacity and grassroots planning to local, county, state, and federal agencies and organizations.

Task a: Arrange and hold a second stakeholder meeting with local, county, state, federal agency representatives.

**Goal #2:** To create, promote, and implement a pilot land tenure analysis dataset for Petroleum County from current and historical Cadastral data.

Objective 1: Identify local issues related to land tenure and determine relevant data for land tenure analysis.

Task a: Hold a stakeholder meeting with representatives from partner organizations to identify geospatial data and mapping needs. (Same meeting as Goal 1, Objective 1, Task a)

Task b: Use feedback from meeting to identify useful data and datasets for integration into a land tenure analysis data model.

Objective 2: Transform historical and current Petroleum County cadastral geospatial datasets into a database schema that facilitates land tenure analysis.

Task a: Collect, process, and clean Cadastral data for Petroleum County.

Task b: Integrate cleaned data into a revised and standardized dataset.

Task c: Integrate Petroleum County land tenure analysis dataset into Petroleum County planning dataset and geodatabase.

Objective 3: Present land tenure analysis results to local stakeholders to promote GIS applications for relevant planning issues.

Task a: Analyze land tenure dataset for variables identified in stakeholder meeting.

Task b: Produce a report demonstrating the methods and results of the land tenure analysis.

Task c: Hold second stakeholder meeting to present finalized datasets, land tenure analysis results and solicit feedback on results.

Objective 4: Supplement Petroleum County Growth Policy with GIS data services and maps.

Task a: Integrate into and publish Growth Policy with GIS products and maps in print and digital form.

<b>Project Timeline</b>	
Grant Term Begins	July 1, 2017
First stakeholder meeting	July 19, 2017
Identify trainee(s)	July 26, 2017
Purchase all equipment	July 26, 2017
Set training schedule	August 2, 2017
Create growth policy datasets and geodatabase	July 12, 2017 – August 30, 2017
Create land tenure analysis geospatial data	July 12, 2017 – September 17, 2017
Finalize growth policy datasets and geodatabase	September 25, 2017
Incorporate GIS data products and maps into the Petroleum County Growth Policy	September 29, 2017
Second stakeholder meeting	October 13, 2017
Submit final report	October 2017

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## SECTION 5 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

**Project Manager/Contractor:** Michael Stone - GIS/Data Consultant

Michael Stone is currently a Master's student in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University – Bozeman, a teaching assistant for GPHY284 (an entry level GIS course), and a Data/GIS consultant for Headwaters Economics. He has over four years of professional experience working data and GIS related projects in community planning and policy-making. His experience with planning processes spans from community meeting facilitation to grant writing to document design and production. He has an established record of producing results through his involvement with Northcentral Montana's first Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA), the 11 county Northcentral Montana planning project titled Vibrant Futures, and a previous MLIA grant titled Fort Belknap GIS.

**Project Assistant:** To Be Determined

The Project Assistant will be hired locally when funding has been awarded. This person will work under the direction of the Project Manager and the Local Project Coordinator to receive GIScience and ArcGIS training. The project assistant will provide input on data to be collected and managed, and complete long-term updating of data. This person will work with the Planning Board to assure necessary information for the growth policy is collected and produced in the correct format and also work with the Winnett Conservation Collaborative.

**Local Project Coordinator:** Laura Nowlin - Petroleum County Planning Board; Musselshell Watershed Coalition; Winnett Conservation Collaborative

Laura Nowlin is a fifth-generation rancher in Petroleum County. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in History from Montana State University and a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon. She serves on the Petroleum County Planning Board as Secretary/Treasurer and is currently managing a grant to complete the County Growth Policy. She is the coordinator for the Musselshell Watershed Coalition, where she manages several grants at one time to implement both planning projects and construction projects. Ms. Nowlin is also one of many members of the newly formed Winnett Conservation Collaborative. This locally-led group is identifying solutions to create a more sustainable Winnett Community. (Donated Time)

**Project Sponsor:** Bill Cassel - Petroleum County Manager

Bill Cassel is the current County Manager for Petroleum County. Petroleum County is the only County in the state that functions under a County Manager form of government. Mr. Cassel also serves as County Sherriff, Coroner, and Emergency Services Administrator.

**Project Partner:** Carie Hess - Petroleum County Conservation District Administrator

The Petroleum County Conservation District (PCCD) carries out a variety of duties from education of natural resource conservation practices and programs, to being the local voice of area landowners and producers in working groups and events. The PCCD proactively educates area youth about natural resource conservation as they are the next generation of producers. The PCCD partners with other agencies to put programs in place and provide services and products to producers to help them further their conservation efforts.

**Project Partner:** Tom Iverson - Petroleum County Planning Board Chairman

The Petroleum County Planning Board advises Petroleum County on growth, development, and general planning concerns for the county. These concerns include the local culture, which is rooted in agriculture, and the health of our land and wildlife. The Board is currently working to complete the County's first growth policy. This work is being completed through a grant from the Montana Department of Commerce.

**Project Partner:** Diane Ahlgren - Winnett Conservation Collaborative Co-chair

Mrs. Ahlgren has served as a Petroleum County Conservation District supervisor for 30 years, is a Governor appointee to the Montana Rangeland Resources Executive Committee, and currently serves on the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team as the single landowner representative for the state of Montana. Diane and her husband, Skip, recently were awarded the Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award for their outstanding efforts to promote conservation on their land.

**Project Partner:** Julia Haggerty, PhD – Montana State University, Assistant Professor

Julia Haggerty is Assistant Professor of Geography at Montana State University. Haggerty has 15 years of experience providing research and data to assist in community planning processes and has research expertise in land tenure analysis. Haggerty will provide supervision and input to Stone's work on the land tenure analysis and will attend public meetings and stakeholder events as needed.



## SECTION 6 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE

The total amount requested for MLIA grant funds is \$16,375.

### 1) PERSONNEL

- a) Four Petroleum County Planning Board members and the liaison will provide a total of \$1125 (4 members at 5 hours each and 1 liaison at 25 hours at \$25/hour for a total of 45 hours) of in-kind time to attend stakeholder meetings and for providing advisory support to project efforts.
- b) Three County Commissioners will provide \$225 (3 commissioners at 3 hours each at \$25/hour) in in-kind time to attend stakeholder meetings and for providing advisory support to project efforts.
- c) County staff will provide \$120 (10 hours at \$12/hour) of in-kind time to attend stakeholder meetings, provide advisory support to project efforts, and process grant funds, reporting, and other necessary logistics for the administration of the grant.
- d) Seven Conservation District Board members and staff will provide a total of \$750 (30 hours at \$25/hour) of in-kind time to attend stakeholder meetings and for providing advisory support to project efforts.
- e) The Winnett Conservation Collaborative will provide \$875 (25 people at one hour and 5 advisory committee members at 2 hours each at \$25/hour) in in-kind time to attend stakeholder meetings and to provide advisory support to project efforts.
- f) Julia Haggerty, PhD. will provide \$3150 (45 hours at \$70/hour) of in-kind time to provide advice and expert input. This will include suggestions and input with respect to the land tenure analysis, project management oversight, and communication and participation in team meetings as needed.

### 2) TRAVEL

- a) Project Manager/Consultant travel for stakeholder meeting attendance (two meetings), training (five trainings), and one trip for county deed record research estimated at \$942 (8 roundtrips to Winnett, MT from Bozeman, MT with a roundtrip being 220 miles at the current GSA mileage rate \$0.535/mile) is requested from MLIA funds. Although trainings could be carried out without travel through a webinar software program, we feel it is important to have face-to-face interaction with trainees in real time. The ability to ask questions on the spot, to be engaged in the training, and to build relationships between teacher and pupil are important for successfully training GIS users. Travel for stakeholder meetings is crucial to the success of the project since the project manager is overseeing the project and is responsible for communicating the technical aspects of the

project. The roundtrip for county deed research is to meet with records clerk for assistance with records research.

3) EQUIPMENT

- a) The desktop computer, monitor, and external hard-drives that will be purchased for use in the project are estimated to cost \$1,120 and are requested out of MLIA funds. This equipment provides Petroleum County with the necessary hardware for operating the ArcGIS Desktop software program as well as other software programs needed to work with relevant datasets.
- b) Funds to purchase an ESRI's ArcGIS single use spatial analyst license for \$2,500 is requested out of MLIA funds. This software will be used by the Project Manager and Trainee(s) for training purposes and for the production of planning documents, geospatial data, and maps. The spatial analyst license is necessary for performing analytical and synthetic processes on raster data models.
- c) Montana State University – Bozeman will provide \$1000 of in-kind match in computer hardware and software. This equipment will be used by the Project Manager to create, analyze, and manage project data and deliverables. The equipment consists of a desktop computer, two widescreen monitors, a large format printer, standard printer, and various software licenses.

4) SUPPLIES

- a) The Conservation District will provide \$100 of in-kind for printing costs (200 prints at \$0.50/each). The project will need printouts for meetings, documents reviews by stakeholders, and other purposes.
- b) The County will provide \$75 of in-kind for meeting space. This is necessary for holding stakeholder meetings.
- c) Montana State University – Bozeman will provide \$605 (10 40" x 30" prints at \$7.25/ft<sup>2</sup>) in in-kind for large format prints necessary for community planning mapping exercises and for County planning needs associated with the Growth Policy.

5) CONTRACTUAL

- a) The Project Manager requires an estimated 349 hours to attend stakeholder meetings, conduct trainings, create training materials, and perform data oriented tasks associated with the creation of the land tenure analysis dataset and all other GIS products for the Petroleum County Growth Policy for a total request of \$11,168 out of MLIA funds (349 hours at \$32/hour).

6) OTHER

- a) A \$1000 (40 hours at \$25/hour) training stipend for the Project Assistant is requested out of MLIA grant funds to incentivize the trainee and to compensate for time lost to training hours. 25 hours will be devoted to immersive training with

the Project Manager, the additional 15 hours is for personal training time utilizing the ArcGIS software and for acquaintance with Growth Policy geodatabase, land tenure analysis dataset, and other relevant data products.

- b) Petroleum County will require an administration cost of 5% for financial administration and audit costs that will be incurred by the project.
- c) Montana State University – Bozeman will provide \$1000 in in-kind for the use of facilities. University facilities will be used to carry out project tasks and to conduct research.

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<b>MLIA Grant Budget Summary</b>										
	<b>Applicant Summary</b>					<b>Project Partner Summary</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>MLIA</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Applicant Subtotal</b>	<b>Petroleum County Conservation District</b>	<b>Winnett Conservation Collaborative</b>	<b>Montana State University - Bozeman</b>	<b>Partner Subtotal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	-	-	-	1,470	1470	750	875	3150	1625	6245
<b>Fringe</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Travel</b>	586.67	-	-	-	586.67	-	-	-	-	587
<b>Equipment</b>	3620	-	-	-	3,620	-	-	1000	-	4620
<b>Supplies</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	605	-	605
<b>Contractual</b>	11,168	-	-	-	11168	-	-	-	-	11168
<b>Other</b>	1,000	-	-	75	1075	100	-	1000	100	2175
<b>Total</b>	16375	-	-	1545	17400	850	875	5755		25400

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## SECTION 7 – STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

*\*In this section, applicants must include statements of support are required for each party listed as a funding partner—see MLIA Grant Compliance – MLIA Grant Partners section for the definition of a funding partner. Do not include other statements of support as they will not be evaluated.*

**Letters of Support have been appended at the end of the grant application document.**

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## SECTION 8 – RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

*\*In this section, applicants awarded a FY2017 MLIA Grant for the same project or purpose, must submit a report on the progress made toward meeting the requirements of that grant: the report must include the status of all tasks or deliverables outlined in the grant.*

**N/A**

## SECTION 8 – Sign the Application

### Authorizing Statement

I hereby certify that the information and all statements in this application are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the project or activity complies with all applicable state, local and federal laws and regulations.

I further certify that this project will comply with applicable statutory and regulatory standards.

I further certify that I am (by my signature) authorized to enter into a binding agreement with the Montana State Library to obtain a grant if this application receives approval.

Craig Iverson

Name (print or type)

Petroleum County Commissioner

Title (print or type)

Craig Iverson

Signature and Title of Authorized Representative(s) of Public Entity Applicant

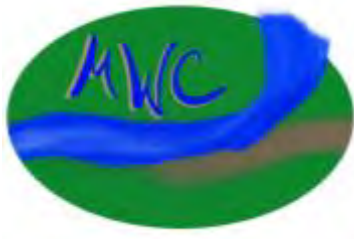
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Date: 2/15/2017

## SECTION 9 – CHECKLIST – SIGNATURES REQUIRED

Initial or mark n/a	Completed Required Task
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 1 – Applicant, Partner, and Proposal Information</b>
<b>MS</b>	Primary Applicant Information
<b>MS</b>	Funding Partner <i>(if applicable)</i>
<b>MS</b>	Project Partner <i>(if applicable)</i>
<b>MS</b>	Proposal Information
<b>MS</b>	List All Past Awarded MLIA Grants
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 2 – Relevance</b> <i>(300 max word limit)</i>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 3 – Public Benefit</b>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 4 – Scope of Work Narrative</b> <i>(4-page limit)</i>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 5 – Project Management and Organizational Capability Narrative</b>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 6 – Budget Justification Narrative and Table</b>
<b>MS</b>	Budget Justification Narrative
<b>MS</b>	Complete Budget Table
<b>MS</b>	<b>Section 7 – Statements of Support</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Section 8 – Renewable Grant Accountability Narrative</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>





**Musselshell Watershed Coalition**

Coordinator: Laura Nowlin

P.O. Box 118

Winnett, MT 59087

<http://musselshellwc.wix.com/musselshellwc>

February 7, 2017

Mrs. Erin Fashoway  
State GIS Coordinator  
Montana State Library  
1515 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, P.O. Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Re: MLIA Petroleum County Community Planning Project

Dear Mrs. Fashoway,

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition (MWC) is a partnership of individuals, organizations, and agencies working collaboratively towards whole basin management on the Musselshell River. The mission of the MWC is to benefit water users and the Musselshell River through basin-wide cooperative management of the Musselshell River.

The Musselshell River Watershed contains approximately 9,500 square miles. The entire area is home to approximately 9,325 people. The main stem of the Musselshell River flows from the confluence of the North and South Forks near Martinsdale for nearly 340 miles to Fort Peck Reservoir and provides irrigation water for nearly 85,000 acres and 250 farms and ranches.

The MWC is excited to support this project. Throughout the Musselshell River Watershed properties are transitioning to an increasing number of absentee owners. This trend results in diminished personal investment in our communities and contributes to the continued loss of population and services in rural Montana. The ability to better understand and track land ownership trends will help inform planning decisions locally and regionally. Petroleum County is located at the northern end of the Musselshell River Watershed and can serve as representative in this context for the remainder of the Watershed. Therefore, the outcomes of this project will be transferrable to the rest of the Watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

*Laura Nowlin*

Laura Nowlin  
Coordinator, Musselshell Watershed Coalition

# COUNTY OF PETROLEUM

P.O. Box 226  
301 East Main  
Winnett, Montana 59087

February 9, 2017

Mrs. Erin Fashoway  
State GIS Coordinator  
Montana State Library  
1515 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, P.O. Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Re: MLIA Petroleum County Community Planning Project

Dear Mrs. Fashoway,

The Petroleum County Planning Board is writing this letter in support of the Petroleum County Community Planning Project. The Petroleum County Planning Board advises Petroleum County on growth, development, and general planning concerns for the county. These concerns include the local culture, which is rooted in agriculture.

The Petroleum County Community Planning Project aims to develop and encourage localized GIS solutions by: (1) demonstrating the value of GIS in grassroots driven rural community planning; (2) providing the training and equipment needed for localized GIS solutions; and (3) demonstrating how GIS can facilitate multi-jurisdictional approaches to problem solving, inform policy-makers, and facilitate regional collaboration. Additionally, the project will pilot an innovative approach to analyzing land tenure as a component of community planning using a revised Petroleum County cadastral geospatial dataset to further improve and promote local GIS capacity for rural communities confronting changing trends in land tenure.

The Planning Board is currently working to complete the County's first growth policy. We received a grant from the Department of Commerce to hire a consultant to help us through this process. Many of the issues we have identified for our community to address hinge on land use and how that might change in the future. The ability to quickly determine land ownership patterns and to be able to present that information in a user friendly format will greatly aid our planning efforts.

Again, we support this grant request and hope you will give it your full consideration.

Thank you,



Tom Iverson  
Planning Board Chair



1/27/16

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to offer a letter of support documenting my commitment to providing in-kind services to the \$3150 project.

In my capacity as a project partner and Michael Stone's MSc. thesis advisor, I propose to offer 45 hours of expert consultation and supervision as Mr. Stone executes the project. This will include suggestions and input with respect to the land tenure analysis, project management oversight, and communication and participation in team meetings as needed.

In addition, we are committed to providing the facilities and computing equipment Mr. Stone needs to complete the project.

The value of these contributions is \$5755 and is outlined in the attached document.

Dr. Julia Haggerty  
Assistant Prof. of Geography  
Department of Earth Sciences

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**Mountains & Minds**



## Petroleum County Conservation District

P.O. Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087-0118

406-429-6646 ext. 104

[petroleucd@midrivers.com](mailto:petroleucd@midrivers.com)

*Local Common Sense Conservation*

[www.petroleumcd.com](http://www.petroleumcd.com)

**Rodney Rowton**, *Chairman*, **Ralph Corbett** - *Vice Chair*, **Laura Kiehl** - *Treasurer & MRCDC*,  
**James Brady** - *Supervisor*, **Sig Pugrud** - *Supervisor & MSCA*, **Nathan Descheemaeker** - *Supervisor*, **Sarah Stevens** -  
*Urban Supervisor*, **Diane Ahlgren** - *Associate Supervisor & MWC, MMWG, & MSGOT*, & **Craig Iverson** - *Associate  
Supervisor*

February 13, 2017

Mrs. Erin Fashoway  
State GIS Coordinator  
Montana State Library  
1515 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, P.O. Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mrs. Fashoway,

The Petroleum County Conservation District submits this letter of support for the Petroleum County Community Planning Project. The Petroleum County Conservation District encompasses the county's 1,071,000 acres and the board is comprised of five county elected supervisors, two appointed urban supervisors, and two associate supervisors with a combined 73 years of experience in the field. The district has one full time staff, one three-quarter time staff, and one half time staff with a combined 15 years of experience in the field. The district is tasked with producer education along with conservation of the county's natural resources and watersheds.

The Petroleum County Conservation District through education, outreach and program and project development works hard to put local common sense natural resource conservation on the ground and to help guide the current and future producers and landowners on a natural resource conservation path, all while helping them to continue sustainability in their businesses.

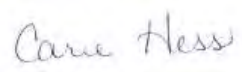
The Petroleum County Conservation District regularly partners with other conservation districts, watershed groups, stakeholder groups, state and federal agencies, as well as some non-governmental organizations (NGO) and nonprofits to put conservation on the ground.

The Petroleum County Conservation District would be able to contribute approximately \$500 in in-kind wages and benefits for one staff member to attend meetings. This district staff member would be the district administrator who has 8 years of experience in the field doing everything such as receptionist duties, grant writing, contracting and management, and personnel management.

The ability to map land ownership trends over time will help the Petroleum County Conservation District, to better understand both locally and regionally what is taking place within their communities and how it relates to the conservation of our natural resources. With this better understanding, long-term planning will be more applicable and support sustainable solutions for rural communities and our natural resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm @ (406) 429-6646 x 104 or by email @ petroleumcd@midrivers.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carie Hess". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Carie Hess  
On behalf of the Petroleum County Conservation District Board.

February 9, 2017

Mrs. Erin Fashoway  
State GIS Coordinator  
Montana State Library  
1515 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, P.O. Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Re: MLIA Petroleum County Community Planning Project

Dear Mrs. Fashoway,

The Winnett Conservation Collaborative submits this letter of support for the Petroleum County Community Planning Project. In November 2016, a group of ranchers from the Winnett area met to discuss the resiliency of their community and the pressures affecting it now and in the future. From this meeting, the Winnett Conservation Collaborative was formed with the purpose of sustaining the local community.

Our rural community is home to less than 500 people. The majority of these residents directly participate in the agriculture industry. Others support the local ranchers by teaching their children at the school district or operating the county government. The issues most prevalent in Petroleum County mirror those of the rest of the Northern Great Plains: aging population of ranchers, successful ranch transition, high land prices, conversion to cropland. Land prices for grazing land, which is managed and maintained by a mix of private and public land managers, increase unpredictably as area ranches are purchased by investors or as recreational retreats. The population steadily declines and local businesses, schools, and services disappear.

The ability to map land ownership trends over time will help the Winnett Conservation Collaborative, as well as others, both locally and regionally, understand what is taking place within their communities. With this better understanding, long-term planning will be more applicable and support sustainable solutions for rural communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support.

Sincerely,

*Laura Nowlin*

Laura Nowlin

Winnett Conservation Collaborative