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February 15, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick,

Please accept the enclosed Montana Land Information Act Grant from Missoula County Rural Initiatives for the Fiscal Year 2013. We appreciate the opportunity to apply for this funding to bring better GIS products to the citizens of Missoula County and the public in general.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at 406-258-3429 or [nrogers@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:nrogers@co.missoula.mt.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nate Rogers".

Nate Rogers  
Senior GIS Specialist

Grant Application

PLACE Project  
(Practical Landscape Assessment for  
Conservation and Enhancement):  
Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application



A Request for Funding from the Fiscal Year  
2013 Montana Land Information Act Grant

Submitted By:

Missoula County Rural Initiatives

February 15, 2012

## Step 1. Applicant and Partner Information

**Primary Applicant (Required):**

Name of principle individual: Nate Rogers

Name of agency/entity: Missoula County

Street: 200 W. Broadway

City: Missoula

County: Missoula County

State: MT

Zip Code: 59802

Contact email address: [nrogers@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:nrogers@co.missoula.mt.us)

Contact fax address: 406-258-3920

Contact phone: 406-258-3429

**Organizational Unit (if applicable)**

Department: Rural Initiatives Office

Division:

**Date Submitted (Required):** 02/15/2012      **Date Received by State:**

**Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project (Required):**

Practical Landscape Assessment for Conservation and Enhancement  
(PLACE) Project: Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application

## Step 2. Relevance and Public Benefit

The Missoula County PLACE (Practical Landscape Assessment for Conservation and Enhancement) Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application (hereafter referred to as the PLACE Application) will put natural and cultural resource data collected from over 60 sources in one place and at a scale more understandable and useful than other resource-based mapping efforts currently available. The PLACE Application will give Missoula County staff, development professionals, community organizations, landowners, partner agencies, and the general public a tool that can be used to assess area conservation resources particularly for the purposes of conservation, development review, and local planning efforts.

The deliverables produced by this grant proposal will be:

- 1) A PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application
- 2) Community outreach and training to Missoula County residents on the PLACE Application

This project satisfies the FY 2013 Land Information Plan Priority:

### **B2.2 - Localized GIS solutions that demonstrate the value of GIS in improving the quality of life for Montana citizens and build grass roots support for location based services.**

- The PLACE Application meets this priority by making natural resource GIS data more accessible, useful, and understandable to the public, agencies, and community organizations, for the purposes of better decision-making on conservation projects, development proposals and planning efforts.

Missoula County Rural Initiatives first presented the PLACE project as a Conservation Resource Atlas that displayed natural resource data through maps and a detailed bibliography of data sources, available at:

[www.co.missoula.mt.us/rural/PLACE/ConservationResourcesAtlas.htm](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/rural/PLACE/ConservationResourcesAtlas.htm).

When the Atlas was presented to the public in meetings throughout the County, attendees commented that this information would be more helpful if it could be displayed through an interactive online mapping application.

Missoula County began the process of developing a PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application and this MLIA grant proposal requests funding to retain a GIS consultant to help the County complete the development of the PLACE Application. Missoula County will match MLIA funding with in-kind staff time spent on outreach to citizens to familiarize them with the use of the PLACE Application.

## Step 3. Scope of Work Narrative

### A. Goal and Objectives:

The goal for the PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application is to make natural resource data more accessible, useful, and understandable to the public, agencies, and community organizations, for the purposes of better decision-making on conservation projects, development proposals and planning efforts.

This goal will be accomplished through the two deliverables produced by this grant proposal:

- 1) Development of a PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application
- 2) Community outreach and training to Missoula County residents on the PLACE Application

### Objectives:

- 1) **Develop a PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application:** Finalize the development of an interactive web-based mapping application to display natural resource data in a user-friendly accessible format.
- 2) **Community outreach and training to Missoula County residents on the PLACE Application** - Once the PLACE Application is developed, Missoula County will conduct an initial outreach and education effort to help interested citizens learn to use the application. We recognize that outreach activities will need to be on-going, and consequently Missoula County Rural Initiatives staff will integrate these activities in the annual work plan and look for opportunities to demonstrate the applicability of the PLACE Application to new land use and natural resource conservation scenarios.

**B. Tasks:** Due to the chronological nature of the project, all activities listed below are dependent upon the success of the previous task.

- A. Develop Draft PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application and conduct internal review:
  - i. Sign Contract with Montana State Library no later than August 2012
  - ii. Retain GIS consultant no later than August 30, 2012.
  - iii. Development of the Draft PLACE Application August – December 2012
    1. Data uploads performed by Missoula County Public Works Surveyor's and GIS Office as requested by consultant and Rural Initiatives
  - iv. Internal Review of the Draft PLACE Application by Missoula County staff completed by Dec. 1, 2012.
  - v. Revisions to Draft PLACE Application completed by December 30, 2012
- B. Review of Draft PLACE Application by Data Providers
  - vi. Contact the state, federal and local government agencies and community organizations who provided data to the project with a request for them to review the PLACE Application for accuracy and appropriate display of data. Compile comments from data providers by February 28, 2013



## Step 4. Project Management and Organizational Capability

This project will be led by Missoula County Rural Initiatives Office. The mission of Rural Initiatives is to support rural landscapes and the rural way of life by protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural, economic, historic and recreational resources of Missoula County, including lands associated with farming, ranching, and timber management. Rural Initiatives started the PLACE Project (Practical Landscape Assessment for Conservation and Enhancement) in September 2008, and in August 2010, Rural Initiatives published the PLACE: Conservation Resource Atlas. This was presented to the public through a series of communities meetings, where comment was received indicating that in addition to the paper maps, the public would like to see the data made accessible through an interactive mapping application.

Since 2010, Rural Initiatives has coordinated between three county departments and a private GIS consultant to take the necessary steps to develop and host the PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application. The data is currently housed in a virtualized server environment and is running on ArcServer 9.3 with plans to upgrade to ArcServer 10 with Windows 2008R2 in the near future. Missoula County has the ability to add more cores and memory as needed to expand our capacity to host additional data and applications. The Missoula County Information Systems Department will be responsible for maintaining the server and website, while the County Surveyor's and GIS offices will be responsible for uploading data updates and maintaining the PLACE Application's functional capabilities. Rural Initiatives will serve as the project manager, coordinate data updates from partner agencies, compile additional data, and conduct community outreach and training for the PLACE Application.

Missoula County has found local communities and the public in general to be receptive to both maps and interactive web-based mapping services.

Some examples of published maps include:

- Services and Land Use Designations found within the 2010 Seeley Lake Regional Plan [http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/Rural/SeeleyLake/2010-10\\_SeeleyLakePlan-FINAL.htm](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/Rural/SeeleyLake/2010-10_SeeleyLakePlan-FINAL.htm)
- Open Space Bond Atlas showing approved city, county, and joint Bond Projects throughout the County [http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/Rural/OLC/OLC\\_OpenSpaceBondAtlas.htm](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/Rural/OLC/OLC_OpenSpaceBondAtlas.htm)
- Ninemile Creek Watershed Restoration Map showing sites of stream restoration projects within the Ninemile region of Missoula County [ftp://www.co.missoula.mt.us/ruralftp/StreamProtection/Ninemile/Nine Mile Restoration Map.pdf](ftp://www.co.missoula.mt.us/ruralftp/StreamProtection/Ninemile/Nine_Mile_Restoration_Map.pdf)

Some of the interactive web based mapping services already in use and maintained by Missoula County are:

- The Property Information System allows users to locate land parcels within Missoula County and view associated tax, survey and CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) data [www.co.missoula.mt.us/Owner/Default.aspx](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/Owner/Default.aspx).
- Missoula County Elections map, which shows the public elections information including: polling locations, Commissioner, Senate, House of Representatives, and voting districts [www.co.missoula.mt.us/interactivemaps/voterinfo.aspx](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/interactivemaps/voterinfo.aspx).

- The Missoula County 9-1-1 Center's interactive map that publishes daily reports of crime locations within Missoula County.  
[www.co.missoula.mt.us/911center/dailypublicreport](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/911center/dailypublicreport)

The key personnel involved with this project include:

**Nate Rogers - Senior GIS Specialist, Missoula County Rural Initiatives:** Mr. Rogers is the project manager for the PLACE Application Project. Mr. Rogers is responsible for coordinating, obtaining, maintaining, and updating GIS data involved with the PLACE Project and conducting community training and outreach of the web-mapping service. Mr. Rogers will be responsible for retaining the services of a GIS consultant and coordinating communication between the consultant and Missoula County departments involved in the PLACE Application. Mr. Rogers has a B.A. degree in GIS from Eastern Washington University and a M.S. degree in GIS from The University of Montana. He has three years of GIS experience in a professional GIS setting for the governments of Grant County, Washington and Missoula County, Montana.

**Sarah Canepa – Rural Landscape Scientist, Missoula County Rural Initiatives:** Ms. Canepa will assist Mr. Rogers with coordination of partner agencies and organizations, reviewing the PLACE Application for accuracy and conducting community outreach and training. Ms. Canepa earned her B.S. degree and M.S. degree in Resource Conservation from The University of Montana and 10 years of experience working with rural communities on conservation issues.

**Sarah Richey – Rural Landscape Scientist, Missoula County Rural Initiatives:** Ms. Richey has been involved with the PLACE project for the past three years and will provide review for consistency as the data moves from paper format to an interactive web-based mapping application. Ms. Richey was involved in the early public outreach of the PLACE Project and her experience will be valuable to Rural Initiatives when conducting community outreach and training activities. Ms. Richey has a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Montana and a M.S. degree in Environmental Studies from The University of Montana and 10 years of experience working on wildlife and conservation issues.

**Kandace Kochivar – Senior GIS Specialist, Surveying Mapping/GIS Division of Missoula County Public Works:** Mrs. Kochivar is responsible for publishing the PLACE layers to the ArcGIS Server, and will provide feedback on the cartography and content of the application. Mrs. Kochivar has a B.A. degree in GIS from The University of Montana and has 6 years of experience involved with GIS and web mapping service, including the development of the County Elections interactive web map.

**Missoula Information Systems Department:** The Missoula Information Systems Department will maintain the server hosting the PLACE Application and data. The Information Systems Department will be responsible for the server and data transition from Arc GIS 9.3 to ArcGIS 10. The staff members who are providing assistance to this project include: staff administrator and database support, webmaster, database administrator, and dot net developers.

**Qualified GIS Consultants:** Missoula County has worked with several qualified GIS consultants and one will be selected according to the Missoula County Purchasing and Contracts Policy.



## Step 5. Budget Justification Narrative and Tables

The Missoula County PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application project is requesting \$20,000 MLIA funding to hire a GIS consultant to finish the development of the PLACE Application. This funding will be matched in-kind with staff time from multiple departments and travel required to conduct review of the PLACE Application and outreach to data providers, partner agencies and the general public.

Future maintenance and updates to the PLACE Application will be conducted by Missoula County staff from the following offices: Rural Initiatives will be the project manager, perform the data updates, and complete public outreach and training; the Surveyor's Mapping/GIS Offices will be responsible for adding new layers and data to the PLACE Application, and the Information Systems Department will perform necessary maintenance to the server hosting the data. A GIS consultant will be hired to complete the programming and development of the PLACE Application and will be responsible for making revisions to the application for the duration of this grant. All expenses associated with grant administration, maintenance, personnel costs, equipment purchases or travel will be accommodated in the Missoula County budget.

To date Missoula County has spent approximately \$3,600 in personnel and \$15,000 in contract services to perform the initial development of the PLACE Interactive Web-Based Mapping Application. We are requesting \$20,000 in MLIA funding to retain a GIS consultant to complete the PLACE Application development. Missoula County will contribute \$8,287 in staff time and travel to review the PLACE Application, coordinate feedback from data reviewers and conduct outreach to the public.

### *Applicant budget summary*

Category	MLIA Share	Applicant Share (7/2012 – 7/2013)	Applicant Share (7/2010 - 6/2012)	Total
<b>a. Personnel</b>	\$0	\$5,142	\$2,774	\$7,916
<b>a.1 Fringe Benefits</b>	\$0	\$1,645	888	\$2,533
<b>b. Travel</b>	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500
<b>c. Equipment</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>d. Supplies</b>	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<b>e. Contractual</b>	\$20,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$35,000
<b>f. Other</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$8,287</b>	<b>\$ 18,662</b>	<b>\$46,949</b>

**Contractual Services:** Professional GIS and Web-development services will be provided by a GIS consultant that will be selected and contracted according to the Missoula County Purchasing and Contracts Policy.

## 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.

Bill CAREY  
Name

Missoula County Board of Commissioner (Chair)

Title

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

Date 2/14/12