

List of Common GIS-related Acronyms—Montana Centric

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Organizations	
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
MACO	Montana Association of Counties
MAGIP	Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals
MARLS	Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors
MLIAC	Montana Land Information Advisory Council
NSGIC	National States Geographic Information Council
URISA	Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
WGA	Western Governors' Association
Agencies/Companies	
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior
DMA	Defense Mapping Agency
DOA	Montana Department of Administration
DEQ	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DNRC	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
ITSD	Information Technology Services Division of the Montana Department of Administration. Now SITSD.
MBMG	Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
MSL	Montana State Library
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
NRIS	Natural Resource Information System of the Montana State Library
NGA (Formerly NIMA)	National Geospatial-Information Agency (formerly National Imagery and Mapping Agency), U.S. Military
SITSD	State Information Technology Services Division of the Montana Department of Administration
USFS	United States Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geologic Survey, U.S. Department of Interior
File Extensions	
DBF	Data Base File—the dBase file format, used with SHP
DGN	Design file—the Microstation drawing format
DWG	Drawing file—the AutoCad drawing format
DXF	Drawing Exchange Format—an AutoCad export file
EPS	Encapsulated Postscript file—a file format favored for graphics exchange
E00	An exchange format for ESRI coverage and grid datasets

GDB	Esri file geodatabase
GIF	Graphic Interchange Format—an image format commonly used on the Web
JPG (JPEG)	Joint Photographic Experts Group— an image format commonly used on the web
MDB	In GIS, an Esri personal geodatabase (becoming obsolete). More generally, the extension for a Microsoft Access database
PDF	Portable Document Format— an Adobe file format readable with free software (Acrobat Reader)
PNG	Portable Network Graphic— a format for web graphics
RTF	Rich Text Format— a generic word processing format
SBN	Part of a shape file— one of the files that store the spatial index of the features, also see SHP
SBX	Part of a shape file— one of the files that store the spatial index of the features, also see SHP
SHP	Shape file— an ESRI published spatial data format (comprised of multiple support files). See also: DBF, SBN, SBX, & SHX
SHX	Part of a shape file—the file that stores the index of the feature geometry, also see DBF & SHP
TIFF (also TIF)	Tag Image File Format—an image format commonly used in GIS
General	
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch— a term for computer enabled dispatching
CAD	Computer Assisted (or Aided) Design (or Drafting)—a generic term for computerized drawings
CADD	Computer Assisted (or Aided) Design and Drafting
CadNSDI Montana	CadNSDI is a term used nationally to mean the spatial dataset representing the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). In Montana, this dataset is referred to as CadNSDI Montana
CFF	Cartographic Feature Files— the vector format USFS uses to publish data
CIR	Color Infrared Imagery
DEM	Digital Elevation Model— typically produced by USGS in 30 or 10 meter cell size
DLG	Digital Line Graph— a vector GIS format produced by USGS
DOQ	Digital Ortho Quad, (also DOQQ) — a quad based ortho image, from USGS, USFS, typically 1 meter in 7½' quad or quarter quad basis
DRG	Digital Raster Graphic—a scanned image of a USGS 7½' quad
DTM	Digital Terrain Model— a generic term for software terrain modeling

GCDB	See CadNSDI. Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB)— a measurement-based digital representation of the Public Land Survey System created by the Bureau of Land Management , which served as a basis for CadNSDI (GCDB is now obsolete)
GIS	Geographic Information System or Geographic Information Science
GNIS	Geographic Names Information System—the official names of Geographic Places
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language
LiDAR	Light Detection And Ranging—a remotely-sensed digital product that is similar in principle to radar, using light instead of the microwave part of the radio-frequency spectrum
MLIA	Montana Land Information Act—passed by the 2005 Montana Legislature to provide a source funding for GIS coordination, data collection, maintenance, integration and distribution
MSDI	Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure
NED	National Elevation Dataset
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
PRISM	Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model— a tool used for climate mapping
PLSS	Public Land Survey System (also “PLS”)
RAWS	Remote Automated Weather Station
SDE	Spatial Database Engine— an ESRI software package for serving data
SDTS	Spatial Data Transfer Standard—The vector format USGS uses for DLG version 3
TIGER®	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing— U.S. Census Bureau vector data format
TIN	Triangulated Irregular Network—a generic term for terrain modeling using triangles
XML	Extensible Markup Language— a language use for applications and the internet