



**FERGUS COUNTY
SURVEY CONTROL DATA
POINT COLLECTION**

**MONTANA GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION ACT
GRANT APPLICATION**

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025: JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

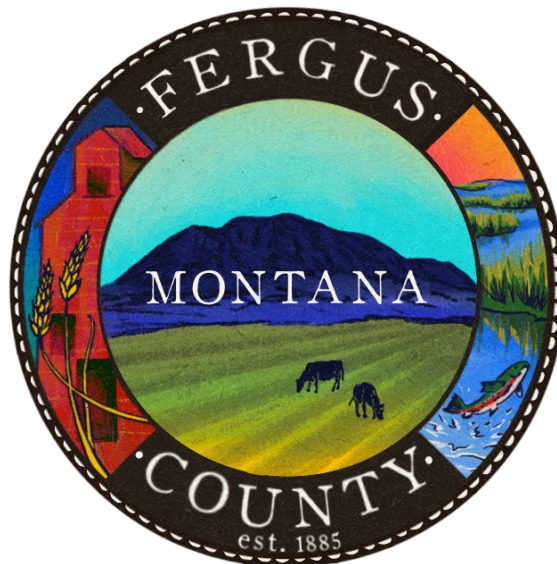


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SECTION 1 – ORGANIZATION, PARTNER, & PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Primary Applicant Contact Information <i>(Please fill this section out in its entirety)</i>	
Name of Agency/Entity:	Fergus County
Department:	Commissioners
Division/Section:	
Street:	712 West Main, Suite 210
City:	Lewistown
County:	Fergus
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59457
Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	Jennifer Saunders
Title:	Fergus County Commissioners, District 2
Email Address:	jsaunders@co.fergus.mt.us
Phone Number:	406-535-5119
Fax Number:	406-601-3384
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	Steve Fanning
Title:	DES Coordinator
Email Address:	des@co.fergus.mt.us
Phone Number:	406-535-8118
Fax Number:	
MGIA Grant Funding Request & Match:	
Total Requested MGIA Funds:	\$23,040
Total Matched Funds:	\$2,560 Cash. \$2500 in-kind County staffing resource.

Proposal Information	
Identified Grant Priority:	<i>Tier 1:</i> Improvements to digital representation of Public Land Survey System (PLSS) for the purpose of improving accuracy of the MSDI Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries themes
Annual or Multi-Year Proposal:	2024
Proposal Prepared By:	Jennifer Saunders and Steve Fanning
Short Title of Proposal:	<i>Fergus County Survey Control Data Point Collection</i>
Executive Summary:	
<p>Fergus County is applying for a Tier 1 Priority grant to Improve the digital representation of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) for the purpose of improving the accuracy of Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries theme. This database is known to be spatially inaccurate in many areas of Fergus County due to the lack of survey control points and was originally based on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB). This deficiency creates discrepancies when authoritative GIS data is integrated with the cadastral framework, leading to potential mistrust and misuse of information. It is the goal of Fergus County to address these discrepancies through a collaborative effort. The proposed solution to this problem is to acquire better survey control using Fergus County's contracted engineer and land surveyor, Stahly Engineering and Associates (consultant), to improve the accuracy of the PLSS in Fergus County, specifically in the 5 smaller supporting communities of Denton, Grass Range, Moore, Roy and Winifred. These communities provide a vital location for expected growth in the county due to manufacturing and missile projects. This data will help us prevent issues that may arise with transportation flow, disaster and emergency planning, and floodplain management, while creating new housing opportunities.</p> <p>These adjustments affect several key stakeholders, including taxpayers, and will improve spatial data used by both the public and local governments. As mapping control data is collected by a licensed surveyor, Fergus County's consultant, reviewed by Fergus County, and submitted to the MSDI theme stewards—the proposed project will improve the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) and Public Land Survey System (PLSS) standardized data for the Cadastral National Spatial Data Infrastructure (PLSS CadNSDI) to increase in these selected communities.</p>	

Funding Partners: <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of Contact:	Fergus County
Name of Agency:	Fergus County Commisioners
Street:	712 West Main
City:	Lewistown
County:	Fergus
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59457
Contact Email Address:	jsaunders@co.fergus.mt.us
Contact Phone Number:	406-535-5519

SECTION 2 – RELEVANCE

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

SECTION 4 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANZIATIONAL CAPABILITY 2 PAGE LIMIT

Project Manager- Jennifer Saunders Fergus County Commissioner.

- 1) PM (Jennifer Saunders) is an elected official, term ends Jan. 1, 2029.
- 2) Responsible for negotiating the MGIA Statement of Work.
- 3) Will make monthly contact with all team members to make sure tasks are being accomplished on time.
- 4) Will attend the training and kick-off meeting in Helena, in July 2024
- 5) Coordinate with the Fergus County Financial Manager and the Fergus County Treasurer, to submit invoices and financial reports. Utilizing information from the hired consultant, the PM will submit quarterly progress reports, data deliverables and submit written requests for contract amendments expressing their own point of view in all reports. The PM will utilize input from all team members to submit the final report.

- 6) The PM will serve as the point of contact for all related technical issues and will consult with other team members as needed. Will also stay in close communication with the Montana State Library's Grant Project Manager.
- 7) PM along with team members will deliver presentations about the grant project to the MGIA Council, the Montana State Library Commission and the MAGIP conference.

Grant Management Team Members/Partners

Finances

Fergus County Financial Manager- Neal Tucek

- County Budget Management
- Quarterly Financial Reporting for current grant programs.
- Manages Accounts Payable
- Manages Revenue

Fergus County Treasurer- Gwen Gehlen

- Manages County Accounts, Includes Grants

Logistics Support

Fergus County DES- Steve Fanning

- Accomplished Task Manager
- Proficient in GIS Data Collection and Interpretation

Fergus County Clerk and Recorder and Election Administrator - Janel Tucek

- Proficient in use of GIS Maps and utilizing Geo Election Boundaries

911 Coordinator

- The 911 Coordinator has used the equipment Fergus County was awarded to collect the necessary GIS points to create an up to date 911 GIS Mapping System.

SECTION 5 – SCOPE OF WORK

Goal 1. Improve the digital representation of the Public Land Survey System for the purpose of improving the accuracy of MSDI Cadastral maps and boundaries. There are currently no control monuments in the GCDB surrounding the five smaller communities in Fergus County, thus recovering as many monuments as possible with the grant funds is the priority of this grant application.

Objective 1.1. County Project Management – Contracting and coordination with Stahly Engineering, Fergus County's Engineer of Record. Financial management and updates. Clerk & Recorder Research. Landowner Access Coordination.
Completion date; December 1, 2024

Objective 1.2. Consultant Project Management & Start Up – Meet with and update County as needed. Review existing public record to identify PLSS corners that have been previously located and verified in a recorded document (COS, CCR, Plats, BLM, RW plans, RR plans). Coordinate records research with Clerk & Recorder. Coordinate any landowner access with the County. Develop plan to collect 5-20 verified PLSS corners surrounding each of the five communities and defining immediate township lines.

Completion Date: August 1, 2024

Objective 1.3. Secondary Fieldwork for Monument Recovery – If grant funds still remain, additional targets will be identified to further define the five communities and the immediate townships. These targets may be less convenient known corners or original stone monuments that have no record of being recovered since the original surveys. A certified corner record (CCR) will be prepared and recorded for any recovered monument that has no such record. A potentially lower success rate in monument recovery, as well as additional efforts to prepare and record documents are a less cost-efficient use of grant fund, resulting in an increased average cost of monument recovered.

Completion Date: October 1, 2024

Objective 1.4. Publish Metadata / Project Closeout – Finalize project data and publish in required formats. Provide recommendations on need and/or potential for additional monument recovery that may be addressed in a phased approach with future grant funding.

Completion Date: November 1, 2024

Deliverables

Submit Collected Survey Data to the State Library

Submit Corner Recordation

Completion Date: October 15, 2024

SECTION 6 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION & BUDGET TABLE

\$23,040- Contract with Stahly Engineering

\$2560- Cash plus \$ \$2500 in-kind County staffing resource.

Section 7 – Project Sustainability

Fergus County has established a GIS Mapping Team made up of stakeholders that will benefit from the development and utilization of data collected through the GIS mapping process. Its focus will be to assist with implementing the priorities of the Montana Geospatial Information Plan (MGIP). The team will align itself with the priorities of the MGIP and utilize the financial and educational assistance provided by the Montana State Library to continue to

deliver relevant data both now and in the future. A five year plan has been developed to provide a framework for this future growth of the program. Fergus County is committed to GIS and will ensure that all relevant team members receive ongoing training and are all working together for the same goals. The team will meet quarterly to share information, updates, and new training opportunities. Team members will continue to add data points and mapping layers while also seeking out other data being collected by agencies within our county.

The team includes:

- 1) One Fergus County Commissioner
- 2) Fergus County Planner (not yet hired)
- 3) Fergus County Planning Office Clerk (Enters data points for legal physical addressing)
- 4) Fergus County Environment Health Officer (enters data points for septic systems and wells)
- 5) Fergus County Road Department Supervisor (enters data points for new road access)
- 6) Fergus County Clerk and Recorder (utilizes Geo Election Mapping) and uses Cadastral daily to identify property lines.
- 7) Fergus County DES (utilizes GIS mapping for FEMA reporting and DES planning)
- 8) 911 Center (enters data points for 911 mapping)
- 9) The County Road and Bridge Department will begin collecting points for all bridge and culvert locations.

Our Fergus County Planning position is currently open. We have contracted with “Stahly” Engineering for Planning and Floodplain management. We hope to have the position filled with in the next six months.

SECTION 8 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Fergus County has been awarded two MLIA grants in the past 5 years.

- FY2020 2019/2020- Fergus County was awarded a \$3725 MLIA Grant for “Development of GIS to support Disaster and Emergency Operations” Priority. Fergus County purchased a Trimble Handheld and a single use ESRI license. Unfortunately, due to delays related to COVID and support staff changes the deliverables on this grant were not met and the grant was never closed out.
- FY2021 2020/2021 Fergus County was awarded an \$11,032 MLIA Grant for “Build GIS Capacity: Disaster& Emergency Service Operations” Priority. Before the project could be completed, both the PM’s for the project left employment. The new DES Coordinator worked with the Montana State Library to help rescue the grant and was able to purchase equipment that is being used today by the Planning Office and the 911 Coordinator for addressing as well as DES and the Fergus County Road Department for FEMA Recovery Projects. In the closing report/letter for the second grant, the Deputy DES Coordinator addressed multiple future goals that have been achieved utilizing the new equipment with coordination from the Central Montana 911 Coordinator.

Police Department

City of Lewistown

*Chief of Police
Justin Jenness*

305 W. Watson, Lewistown, MT 59457

Tele: (406) 535-1800 Fax: (406) 535-7407

*Assistant Chief
Levi King*

Re: Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant Support

The Central Montana 911 Center and Lewistown Police Department partnered with Fergus County in 2002 in order to reach the Enhanced 911 Addressing Status within the 538-phone exchange in order to receive funding from the state along with the need to provide location information for the 911 calls. GIS duties were to collect, Structures, Access Points, Road Centerlines, Bridges, Cattle Guards, ect with sub-meter accuracy.

Once those addresses were collected and went through the acceptance process for Fergus County, all addresses were adopted without question. Petroleum County and Judith Basin County then reached out to have the Center complete their project as well. At this time, the Center completed the remainder of Fergus County. Currently, Fergus County collect data with the 911 Center editing it. With the assistance of the state library, we share the same base map which has made a great partnership and less duplication.

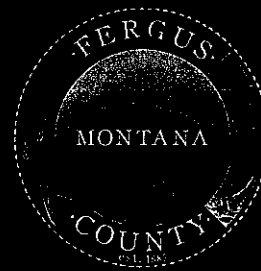
Today while working together as a TEAM, we have found that the accuracy of some of the supporting data that we use is not accurate making it necessary to re-survey ownership parcel points and lot points in order to make corrections to parcel lines and lots and blocks, in these areas to maintain the accuracy we are so proud of.

The need for accuracy encompasses so many areas for Fergus County to include 911. This grant can assist more people and agencies other than Fergus County making it truly interoperable! I am here to support Fergus County with this grant and will assist where necessary. I am honored to be a partner and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Gremaux
911 Supervisor/Coordinator / GIS
Central Montana 911 Center
Lewistown Police Department



Fergus County Clerk and Recorder
712 W Main St Suite 204
406/535-5242
clerkrecorder@co.fergus.mt.us
<https://www.co.fergus.mt.us>

MGIA Grant Program,

I am writing on behalf of the Fergus County Clerk and Recorder's Office and as the Election Administrator to express my support for the Fergus County Survey Control Data Point Collection grant application. In both of my office duties, accurate mapping is critical to our daily operation. From the addressing of registered voters to aerial maps of landowners in Montana Cadastral, these are just some of the ways it is used. MT Cadastral is used in comparison to our plat maps and when the boundary lines are off, it makes it difficult to give accurate information or visual to our customers. With the amount of expected population increases coming to Fergus County in the next few years, due to some large companies coming in, this accuracy will be crucial to many offices.

On behalf of my office, we thank you for your consideration of this important grant opportunity to come to the Fergus County Survey Control Data Point Collection.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janel J. Tucek".

Janel J. Tucek

CLERK AND RECORDER/ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR



FERGUS COUNTY

DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES

712 West Main Street Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 406-535-8118

02/25/2024

RE: Letter of Support for FY2025 Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Fergus County application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant program, specifically the Tier 1 Priority Project "Improvement to Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries Themes".

As the DES Coordinator for Fergus County, I am directly responsible for emergency planning, response to emergencies, recovery from emergencies and mitigation. Accurate and up-to-date spatial data, particularly regarding cadastral boundaries and administrative areas, is crucial for our department's ability to effectively respond to disasters and emergencies. Inaccurate boundaries and information can create challenges in identifying responding agencies and timely emergency evacuation routes.

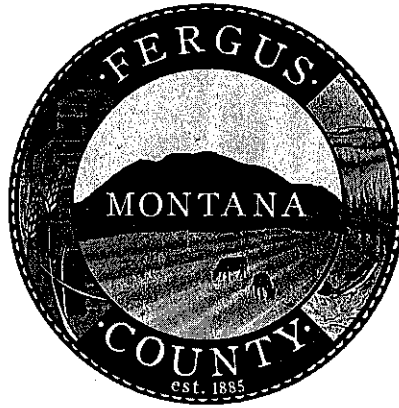
This FY2025 MGIA Grant will be the beginning of integrating GIS work into the emergency response planning of Fergus County. Our GIS team will use this data as well as other data collection in meaningful ways to support and enhance county services. Also, in partnership with Montana State Library, this data will be accessible statewide for many other types of projects.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the Fergus County application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant. This project is crucial for ensuring accurate and accessible spatial data, which is vital for our department's ability to effectively respond to disasters and emergencies, ultimately enhancing public safety and preparedness across Fergus County and the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Fanning".

Steve Fanning
Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator
Deputy Fire Warden
des@co.fergus.mt.us



February 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for Fergus County to receive the Tier 1 Priority grant to improve the digital representation of the Public Land Survey System.

Fergus County is in a transition, where we currently do not have a GIS Director on staff and are unsure how long it will take to fill the position. Additionally, Fergus County is expected to experience tremendous growth starting at any time with addition of a manufacturing firm announcing their plans on establishing itself within the County and the Sentinel Missel upgrade projected.

The funds that we receive from this grant will go towards expenditures that are currently unbudgeted and will help cover costs during the next budget cycle as resources are limited.

Thank you,

Neal Tucek
Finance Director/IT Administrator

Danette Thurman
Planning Clerk

FERGUS COUNTY

PLANNING & GIS DEPARTMENT

712 W Main ST STE 101

Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone 406-535-9046



February 26, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for FY2025 Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Fergus County application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant program, specifically the Tier 1 Priority Project, "Improvement to Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries Themes."

In the Planning Office the cadastral is used to identify Federal, State, County, City, Township, Commercial and private properties. It's important to have the correct and accurate boundary lines when communicating with the Public or private about addressing, subdivisions or floodplain.

I endorse the Fergus County application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant.

Thank you,

Danette Thurman
Planning Clerk
Planning@co.fergus.mt.us



02/26/2024

Re: Letter of Support for FY2025 Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Fergus County Application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant Program, specifically the Tier 1 Priority Project “Improvement to Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries Themes”.

I am the Sanitarian in Training for Fergus County, and the largest area of focus in my occupation is the permitting of septic systems. Additionally, I assist the Fergus County Planning Department with address collection in the field and have a close working relationship with the department since our jurisdictions often intertwine. I rely heavily on accurate mapping to provide the County with an adequate septic permitting process, and I could not do my job without it.

The advantages that the MGIA grant will bring to Fergus County Environmental Health will be massive. With accurate mapping, the department will be able to ensure the safety of all residents who use on-site water and sewage. This will also greatly facilitate interdepartmental cooperation in our County.

Bridger Giglio,

Fergus County Sanitarian in Training

FERGUS COUNTY TREASURER
712 WEST MAIN STE 201
LEWISTOWN, MT 59457-2573
PHONE: 406-535-9220 FAX: 406-535-9222

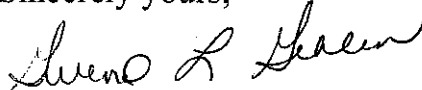
FEB. 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant. With the growth that is expected to take place in Lewistown and the surrounding areas in the next few years, this area is in need of additional housing and with that we will need the necessary tools in place to make sure things flow correctly and done in areas that work for everyone.

By addressing the housing situation in Fergus County and making areas available for new housing in the areas that work, I believe it will help the schools with enrollment, the medical field keeping Doctors in our area and also the businesses in this area.

Sincerely yours,



Gwenda L. Gehlen
Fergus Cuntly Treasurer

Fegus County Commissioners		MLIA GRANT DETAILED BUDGET TABLE			
Tasks	Category Type	Funding Source	Hours	Rate	Cost
Objective 1.1 - County Project Management	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Fegus County Commissioners In-Kind			\$ 2,500.00
Objective 1.1 - Clerk & Recorder Research w/Consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Fergus Co. Clerk & Recorder In-Kind			
Objective 1.1 - Landowner Access Coordination w/Consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Fegus County Commissioners In-Kind			
Objective 1.2 - Project Start Up	Contractual	Fegus County Commissioners Cash	16	\$ 160.00	\$ 2,560.00
Objective 1.3 - Initial Fieldwork for Monument Recovery (Includes Travel)	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	120	\$ 160.00	\$ 19,200.00
Objective 1.4 - Secondary Fieldwork for Monument Recovery	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	0	\$ 160.00	\$ -
Objective 1.5 - Publish Metadata / Project Closeout	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	24	\$ 160.00	\$ 3,840.00
Totals:			160		\$ 28,100.00

Authorizing Statement

I hereby certify that I have read the above application for the FY2025 MGIA Grant Program and 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.

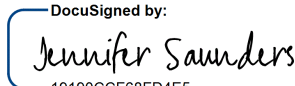
I further certify that this project will comply with applicable statutory and regulatory standards. I further certify that I am (by my signature) authorized to enter into a binding agreement with the Montana State Library to obtain a grant if this application receives approval.

Jennifer Saunders

Applicant Authorized Signer Name

Fergus County Commissioner

Title

DocuSigned by:

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Signature

3/18/2024

Date

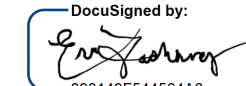
Complete Grant Application package Received by:

Erin Fashoway

Erin Fashoway, MSL

Montana GIS Coordinator

Title

DocuSigned by:

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Signature

3/18/2024

Date

Certificate Of Completion

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Document Pages: 17	Signatures: 2
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 0
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Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	Sean Anderson
Time Zone: (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)	PO Box 201800
	Helena, MT 59620-1800
	sanderson@mt.gov
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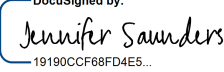
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Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: Montana State Library	Location: DocuSign

Signer Events

Jennifer Saunders
 jsaunders@co.fergus.mt.us
 Fergus County Commissioner
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

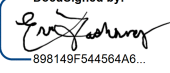
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Not Offered via DocuSign

Erin Fashoway
 efashoway@mt.gov
 Montana GIS Coordinator
 State of Montana
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp

Jennifer Saunders
 jsaunders@co.fergus.mt.gov
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/18/2024 1:18:13 PM
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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