MONTANA GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION ACT GRANT APPLICATION STATE FISCAL YEARS 2027-2028

JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2028

CHIPPEWA CREE 3DHP HYDROGRAPHY PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR FY2027 MGIA GRANT FUNDING

SECTION 1 – ORGANIZATION, PARTNER, AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Provide basic information about your organization, the total MGIA grant request and any match, and a short executive summary of your project (up to 400 words). Identify the FY2027 MGIA grant program priority, whether the project is one or multiple years, and list all funding partners.

Primary Applicant Contact Information *(Please fill this section out in its entirety)*	
Name of Agency/Entity:	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Department:	Tribal Water Resources Department (TWRD)
Division/Section:	Environmental
Street:	96 Clinic Rd
City:	Rocky Boy
County:	Hill County
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59521
Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	Santana Wells
Title:	Tribal Water Resources Manager
Email Address:	santana@chippewa-cree.org
Phone Number:	(406)385-4225
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information	
Name:	Javon Wing
Title:	Planning and Development Grant Writer
Email Address	CCTgrant1@gmail.com
Phone Number:	(406)395-5705
Authorized Signer Contact Information	
Name	Harlan Baker
Title	Chippewa Cree Tribal Chairman
Email Address	chairman@chippewa-cree.org
Phone Number	(406)395-5705

Funding Partners *(required for each partner, add rows as needed)*	
Name of Contact:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of Agency:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Street:	Click or tap here to enter text.
City:	Click or tap here to enter text.
County:	Click or tap here to enter text.
State:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip Code:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Email Address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact Phone Number:	Click or tap here to enter text.

NOTE: *Each identified Funding Partner MUST also submit a letter of support.*

Proposal Information	
Date Submitted:	2.25.2026
Identified Grant Priority: **See the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for information on priorities.*	3DHP Elevation Derived Hydrography
Proposal Prepared By:	Santana Wells
Short Title of Proposal:	CCT 3DHP Grant

Executive Summary

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy (CCT), with assistance from the Montana State Library's (MSL) two-year grant program will develop elevation-derived hydrography (EDH) from LiDAR data for a region of North Central Montana. The 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) project, through United States Geologic Survey Department (USGS), will develop geospatial information to support the next generation of the National Hydrography Dataset in and around the reservation area. The program launched by CCT and its partners is in line with Tier 1 priority of the Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant for fiscal year 2026 and falls in line with MGIAC's strategic planning focus.

The 3DHP project will be one of the first LiDAR derived 3DHP hydrology assets in the state and CCT will be the first tribal nation to benefit from such accurate location products managing its most precious resource: water. It will benefit the Tribe's people in flood prevention, potable water management, and future plans involving water compact and compliance – considering also the water share agreement out of Lake Elwell (Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System). Adjacent

projects involving 3DHP have also begun in Blaine County whose mutual funding prospect, USGS, may find advantageous having these areas close and related. CCT will procure a consultant to utilize advanced GIS techniques to create precise 3D elevation-derived hydrography data for at least two 10-digit HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code) watershed boundaries. The 3DHP project will provide a significant improvement to the level of detail and accuracy of hydrography data by deriving a 3D stream network, water body delineation, and the abundant water catchment topography features from accurate, high-quality LiDAR data in North Central Montana. The produced data would create a new, more consistent, and more spatially accurate dataset to improve Montana's Spatial Data Infrastructure Hydrography theme and help build on CCT GIS logistics that has just began strengthening from its Water Resources Department in their collecting water assets. The new hydro assets from the LiDAR data can greatly benefit the Tribe and TWRD's water management. The proposed actions of the 3DHP Tribal project could strengthen our existing partnerships with MSL, create a future model for other Montana Tribes, improve relationships with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and create a new partnership with a consultant upon completion of the 3DHP project. This first of a kind project may also help develop policies and best practices for geospatial data that can be replicated in future MGIA grant cycles. Lastly, this proposal can ultimately pose lifesaving information in regards to flood concern. The dramatic damages that occurred in the 2010 flood at Rocky Boy are still evident today and fresh in resident's minds and to gain better understanding for prevention against this happening again, information like what's produced through the 3DHP program will be critical for the Tribe.

MGIA Grant Funding Request and Match	
Total Requested MGIA Funds:	45,000
Total Matched Funds:	$5,000

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

Briefly explain how your project supports one or more MSDI Themes or initiatives, what you will deliver, and how the results will benefit multiple agencies and Montana communities through local impact, cost savings, or efficiency gains.

10% of the Total Score - 300-word limit

The proposed project will support the MSDI Hydrography theme, specifically the 3DHP Elevation Derived Hydrography initiative – the new paradigm of hydrography geospatial datasets replacing the legacy National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). With this new data, the state can start providing the public with detailed and more accurate locations of water bodies and stream networks. This project will fill in watershed basin maps and location application intelligence pertaining of North Central Montana – hundreds of square miles that impact residents of Hill and Choteau County, but more specifically the Tribal residents of Rocky Boy and Box Elder.

MGIA-funded participation in the USGS 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) can directly strengthen:

1. Enforcement, permitting, drought allocation, watershed administration, and protection of Tribal water rights under the CCT Tribal Water Code by having concrete, measurable data as a foundation to build from.

2. Elevation-derived hydrography provides the technical foundation necessary to administer Tribal water resources with precision, defensibility, and long-term resilience.

3. The Tribe’s ability to run future flood modeling scenarios to locate addresses and structures that may be in the path of flash floods or mud slides. This will also benefit communities outside the reservation in the same watershed basin including Big Sandy, Box Elder, and rural communities between Havre and the reservation.

4. Build up the Tribe’s GIS data theme base within multiple departments beyond the Tribal Water Resources Department. Other departments will benefit including the Roads, Planning, and their own private construction organization the Chippewa Cree Construction Company.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

Use this section to show that your organization and team can successfully deliver and manage the project. Briefly describe your relevant experience with similar projects or grants, name the primary and secondary Project Managers and their roles, and explain how you will oversee any consultants, meet reporting requirements, and invoice the State Library for reimbursement.

10% of Total Score - 2-page limit

The primary applicant, TWRD Manager, Santana Wells, will lead the project and will employ the guidance of a GIS tribal data consultant for detailed reporting, data organization, and outreach. This will be through the approval of the overarching Environmental department and with the sign-off of council chairman, Harlan Baker following the Tribe's procurement process.

Wells has taken the lead among his peers working at the Tribe and gathering water asset location information within villages in Rocky Boy using spatial tools and software, including a GNSS and enterprise ArcGIS Online software. He understands the importance of using GIS for informed data-driven decision making and believes that obtaining such detailed asset information en masse with the 3DHP program will give a body of knowledge to work and share within the Tribal government.

The secondary applicant, Javon Wing, is the Planning Department's grant writer, who can coordinate and oversee the consultant's submissions as well as step in to take over any duties Wells may need assistance with or if, for any reason, he is away.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe has recently ended a GIS contract that helped set them up with a server for storage, coordination with the BIA to provide GIS software, and a baseline level of GIS layers – many of which were selected from the MSL's data. Given that, there is some more training in GIS that is needed to help understand operationally how to ingest such data into the enterprise software. There are needs for knowing how to utilize desktop software like ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online application to have them work in tandem. That said, the tools and support are there and growth, with guidance is going to be handled by a tribal GIS consultant.

The consultant will be on-call for any needs. All milestones will be shared readily and with expectation to meet such deadlines. There will be weekly meetings and progress reports between the primary and consultant for training and strategy planning.

SECTION 4 – SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of Work (SOW) section explains what your project will accomplish, how it will be carried out, and what it will produce. Applicants should develop their SOW using the Workbook provided, then copy the completed version into this section. Define goals, objectives, and tasks concisely but with enough detail to show clear, logical steps from project purpose to on-the-ground work and deliverables, and ensure that your SOW directly supports the Geospatial Information Plan priority you selected.

Formatting of the SOW is critical. Use the required multilevel list structure provided in the Workbook. If needed, the required formatting can be found within this word document in the *Home Menu Ribbon > Paragraph Section > Multilevel List > List Library*.

Tasks must appear in chronological order, each with a specific completion date. All hardware or equipment purchases must be listed as separate, clearly justified tasks.

40% OF TOTAL SCORE – 4 page-limit

MGIA 3D Elevation-Derived Hydrography

Scope of Work Chippewa Cree Tribe FY26-28

Goal 1: Hire a consultant organization specializing in tribal GIS and MGIA grant management.

Select a state-local organization that knows the history of the Chippewa Cree and their water rights as well as proficiency in GIS and who can help facilitate the baseline development of GIS data integration using the existing tools and GIS software. This consultant will be tasked to formulate a grant work schedule and narrative prep so that the primary contact will be ready for submitting quarterly reports and needed communication to MSL regarding the grant status or any changes until close-out.

-Completion Date: July 15, 2026
-Finalize Contract: July 26, 2026

Objective 1.1: Selected consultant to formulate a strategy and hold grant/3DHP meetings.

The consultant will hold a formalized introduction in a series of meetings regarding 3DHP, the MGIA grant and what data to expect so all department managers and council members are aware of the two-year grant milestones and each quarterly communication event and how the new data derived from LiDAR will affect their GIS data share across departments. They will be informed of the timeline regarding how long this process may take the USGS contractor to

derive GIS layers from the LiDAR, as well as the age and quality level of the LiDAR captured in previous years.

-Completion Date: Aug. 3, 2026

Task 1.1.1: Selected consultant will conduct training for the primary contact, Santana Wells, to prepare him for using such LiDAR derived hydrography data while providing potential use cases to help him mitigate water related events.

-Completion Date: Aug 7, 2026

Objective 1.2: Primary contact and a member from the hired consultant organization will present their grant process and experience to GIS or watershed/water management conference.

Near the grant cycle end, or after close-out, primary contact Santana Wells and a member of the consultant organization will present their experience, findings, and story to either GIS professionals, or professionals in the tribal water management profession realm. This is in hopes to embolden others to pursue the MSL MGIA grant program and to usher in more 3DHP hydrography data for water management in the future.

-Completion Date: April 17, 2028 (projected for Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals [MAGIP} ast the Big Sky Geocon)

Goal 2: Pursue additional partners and funding for the project

Pursue additional funding opportunities through the USGS Data Collaboration Announcement (DCA) to expand mapping efforts within Rocky Boy's Reservation and Chippewa Cree Tribe. Potential funding sources could include the State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MTDNRC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Objective 2.1: Successful application to the USGS Data Collaboration Announcement Application

Prepare and submit an application to the USGS for additional *[FY2027]* 3DHP funding to support mapping of additional Hydrologic Unit Codes within Rocky Boy's Reservation and the Chippewa Cree Tribe.

Task 2.1.1: Apply for USGS *[FY2027]* 3DHP Funding

With the support and coordination of the Montana State Library, prepare and submit an application for additional funding from the USGS to complete elevation-derived hydrography mapping of additional HUCs within Rocky Boy's Reservation and surrounding tribal lands.

Application Submission Date: September, 2026

Expected Notification Date: December 2026

Goal 3: Establish a foundation for long-term impact, resilience, and community empowerment through elevation-derived hydrography data creation and analysis.

Objective 3.1 Create Precise Elevation-Derived Hydrography Data: Create precise elevation-derived hydrography (EDH) data for at least two 10-digit Hydrologic Units (HUs) in Rocky Boy's Reservation and surrounding tribal lands.

Task 3.1.1 Procure an EDH Consultant: Follow established procedures for recruiting and hiring a qualified elevation-derived hydrography consultant to lead the data creation effort. If Goal 1 is successful, this task may be completed by the USGS.

Completion Date: March 2027

Task 3.1.2: Finalize Consultant Contract

Execute a signed agreement with the selected EDH Consultant and/or the USGS. If Goal 1 is successful, this Task may be completed by the USGS.

Completion Date: May 2027

Objective 3.2: Preparation for Data Analysis with Consultant

Prepare necessary information and data to support the Consultant's analysis and hydrography mapping work.

Task 3.2.1: Review HU with Consultant

Review the 10-digit HU to be mapped with the Consultant to ensure alignment on scope, methodology, and deliverables. If Goal 1 is successful, this Task may be completed through a Kickoff meeting organized by the USGS with the contractor and other partners.

Completion Date: June 2027

Task 3.2.2: Share Infrastructure Shapefiles

Provide the Consultant and/or the USGS with relevant infrastructure shapefiles and supporting data necessary for the hydrography analysis, such as culverts, bridges, or field observations.

Completion Date: April 2028

Task 3.2.3: Submit Collected Data and Files to MSL

Submit all collected 3D elevation-derived hydrography data, analysis files, metadata, and supporting documentation to the Montana State Library for inclusion in the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).

Completion Date: May 2028

Goal 4: Contribute Elevation-Derived Hydrography Data to USGS

Contribute elevation-derived hydrography data to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for inclusion in the national 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) model.

Objective 4.1: Coordinate Data Contribution with Consultant and USGS

Coordinate with the Consultant and USGS to ensure proper data formatting, validation, and submission for the national 3DHP initiative.

Task 4.1.1: Submit Collected Data and Files to USGS

Submit, or ensure the contractor submits, all collected 3D elevation-derived hydrography data and associated files to USGS following their data submission requirements and standards for the 3DHP program. If Goal 1 is successful, this Task may be managed by the USGS.

SECTION 5 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE

Use this section to explain your project's financial need and overall funding plan, including how MGIA funds, your own funds, and any partner contributions will cover the full cost of the work. Briefly state whether this is one-time project work or support for ongoing maintenance, and summarize any matching funds (cash or in-kind) and the approximate share of the total project they represent.

You must also complete Budget Table using the provided Excel spreadsheet. Applications without a completed budget table will be rejected.

30% of total score – 2-page limit

The Chippewa Cree Tribe's Water Resources and Environmental Protection Departments, are submitting $5,000 of their own money in support of showing good faith in securing the MGIA 3DHP grant. The current need for the area of interest, based on ten-digit hydrologic drainage basins: The "Big Sandy Creek-Boxelder Creek" and

SECTION 6 – PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Use this section to explain how the results of your project will be maintained and used after the grant ends, including who will be responsible, how ongoing costs will be funded, and how the work will fit into your regular operations. Describe how you will coordinate with the Montana State Library on any MSDI data updates and, if you are new to GIS, how this project will help you establish sustainable workflows and build long-term GIS capacity.

10% of score - 300-word limit

This will do the following:

SECTION 7 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Please use this web map to research and identify past awarded MGIA Grants.

Applicants awarded MGIA Grants within the past five years, must provide a written narrative for each grant awarded, outlining the successes and failures of the grant. Explain how tasks, timelines, and deliverables of the project were or were not met. Demonstrate how past project failures will ensure future successes. (200-word limit each).

Click or tap here to enter text.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Phone: (406) 395-5705 - Finance Office
(406) 395-4282 or 4321 - Business Committee

96 Clinic Road
Box Elder, Montana 59521

February 25, 2026

Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council
PO Box 201800
1201 11th Ave
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Support for MGIA Grant Application: Chippewa Cree 3DHP Hydrography Project.

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chairman of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, this letter affirms strong support for the Tribe's FY 2026 Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) application for the Chippewa Cree 3DHP Hydrography Project.

This project represents a critical investment in community health, public safety, and responsible water management. By developing elevation-derived hydrography data, the Tribe will strengthen its ability to protect and administer its most vital resource: water. The project will provide the measurable, defensible data needed to enforce and implement the CCT Tribal Water Code, including permitting, drought allocation, watershed administration, and the protection of Tribal water rights.

Beyond regulatory advancement, the project enhances emergency preparedness. With improved geospatial data, the Tribe will be able to model future flood scenarios, identify homes and structures at risk of flash floods or mudslides, and proactively protect lives and property. These benefits extend beyond the reservation, supporting neighboring communities within the shared watershed basin.

Additionally, the project will strengthen interdepartmental coordination by expanding the Tribe's GIS data infrastructure. Departments such as Water Resources, Roads, Planning, and the Chippewa Cree Construction Company will all benefit from a stronger, unified geospatial foundation, advancing infrastructure planning, environmental stewardship, and long-term community development.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity for an initiative that advances water sovereignty, safeguards public safety, and builds the technical capacity necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Harlan Baker
Tribal Chairman
Chippewa Cree Tribe
406-395-5705

Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy	MGIA GRANT DETAILED BUDGET TABLE				
Tasks	**Category Type**	**Funding Source**	**Hours**	**Rate**	**Cost**
Objective 1.1 - Selected consultant to formulate a strategy and hold grant/3DHP meetings.	Contractual	Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy Cash			$ 2,500.00
Task 1.1.1. - Consultant 1–2 training sessions tailored to Santana (use cases, LiDAR-derived hydrography usage, reporting prep); provide short user guide and follow-up Q&A.	Contractual	Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy Cash			$ 2,000.00
Objective 1.2 - Presentation of 3DHP Grant process at conference (MAGIP or other).	Travel	Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy Cash			$ 500.00
Task 3.1.1. - Procure EDH organization where grant consultant has them draft scope of work for EDH vendor, review and finalize EDH consultant contract language.	Contractual	Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy Cash			$ 500.00
Task 3.2.1 - Have grant consultant review the 10-digit HU to be mapped with the EDH consultant to ensure alignment on scope, methodology, and deliverables.	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			$ 1,500.00
Objective 4.1 - Have hired grant consultant coordinate/submit data packages to MSL and USGS (or ensure contractor submission); provide QA/QC checklist and final delivery report.	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			$ 1,000.00
Task 3.1.2 - Finalize Consultant Contract* Potential match funds for USGS 3DHP initiative.	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			$ 42,000.00
*$8,000 allocated for grant/GIS consultant. The $42,000 for 3DHP contract in hopes of finding a match with USGS grant initiative. If the grant is not awarded through USGS, these funds are for CCT to procure a USGS 3DHP contractor independently.					
		Totals:	0		$ 50,000.00

Authorizing Statement

I hereby certify that I have read the above application for the FY2026 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.

Harlan Baker	Tribal Chairman
Applicant Authorized Signer Name	Title
H L B L	2.25.26
Signature	Date
Santana Wells	Tribal Water Resources Director
Applicant Signer Name	Title
Santana Wells	2/25/26
Signature	Date

Complete Grant Application Package Received by:

Applicant Signer Name	Title
Signature	Date

For Proper Credit, Remit To:

Chippewa Cree Tribe
96 N. Clinic Rd.
Box Elder, MT. 59521

TIN# 81-0242827

TO: Montana State Library
Erin Fashoway
1515 E 6th Avenue
Helena, MT. 59620

Statement of Account	Chippewa Cree Tribe, Hill County			
Date	**Description**	**Quantity**	**Amount**	**Total**
2/25/2026	MGIA Grant- Chippewa Cree Tribe			
	CCT 3DHP Hydrography Project.	1	$45,000	$45,000
TOTAL				**$45,000**