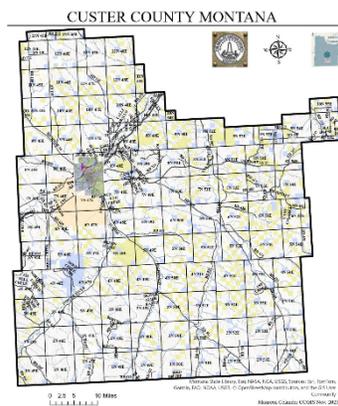


**MONTANA GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION ACT
GRANT APPLICATION
STATE FISCAL
YEARS 2027-2028
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2028**

***CUSTER COUNTY
IMPROVE LAND RECORDS: PLSS***



APPLICATION FOR FY2027 MGIA GRANT FUNDING

SECTION 1 – ORGANIZATION, PARTNER, AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Primary Applicant Contact Information <i>(Please fill this section out in its entirety)</i>	
Name of Agency/Entity:	Custer County, Montana
Department:	GIS
Division/Section:	Mapping
Street:	1010 Main St., Ste. 2
City:	Miles City
County:	Custer
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59301
Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	Maureen Celandor
Title:	GIS Manager/Zoning Administrator
Email Address:	mcelandor@custercountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-874-4024
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information	
Name:	Jason Strouf
Title:	County Commissioner Chairman
Email Address	j.strouf@custercountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-874-3352
Authorized Signer Contact Information	
Name	Jason Strouf
Title	County Commissioner Chairman
Email Address	j.strouf@custercountymt.gov
Phone Number	406-874-3352
Funding Partners <i>(required for each partner, add rows as needed)</i>	
Name of Contact:	NA

Proposal Information	
Date Submitted:	February 17, 2026
Identified Grant Priority: <i>*See the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for information on priorities.</i>	MSDI Framework Cadastral PLSS
Proposal Prepared By:	Maureen Celander
Short Title of Proposal:	Improvement to Public Land Survey System in Custer County, Montana
Executive Summary	
<p>Montana's Cadastral Framework layer was originally based on the Bureau of Land Management's Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB), which is known to be spatially inaccurate in several areas within Custer County due to the lack of Survey Control Points. These inaccuracies are problematic when authoritative GIS data is combined with the Cadastral Framework.</p> <p>Custer County is located in SE Montana and is the medical and shopping hub for this corner of the State. The population is slowly increasing and with this increase the public has increasing expectations for local governance.</p> <p>Custer County is in the process of updating the zoning mapping and regulations which were last completed over ten years ago. The newly proposed zoning map appears to have errors based on this data not matching spatially with the Cadastral Framework.</p> <p>The goal of this grant is to improve the spatial inaccuracies through a collaborative effort using a licensed surveyor to submit survey control corner records and control points within Custer County. The priority area of focus will be the area of the County within the zoning administrative boundary. This area is expected to have the most use geographically from both the private and professional sectors according to the Custer County Growth Policy. Given that the public uses the Cadastral property layers frequently, there presents a problem with property location accuracy and potential distrust or frustration when spatially accurate information is used in comparison to Plats and Certificates of Survey references, and where glaring incongruences are apparent.</p> <p>This grant will facilitate the collection of mapping control points collected through a contracted organization for the two-year grant cycle and will use the recently placed RTN, Real Time Network Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) antenna, and technology and professional survey techniques and tools. The data will be sent to MSDI theme stewards so as to ultimately improve the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and Public Land Survey System standardized data for the Cadastral National Spatial Data Infrastructure, (PLSS CadNSDI), and increase spatial accuracy for areas in Custer County.</p>	
MGIA Grant Funding Request and Match	
Total Requested MGIA Funds:	\$59,478
Total Matched Funds:	\$12,792

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

Both County and City governments rely on accurate PLSS data for effective zoning, land-use planning, elections, and ensuring that development complies with community needs and regulations. Accurate measurements are essential for construction of public infrastructure like roads, bridges, and utility lines. This helps reduce the risk of disputes between neighbors and legal challenges to both private and public entities and avoiding costly mistakes caused by encroachments or regulatory violations. This will also help in geo-enabled elections data to better determine the accurate location of voters when the parcel lines and voting district lines are very close or in question. Custer County has stated that one of the goals of the growth policy is to ensure an updated and accurate zoning record including both regulations and mapping. This grant project will help in achieving this goal which is a benefit to the citizens, and the future development of the area. The Montana Geospatial Information Plan | FY 26 – 28 listed this MSDI theme for improving the Cadastral Framework within the State of Montana and as a grant priority. This project will help with collecting 40 PLSS points and improving the precision and accuracy of this data set. During the comment period for the Montana Geospatial Information Plan and the GIS Coordination Strategic Plan, developed in 2025, the most frequent comment we received was to help make the Cadastral Framework more spatially accurate. We are endeavoring to meet that need with these grant funds. We also plan to promote use of the recently installed, Montana State Reference Network, MTSRN, antenna in this project. With encouraging local professionals to utilize this service in this project, we know this will be a benefit to Montana and help our local professionals to become familiar with this service within Montana and Custer County.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

The proposed project will be guided and administered by Maureen Celandier, Custer County GIS Manager, as the primary project manager, (mcelander@custercountymt.gov). This project will be a cooperative effort with Custer County Geographical Information Systems, GIS, the Custer County Commissioner Chairman, Jason Strouf, Custer County Clerk and Recorder for records regarding parcel data, ownerships and corner records, the Custer County Zoning Administrator for help in updating vital location data for a new County zoning map, The City of Miles City, and contracted consultant.

For the past three years, Maureen has worked as the Custer County GIS Manager. In this time, two grants with the Montana State Library Grant Program have been successfully completed with Maureen acting as the project manager and liaison. In both grant projects, Maureen completed both the fieldwork and management of the projects and management of the contracted consultants. These same abilities will carry forward into managing this project. With over 30 years of experience as a Montana business owner, Maureen managed projects and employees. With 10 years of experience as the managing member of a property development company in Arizona, all construction projects, under her management, were completed timely and under budget. Maureen has over 22 years in experience as a commercial, agriculture and residential appraiser with the Montana Department of Revenue. Maureen is conscientious and will work to obtain the best possible outcomes for this project to be a reality for the State of Montana and Custer County.

The office of the County Commissioners Chair, represented by Jason Strouf, Chairman, will have oversight on the project, help maintain accountability, and serve as the secondary project manager as needed. Jason Strouf has been a Custer County Commissioner since 2015. Jason has served in many capacities with the Montana Association of Counties including as President of the Association and is currently the Fiscal Officer. (j.strouf@custercountymt.gov)

In 2024, Custer County completed the establishment of an RTN Station, which was completed on time and under budget for FY_2024_06 Custer County RTN. Maureen was the primary contact and manager for reporting and for administration of the consultants. Custer County will encourage the use of the RTN antenna and this will promote the RTN use for the established equipment in locating accurate corner data for this project.

In 2023 Custer County completed the collection of all Custer County culverts, cattle guards, bridges and fire apparatus to complete the awarded grant on time and within budget for the FY_2023_08 Custer County GIS. This demonstrates that project milestones and the reporting requirements will be met with this current proposed project. Contracts with consultants will be obtained following the procurement policies for Custer County, as in previous grants. All project deliverables will be coordinated with the Montana State Library grants administrator assigned to this project and Jeff Hedstrom, to ensure a successful collection and submission of PLSS control points in Custer County.

SECTION 4 – SCOPE OF WORK

- Goal 1. Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) for Custer County Area
- Objective 1.1. Sign all relevant documents with Montana State Library
 - Task 1.1.1. Enter into a grant funding agreement with the Montana State Library with all authorized signers.
 - Completion Date: July 10, 2026
 - Objective 1.2. Develop Work Plan Priorities
 - Task 1.2.1. Prioritize and Map PLSS Control Collection following MSL procedures.
 - Completion Date: July 16, 2026
 - Objective 1.3. Contract Montana Licensed Surveyor
 - Task 1.3.1. Finalize Consultant Contract and sign with all authorized parties. Part of contract will include the MT-RTN subscription for two years.
 - Completion Date: July 30, 2026
 - Objective 1.4. Mandatory, in-person meeting, in Helena, MT
 - Task 1.4.1. Travel & attend mandatory, in-person kick-off meeting.
 - Completion Date: August 14, 2026
 - Objective 1.5. Commence field work with contracted consultant PLSS collections
 - Task 1.5.1. Obtain Owner's Consent: Research ownerships, draft & send request letters.
 - Completion Date: August 21, 2026
 - Task 1.5.2. Review & Prioritized Survey Locations with Contractor
 - Completion Date: August 24, 2026
 - Task 1.5.3. Research Corner Records: Retrieve existing corner records, field notes, & all other pertinent data from County Clerk & Recorder records.
 - Completion Date: November 24, 2026
 - Objective 1.6. Prepare Deliverables
 - Task 1.6.1. Quarterly Quality Control of Data. Review & verify & correct if needed.
 - Completion Date: March 18, 2027
 - Task 1.6.2. Process Survey Data & Corner Records as it is available from field work.
 - Completion Date: March 28, 2027
 - Task 1.6.3. Retrieve, digitize, and attribute newly recorded documents.
 - Completion Date: April 29, 2027
 - Task 1.6.4. Finalize Data for Submittal to MT State Library-GIS Coordinator-review or corrections of processed data.
 - Completion Date: May 28, 2027
 - Task 1.6.5. Final Quality Control of Deliverables & submission of PLSS deliverables.
 - Completion Date: June 28, 2027
 - Task 1.6.6. Final Deliverable Grant Presentation
 - Completion Date: June 28, 2027

SECTION 5 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE

The Improvement to the Public Land Survey System, PLSS, for Custer County, Montana will provide 40 survey control points within the Custer County Area. This grant will provide the essential funding to complete this two-year project for Custer County with a more precise Cadastral Framework in this area. Local consultants, who are qualified to help complete this work, have given an amount of \$200.00 per hour and seven hours per point which totals \$1,400.00 dollars per point. This would include all travel expense, corner record preparations, recordation's, and deliverables. It is also confirmed that for a project with multiple points the price would be closer to the \$1,375.00 per point which is what is budgeted. The staff of Custer County will work to establish the correct contractor for the work and engage in an official signed contract with the chosen contractor. Custer County staff will work to assist with research work, quality assurance and quality control for this project. This will require the staff to spend hours ensuring quarterly reporting is completed on time, researching ownerships and sending requests for access to corner locations for the required fieldwork. Organizing the current corner records and scanning the certified records to digital format. County Staff will also work to ensure the grant deliverables are reviewed and ready for submission to the Montana State Library. County staff will also meet the requirements of traveling for the kickoff meeting in Helena, MT, and preparing and presenting the grant outcomes at a beneficial outlet. As shown in the attached MGIA Grant Detailed Budget Table, the costs associated with this project are broken into four categories. Personnel (incl. fringe benefits), Travel, Contractual, and Other. All personnel costs are considered in-kind costs, and will be covered by Custer County to enable this project to become a reality for our area of the State of Montana. Travel costs are considered MGIA grant funds to fulfill requirements of the requested grant. Contractual costs will be covered by MGIA grant funds to hire a qualified consultant to help the County achieve a desired update to the Montana Cadastral Framework for this area. The category of Other is to have a two-year subscription to help utilize the MTSRN that was installed in Custer County and promote its use in this project. The MTMC Station of the MTSRN was installed in Custer County in 2024 with grant funds from the Montana State Library. Custer County is requesting MGIA grant funds in the amount of \$59,478.00. Custer County In-Kind funds of \$12,792.00, represents about 18% of this budget. This will fully finance this project and fulfill multiple requests to have an updated Cadastral Framework.

SECTION 6 – PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Improvement to the Public Land Survey System, PLSS, for Custer County, Montana will be a collaborative effort between Custer County GIS, Custer County Commissioners, and the Contractor. The County has dedicated staff to ensure the goals, objectives, and tasks for this project are successfully met and will be sustained beyond these grant funds. The Custer County GIS department was initiated with Montana State Library funds and has grown to administer both geospatial and non-spatial data for the County. The Next Gen 9-1-1 data was previously contracted and now is maintained within Custer County GIS Department for all three Counties in the local Dispatch Department. Redistricting and addressing corrections helped the County Elections Department have a more accurate picture of the precincts and voter locations. This project will further enhance the PLSS and Cadastral alignments within the County. This project will benefit the ongoing development and growth in the County and Miles City area as new subdivision surveys are added. The organization of the corner records for the County will continue after the project has completed successfully, helping future research for corner records in Custer County. This will help continue the improvement to the MSDI theme for the Public Land Survey System and the Cadastral Framework. The use of the MTSRN station as part of this project will promote using this subscription service within the State of Montana beyond the submission of the project deliverables. Utilizing our resources and keeping information current will continue to improve the GIS program in Custer County, Montana and strengthen the work in the MSDI themes.

SECTION 7 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

No MGIA Grant data for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 due to funding shortages.

FY 2024 MGIA Grant - Establishment of Custer County RTN station MGIA_FY2024_06 Custer County. This grant was a pilot project to help establish a buildout for a real time network in an area of the State of Montana that had a large gap and lack of access to a reference station for data collection. This project helped fill that gap and allow for more complete data to increase the accuracy of measurements from distant-dependent biases and the result of more accurate coordinates. Due to 2023 legislative action, there was a need to update the Administrative Rules of Montana governing this type of project. This caused an unforeseen delay to starting this project. Overcoming these delays, the project was still completed on time and under budget.

FY 2023 MLIA Grant – Custer County GIS MLIA_2023_08. This project was to focus on building a geospatial database containing critical transportation point data for use with Custer County emergency services and Custer County Road Department. The long-term benefit shows the location points of bridges, culverts, cattle guards, and fire apparatus and assets for improved public safety and emergency response. There were two amendments to the original statement of work. On April 25, 2023 an extension request was submitted due to changes in personnel. The inclement weather in the winter, in Montana, also hindered the ability to collect culvert data for the project. The extension was granted and the new completion date was set for May 17, 2024. The second amendment to the grant was made on July 24, 2023 to adjust the budget amount for changes in quoted equipment. We requested the unused equipment funds to be added for personnel to complete the collection of data. We also added some of the travel funds to personnel. The work was completed and the deliverables submitted within the granted extension. All quarterly reports were filed timely and the data has continued to be a benefit to Custer County.

FY 2020 MLIA Grant - Support GIS for Public Safety & Emergency Response: Next Gen 911. This project enhanced the overall effectiveness of the Geographic Information System program for Custer County. The project addressed several issues the County was facing including the need to build road alias tables and collect hydrant data utilizing ArcGIS Online and Collector App. The data layer created is up to date and relevant. Emergency personnel have this needed data. The Next Gen 911 mapping has an alias table which aids in routing and response times and a fire hydrant feature class with hardware and system information that ensures infrastructure is intact and functioning properly. This project involved significant collaboration between Custer County and Miles City staff as the two jurisdictions collaborate on emergency services. Project management was completed by County staff who are no longer in this role, but current County staff are building on the work that was completed in this project.



Custer County



From the office of
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair, Jason Strouf 406.874.3352 • Jeff Faycosh 406.874.3350 • Kevin Krausz 406.874.3351
1010 Main Street, Suite 22 MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

February 13, 2026

Senior Advisory Committee
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

To Whom It May Concern

We authored this letter of support for the Custer County GIS department Grant submittal for a project in Custer County.

This project is for **Improvements to Public Land Survey System, PLSS**, for the Custer County Area.

With the survey response from the Montana Geospatial Plan, we heard from several submittals asking for an update to the Montana Cadastral Framework.

This project will help meet that request.

With more geospatially correct Cadastral lines, it will help with property voter location identification, new and expanding development areas within Custer County, zoning area lines, and addressing identification, which will help our disaster and emergency services.

Sincerely,

Jason Strouf, Chairman

Jeff Faycosh

Kevin Krausz



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
DEPARTMENT



CITY OF MILES CITY

17 So. 8th Street
P.O. Box 910
Miles City, MT 59301

Telephone: (406) 234-3493
Fax: (406) 234-6392

February 12, 2026

Senior Advisory Committee
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

The City of Miles City, Public Works, GIS and addressing would like to express our support for Custer County GIS and Improvements to Public Land Survey System, PLSS, for the Custer County, Miles City area. Improvements to the Montana Cadastral Framework in our area would be very beneficial for many City of Miles City departments.

Please consider this a letter of support for this project and continued support for the Improvements to Public Land Survey System.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Malenovsky'.

Samantha Malenovsky
Public Works Director



February 10, 2026

Ref: Letter of Support for the Custer County GIS Grant supporting Custer County- Miles City, MT
Improvements to Public Land Survey System, PLSS

To Whom it May Concern,

South Eastern Montana Dispatch provides first responders in Custer County with important information and communication needed to provide quick response for emergency incidents. The importance of complete and accurate mapping systems is a must in providing responders correct information of the area they are responding to. As South Eastern Montana Dispatch moves forward with Next Generation 911 (NG911) addressing has become a focus in ensuring that the correct Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is receiving the correct GIS information from the 911 caller. Seconds save lives, and the first question asked in any 911 call is "Where is your emergency?" Accurate addresses for emergency response is a vital part of 911.

This grant application will have a positive impact on South Eastern Montana Dispatch and the emergency responding agencies within Custer County and the Public Land Survey System. The following grant submitted for your review will have an impact in correcting Cadastral lines, zoning area lines, expanding development areas with Custer County, property voter location identification and addressing information.

Please consider this letter of support for this grant project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lyne F. Anderson', is written in a cursive style.

Lyne F. Anderson
911 Director
South Eastern Montana Dispatch



CUSTER COUNTY
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
1010 MAIN ST., SUITE 2
MILES CITY, MT 59301
406-874-3490



February 11, 2026

Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

Senior Advisory Committee Members:

The Custer County Disaster and Emergency Services would like to express our support of the Custer County GIS grant application for the Custer County Improvement to Public Land Survey System, (PLSS), Project. This project would help give us more accurate coordinates data for maps we would use in a disaster response and other data. Please consider this letter of support for this project.

Sincerely, 

Cory Cheguis,
County Coordinator
Disaster and Emergency Services



Custer County Local Emergency Planning Committee
1010 Main Street, Suite 2, Miles City, MT 59301

2/10/2026

Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

Senior Advisory Committee Members:

Custer County LEPC has reviewed and approves and supports the Custer County GIS Grant Application for collection of PLSS points in Custer County. This work will benefit the community as a whole and provide more accurate Cadastral data for emergency planning and preparedness.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cory Chegus", is written over a horizontal line.

Cory Chegus
Custer County LEPC Chair

FY2027 MGIA Grant Application - Proposed Survey Control Point Collection*
Custer County Montana

Organization:

Custer County Improve Land Records:PLSS

Project Name:

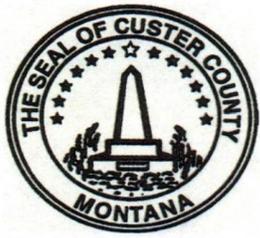
Identified Project Manager:

Maureen Celander

Number	Township	Range	Section	Quarter	Corner	Priority	Approval Status
(This is where the grantee will identify the corners for collection)						(Priority Corner vs. Alternate Corner) Grantee /MSL Action	(Approved or Not Approved) MSL Action
1	8N	47E	36	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
2	8N	47E	36	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
3	8N	47E	36	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
4	8N	47E	35	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
5	8N	47E	35	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
6	8N	47E	35	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
7	8N	47E	34	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
8	8N	47E	34	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
9	8N	47E	33	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
10	8N	47E	29	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
11	8N	47E	29	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
12	8N	47E	29	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
13	8N	47E	28	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
14	8N	47E	26	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
15	8N	47E	26	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
16	8N	47E	25	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
17	8N	47E	24	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
18	8N	47E	24	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
19	8N	47E	22	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
20	8N	47E	20	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
21	8N	47E	17	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
22	8N	47E	16	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
23	8N	47E	16	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
24	8N	47E	16	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
25	8N	47E	16	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
26	8N	47E	15	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
27	8N	47E	14	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
28	8N	47E	13	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
29	8N	47E	29	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
30	7N	47E	15	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
31	7N	47E	14	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
32	7N	47E	13	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
33	7N	47E	13	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
34	7N	47E	11	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
35	7N	47E	10	SE	SECTION	High Priority	
36	7N	47E	10	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
37	7N	47E	8	NW	SECTION	High Priority	
38	7N	47E	6	NE	SECTION	High Priority	
39	7N	47E	3	SW	SECTION	High Priority	
40	7N	47E	2	SE	SECTION	High Priority	

*Proposed PLSS Control - This form is only required for applicants proposing PLSS/survey control projects. Those applicants must complete this form with their proposed collection information and upload it with their respective grant applications in the "Final Submission" folder.

Please do your best to fill this form out, MSL will work internally to research and review points upon award and prior to executing statement of work. It is best to have more points in the proposed list than what is requested for funding. Please insert as many lines as necessary into this excel worksheet. Please do not enter any information in the Approval Status category. MSL will work with the approved grant project Project Managers to approve points. This points are proposed and upon further research, alternative points may be required for collection.



CUSTER COUNTY
1010 MAIN ST., STE 2
MILES CITY, MT 59301



INVOICE

 DATE

Please Remit Payment To:
 Custer

BILL TO:
 State of

DATE	NOTE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	HOURS	AMOUNT

PERSONNEL			SHORT DESCRIPTION	UNIT \$	HOURS	AMOUNT
DATES WORKED	NAME					

TRAVEL			SHORT DESCRIPTION	MILES	RATE	AMOUNT

Please Remit This Amount: