

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

***IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC LAND  
SURVEY SYSTEM (PLSS) – GOLDEN  
VALLEY, MUSSELSHELL, AND  
WHEATLAND COUNTIES***



# 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>	
<b>Name of Agency/Entity:</b>	State of Montana
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Revenue
<b>Division/Section:</b>	Property Assessment Division
<b>Street:</b>	125 N Roberts St
<b>City:</b>	Helena
<b>County:</b>	Lewis and Clark
<b>State:</b>	Montana
<b>Zip Code:</b>	59601
Project Manager Contact Information:	
<b>Name:</b>	Chad Addleman
<b>Title:</b>	GIS Manager
<b>Email Address:</b>	caddleman@mt.gov
<b>Phone Number:</b>	406-329-1409
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Taylor Padden, Savannah Sawyer
<b>Title:</b>	GIS Analyst
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:Taylor.padden@mt.gov">Taylor.padden@mt.gov</a> , savannah.sawyer@mt.gov
<b>Phone Number:</b>	406-230-0820
Authorized Signer Contact Information	
<b>Name</b>	Tracy Morano
<b>Title</b>	Operations Director
<b>Email Address</b>	tmorano@mt.gov
<b>Phone Number</b>	406-444-4008
Funding Partners <i>(required for each partner, add rows as needed)</i>	
<b>Name of Contact:</b>	N/A

<b>Name of Agency:</b>	N/A
<b>Street:</b>	N/A
<b>City:</b>	N/A
<b>County:</b>	N/A
<b>State:</b>	N/A
<b>Zip Code:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Email Address:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Phone Number:</b>	N/A

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

<b>Proposal Information</b>	
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	2/24/2026
<b>Identified Grant Priority:</b> <i>*See the <a href="#">Montana Geospatial Info Plan</a> for information on priorities.</i>	Cadastral
<b>Proposal Prepared By:</b>	Savannah Sawyer, Taylor Padden, Jack Schloesser, and Chad Addleman
Short Title of Proposal:	Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) – Golden Valley, Musselshell, and Wheatland counties
<b>Executive Summary</b>	
<p>Montana’s Cadastral framework layer was originally based on the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB). This database is known to be spatially inaccurate in several areas of Golden Valley, Musselshell, and Wheatland counties along Montana Highway 12 and south, primarily due to the lack of survey control points. These inaccuracies are especially prevalent in and around the communities of Shawmut, Lavina, Two Dot, Roundup, and Melstone, where parcel misalignments approaching 500 feet have been observed.</p> <p>These inaccuracies are particularly problematic when authoritative GIS data is combined with the cadastral framework, resulting in mistrust and/or misuse of data. It is the goal of the Department of Revenue to address these spatial inaccuracies through a collaborative effort. The proposed solution to this problem is to acquire better survey control, using a land surveyor contracted by the Department of Revenue, to improve the accuracy of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in these counties. Enhancing the PLSS, through control surveys and in support of geodetic controls, allows for adjustment of cadastral and administrative boundaries to represent on-the-ground conditions more accurately. These adjustments affect several key stakeholders, including taxpayers, and will improve spatial data used by both the</p>	

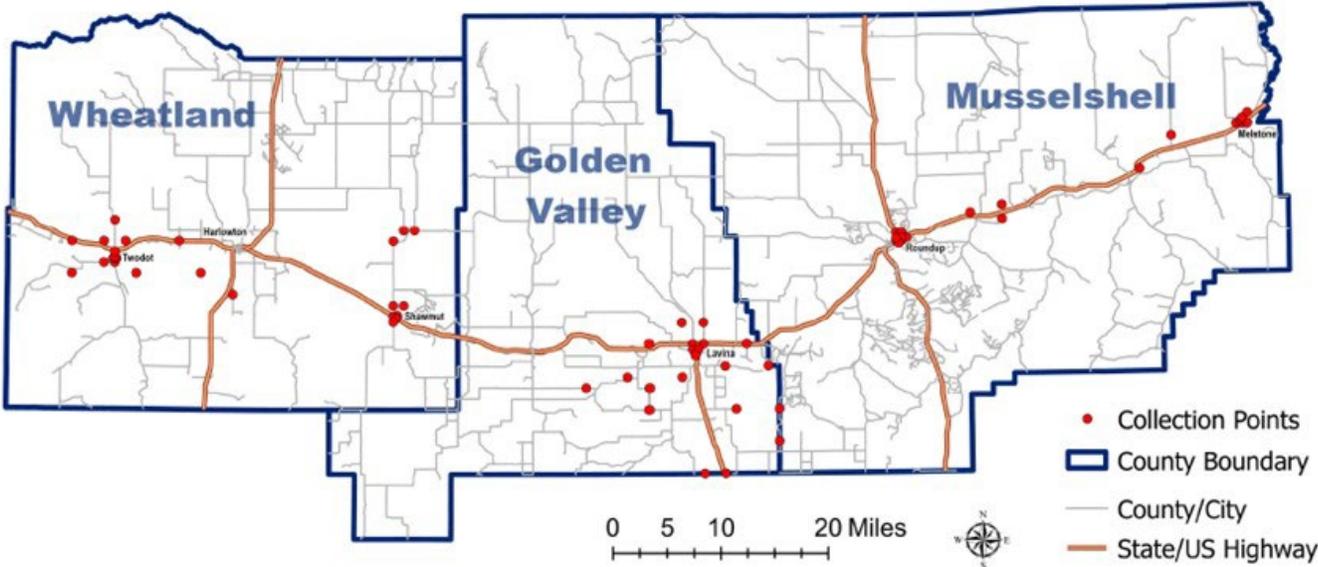
public and local governments. As mapping control data is collected by a licensed surveyor, the Department of Revenue’s consultant, reviewed by the Department of Revenue’s GIS team, and submitted to the MSDI theme stewards—the proposed project will improve the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) and Public Land Survey System (PLSS) standardized data for the Cadastral National Spatial Data Infrastructure (PLSS CadNSDI) to increase spatial accuracy for the area in and around Shawmut, Lavina, Two Dot, and Melstone, and more.

<b>MGIA Grant Funding Request and Match</b>	
<b>Total Requested MGIA Funds:</b>	\$70,000
<b>Total Matched Funds:</b>	\$5,000
<b>Total Matched In-Kind Funds:</b>	\$5,000

**SECTION 2 – PUBLIC BENEFIT**

This project improves the PLSS system across Wheatland, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties in alignment with the MSDI Cadastral Framework by enhancing the digital representation of PLSS sections and corners, resulting in direct public benefit. Updating PLSS boundaries means the maps people use to understand land ownership and location are more accurate and consistent. When these maps are correct, landowners, surveyors, emergency responders, and local governments are all working from the same reliable information. Publishing the data and documentation publicly makes it easier for people to access trustworthy land information without having to request it or recreate it, saving time and reducing confusion. Overall, the project supports more efficient coordination across agencies and improves the reliability of shared cadastral data used by Montana communities.

*Figure 1. Preliminary Selection of Collection Points*



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### **SECTION 3 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY**

The proposed project will be carried out by the Montana Department of Revenue (DOR) GIS team, led by Chad Addleman, who will serve as the Primary Project Manager. The DOR team manages and maintains geospatial data used by the Property Assessment Division using Esri Enterprise tools and established GIS workflows, enabling the development and maintenance of accurate, accessible cadastral data that supports Property Assessment Division staff, public users, and the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) cadastral framework. The Primary Project Manager will oversee project coordination, communication with the Montana State Library, schedule management, and submission of required progress and final reports. Savannah Sawyer/Taylor Padden will serve as Secondary Project Manager(s), supporting coordination, technical review, and project management continuity throughout the grant period. The Department of Revenue has the software, hardware, and technical infrastructure necessary to complete a project of this scope.

Because the DOR GIS team works directly with PLSS-based datasets across Montana, it is well-positioned to identify PLSS misalignments, manage cross-county consistency, and implement corrections that improve the digital representation of PLSS sections and corners for long-term use. This project will apply those capabilities to ensure PLSS updates are implemented consistently across Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties in alignment with MSDI standards. The team will oversee project tasks, review deliverables, and ensure all outputs meet MGIA and MSDI requirements. The project managers will oversee all consultant work to ensure compliance with the approved scope of work, data and budget standards, and quality expectations. All consultant procurement will follow State of Montana procurement policies, and DOR GIS staff will remain responsible for reviewing deliverables and ensure final data and documentation meet MGIA and MSDI standards.

The DOR GIS team will coordinate with the Montana State Library to finalize the list of control points for survey collection and will oversee all consultant work to ensure compliance with the approved scope of work, budget, and data quality requirements. Consultant procurement will follow State of Montana procurement policies, and all deliverables will be reviewed by DOR GIS staff prior to acceptance. The DOR GIS team will meet all MGIA reporting and invoicing requirements and will coordinate directly with the Montana State Library throughout the project. Invoicing for reimbursement will be completed in accordance with State Library guidance and established state financial. procedures, ensuring all final data and documentation meet MGIA and MSDI requirements.

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## SECTION 4 – SCOPE OF WORK

### Goal 1.

Improvements to the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) – Golden Valley, Musselshell, and Wheatland County Area

#### Objective 1.1. Establish Survey Control Points

Task 1.1.1. Prioritize and map locations for survey data collection in coordination with Montana State Library procedures

Completion Date: July 17, 2026

#### Objective 1.2. Contract with Consultant

Task 1.2.1. Finalize survey consultant contract

Completion Date: August 3, 2026

#### Objective 1.3. Prepare for Field Work with Consultant

Task 1.3.1. Review prioritized survey locations with consultant

Completion Date: August 7, 2026

Task 1.3.2. Generate field maps and complete corner research in coordination with consultant

Completion Date: August 14, 2026

Task 1.3.3. Obtain landowner authorizations for survey access, as required, in coordination with consultant

Completion Date: August 21, 2026

#### Objective 1.4. Complete Survey Data Collection and Deliverables

Task 1.4.1. Submit collected survey data and file PLSS corner records in coordination with consultant

Completion Date: June 25, 2027

## SUBSECTION 5 – DELIVERABLES

- Collected survey control point data submitted to the Montana State Library
- Filed PLSS corner records for surveyed locations

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## **SECTION 5 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE**

Funding in the amount of \$70,000 is requested from the MGIA to support the collection of 88 control points across Wheatland, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties. The Department of Revenue GIS staff will work with the Montana State Library to determine the final list of control points to be collected. The DOR is contributing \$5,000 in matching funds and will also contribute \$5,000 in in-kind funds. This brings the total budget to \$80,000. The expenses will consist of contracting a Montana-registered land surveyor, deliverables, and recorded documents. This is ongoing maintenance in support of improving land records.

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

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## **SECTION 6 – PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

THE DOR PAD GIS unit is comprised of nine GIS professionals, who continue to enhance and maintain GIS data across the state. The DOR PAD GIS unit will further enhance our PLSS and parcel cadastral alignment with this survey. Furthermore, the survey will cover more areas of the state lacking PLSS control points, which will eventually reduce dependencies on MLIA funding for this kind of project. The DOR’s consultant will preferably be well vested and be able to perform work on new land splits, certificate of surveys, subdivisions, and floodplain review. The DOR PAD GIS unit provides technical expertise in GIS technology to create, maintain, and display spatial and non-spatial data. Once the survey is completed the layer and associated data will be handed over to Jeff Hedstrom at the Montana State library where the information will be used to align PLSS townships and sections with the new control points. Integrating these layers into the State Library is key to the overall accuracy of the state framework.

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## **SECTION 7 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Montana Department of Revenue has not received MGIA or MLIA grant funding in the past five years. A review of publicly available MGIA/MLIA grant award records, along with internal agency documentation, did not identify any prior grant-funded projects requiring reporting under this section. While the Department does not have past MGIA/MLIA project performance to summarize, we recognize the importance of strong project oversight, timely deliverables, and transparent reporting. If awarded funding, the Department is prepared to follow established project management practices to ensure milestones are met, deliverables are completed on schedule, and all required grant reporting and accountability measures are fully satisfied.

Montana Department of Revenue

MGIA GRANT DETAILED BUDGET TABLE

Tasks	Category Type	Funding Source	Hours	Rate	Cost
Task 1.1.1 - Finalize Collection Point List	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 300.00
Task 1.2.1. Finalize survey consultant contract	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			\$ 65,000.00
Task 1.2.1. Finalize survey consultant contract	Contractual	Montana Department of Revenue Cash			\$ 2,000.00
Task 1.2.1. Finalize survey consultant contract	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 1,500.00
Task 1.3.1. Review prioritized survey locations with consultant	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			\$ 1,200.00
Task 1.3.1. Review prioritized survey locations with consultant	Contractual	Montana Department of Revenue Cash			\$ 1,000.00
Task 1.3.1. Review prioritized survey locations with consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 1,000.00
Task 1.3.2. Generate field maps; complete corner research w/consultant	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			\$ 1,350.00
Task 1.3.2. Generate field maps; complete corner research w/consultant	Contractual	Montana Department of Revenue Cash			\$ 1,000.00
Task 1.3.2. Generate field maps; complete corner research w/consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 1,200.00
Task 1.3.3. Obtain landowner authorizations for survey access w/consultant	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			\$ 1,050.00
Task 1.3.3. Obtain landowner authorizations for survey access w/consultant	Contractual	Montana Department of Revenue Cash			\$ 500.00
Task 1.3.3. Obtain landowner authorizations for survey access w/consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 500.00
Task 1.4.1. Submit survey data and file PLSS corner records w/consultant	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds			\$ 1,400.00
Task 1.4.1. Submit survey data and file PLSS corner records w/consultant	Contractual	Montana Department of Revenue Cash			\$ 500.00
Task 1.4.1. Submit survey data and file PLSS corner records w/consultant	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Montana Department of Revenue In-Kind			\$ 500.00
<b>Totals:</b>				<del> </del>	\$ 80,000.00

**FY2027 MGIA Grant Application - Proposed Survey Control Point Collection\***

Organization: **Department of Revenue**  
 Project Name: **Cadastral Improvement FY27 MGIA Grant**

Identified Project Manager: **Chad Addeleman, GIS Manager**

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) /MSL Action	(Approved or Not Approved) MSL Action
1	6N	22E	31	SW	Township	First Priority	
2	6N	22E	19	SW	Section	First Priority	
3	6N	22E	6	NW	Township	First Priority	
4	6N	22E	2	NE	Section	First Priority	
5	6N	22E	2	NW	Section	First Priority	
6	6N	22E	2	W	1/4	First Priority	
7	6N	22E	2	Center	1/4	First Priority	
8	6N	22E	2	W	1/16	First Priority	
9	6N	23E	8	SW	Section	First Priority	
10	6N	23E	3	SE	Section	First Priority	
11	6N	23E	33	SW	Section	First Priority	
12	6N	23E	11	SE	Section	First Priority	
16	04N	23E	6	NW	Closing Section	First Priority	
17	5N	23E	31	SE	Standard	First Priority	
18	7N	18E	19		Townsite	First Priority	
19	7N	18E	19	SW	Section	First Priority	
20	7N	18E	30		Remainder Alike	First Priority	
21	7N	18E	19	NW	Section	First Priority	
22	7N	18E	19	NE	Section	First Priority	
23	7N	17E	30	W	1/4	First Priority	
24	8N	13E	31	SW	Township	First Priority	
25	8N	13E	18	SW	Section	First Priority	
26	8N	13E	27	SW	Section	First Priority	
27	8N	13E	26	SW	Section	First Priority	
28	8N	13E	26	NW	1/256	First Priority	
29	8N	13E	27	NE	1/256	First Priority	
30	8N	13E	26	W	1/256	First Priority	
31	8N	13E	26	NW	Section	First Priority	
32	8N	13E	15	SW	Section	First Priority	
33	8N	13E	13	SW	Section	First Priority	
34	8N	25E	13	C-S	1/16	First Priority	
35	8N	25E	12	S	1/16	First Priority	
36	8N	25E	13	NW	Section	First Priority	
37	8N	25E	13	N	1/4	First Priority	
38	8N	25E	13	E	1/4	First Priority	
39	8N	25E	13	Center	1/4	First Priority	
40	8N	25E	13	W	1/16	First Priority	
41	8N	25E	12	E	1/4	First Priority	
42	8N	27E	3	NW	Section	First Priority	
43	8N	27E	3	SW	Section	First Priority	
44	8N	27E	6	N	1/16	First Priority	
45	10N	31E	30	SW	Section	First Priority	
46	10N	31E	30	S	1/4	First Priority	
47	10N	31E	30	SE	Section	First Priority	
48	10N	31E	30		Townsite	First Priority	
49	10N	31E	30	Center	1/4	First Priority	
50	10N	31E	30	NE	Section	First Priority	
51	14N	27E	6	SW	Section	First Priority	
52	14N	27E	6	SE	Section	First Priority	
53	14N	27E	6	C-S	1/16	First Priority	
54	14N	27E	6	N	1/4	First Priority	
55	14N	27E	6	Center	1/4	First Priority	
56	15N	23E	28	SE	Section	First Priority	
57	15N	23E	28	E	1/16	First Priority	
58	15N	23E	28	E	1/4	First Priority	
59	15N	23E	19		Townsite	First Priority	
60	15N	23E	27	NE	Section	First Priority	
61	15N	23E	33		Townsite	First Priority	
62	18N	14E	16	SW	Section	Second Priority	
63	18N	14E	16	C-S	1/16	Second Priority	
64	18N	14E	16	SE	Section	Second Priority	
65	18N	14E	16	Center	1/4	Second Priority	
66	18N	14E	16	S	1/16	Second Priority	
67	6N	23N	36	SE	Township	Second Priority	
68	7N	22E	22	SW	Section	Second Priority	
69	7N	22E	24	SW	Section	Second Priority	
70	8N	14E	14	SW	Section	Second Priority	
72	8N	18E	17	NW	Section	Second Priority	
73	8N	18E	17	NE	Section	Second Priority	
74	8N	18E	18	SW	Section	Second Priority	
75	15N	23E	34	SW	Section	Second Priority	
76	15N	23E	28	NW	Section	Second Priority	
77	14N	27E	6	NW	Township	Third Priority	
78	6N	21E	14	SW	Section	Third Priority	
79	8N	13E	2	SW	Section	Third Priority	
80	8N	13E	36	SE	Township	Third Priority	
81	8N	15E	31	SW	Township	Third Priority	
82	6N	21E	19	SW	Section	Third Priority	
83	7N	15E	10	SW	Section	Third Priority	
85	5N	24E	18	SW	Section	Third Priority	
86	9N	29E	15	SW	Section	Third Priority	
87	10N	30E	31	SW	Township	Third Priority	
88	6N	22E	15	SW	Section	Third 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.



STATE OF MONTANA  
PURCHASE ORDER

Date:		P.O. Number	
P.O.			
Requisition Number:		IFB/RFP Number:	
<b>BILL TO/SHIP TO INFORMATION</b>			
Bill To: Department of Revenue Purchasing and Facilities Unit PO Box 5805 125 N Roberts Helena, MT 59604-5805		Ship To: Department of Revenue  125 N Roberts  Helena, MT 59601	
Agency Contact: All questions regarding this purchase, including billing questions, should be directed to: Amanda Murphy at (406) 444-2999		Delivery:	
<b>VENDOR INFORMATION</b>			
Vendor:		Vendor Phone:	
		Vendor Email:	
Vendor Contact:		Federal ID No.:	
P.O. Total: \$		P.O. Terms: Net 30 days	
Vendor Signature:			
Nathan Showalter, Procurement Officer			Date:

PO #

Total \$