

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

***IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM
(PLSS) – VALLEY COUNTY***



FY2027 MGIA GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to review your application before submission. Incomplete applications or missing required documents may result in your proposal not being reviewed. Use it as a final quality-control step to confirm that every required section is complete, clear, and consistent.

Check that your final application package is complete, including:

- ✓ Completed Grant Application (this document)
- ✓ Budget spreadsheet
- ✓ Letter(s) of support from funding partner(s) (if applicable)
- ✓ Completed Proposed Survey Control Point Collection spreadsheet (if applicable)
- ✓ Invoice sample

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 <i>(Please fill this section out in its entirety)</i>	
Name of Agency/Entity:	Valley County
Department:	Commissioner
Division/Section:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Street:	501 Court Square #1
City:	Glasgow
County:	Valley
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59230
Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	John Fahlgren
Title:	Commissioner
Email Address:	jfahlgren@valleycountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-228-6219
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information	
Name:	Ed Malone
Title:	DES Coordinator
Email Address	emalone@valleycountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-785-7080
Authorized Signer Contact Information	
Name	Paul Tweten
Title	Commissioner Chairman
Email Address	ptweten@valleycountymt.gov

Phone Number	406-263-7893
Funding Partners <i>(required for each partner, add rows as needed)</i>	
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: <i>*See the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for information on priorities.</i>	Cadastral
Proposal Prepared By:	John Fahlgren
Short Title of Proposal:	Improvements to the PLSS – Valley County
Executive Summary	
<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 many areas of Valley County due to the lack of survey control points, most notable in the unincorporated towns of Hinsdale and Opheim. These inaccuracies are particularly problematic when more spatially accurate data is overlaid on the cadastral framework, resulting in mistrust and/or misuse of the data.</p> <p>The proposed solution to this problem is to acquire better survey control using Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technology and contribute these survey control points to the Mapping Control Framework to improve the spatial accuracy of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Valley County. By enhancing the PLSS, it allows for adjustments to be made to cadastral and administrative boundary datasets to be better spatially represented.</p> <p>These adjustments affect several key stakeholders and will improve spatial data used by both the public and local governments. Survey control point data will be collected</p>	

by a licensed professional surveyor, examined by Valley County, and forwarded to the MSDI theme stewards for processing. This project is closely aligned with the MSDI Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries framework themes that are prioritized within the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for grant funding.

MGIA Grant Funding Request and Match

Total Requested MGIA Funds:	\$15,000
Total Matched Funds:	\$2,000

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

There are several areas that are spatially inaccurate in Valley County, particularly around Hinsdale and Opheim, due to the lack of survey control points and the age of the original surveys, which were surveyed by the United States General Land Office (GLO) over 100 years ago. Local government departments rely on this data routinely to make informed planning, infrastructure management, land use regulation, taxation, and emergency response decisions. When cadastral and administrative boundary datasets are spatially inaccurate, decision-making becomes increasingly challenging and confidence in the data declines, potentially leading to delays, inefficiencies, and a greater risk of costly errors. Within the Town of Hinsdale, mapping discrepancies of nearly half a block (or over 100 feet) in some areas make it challenging to clearly identify lot ownership and determine the location of public road rights-of-way.

The proposed solution is to acquire better survey control using GNSS technology around the towns of Hinsdale and Opheim. These survey control points will be collected by a licensed professional surveyor and examined by Valley County to ensure that deliverable standards that are outlined in this grant are met. The survey PLSS location points will be distributed to the MSDI Mapping Control Framework theme steward to improve the spatial accuracy of the PLSS in Valley County. By enhancing the PLSS, it allows for adjustments to be made to cadastral and administrative boundary datasets to be better spatially represented. This project is closely aligned with the MSDI Cadastral and Administrative Boundaries framework themes that are prioritized within the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for grant funding.

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 proposed project will be undertaken by Valley County Commissioner John Fahlgren and DES Coordinator, Ed Malone. who have pertinent knowledge to support and sustain the project. Valley County contracts with Matt Pierce (MAPS) who has the software, hardware, and infrastructure necessary for a project of this scope. The MAPS utilizes ESRI Enterprise tools. Along with their extensive GIS knowledge, they can achieve its goal of providing comprehensive, accurate and accessible GIS data and services to support the unique business needs of Valley County and the communities it serves. The Clerk & Recorder maintains all recorded documents and works in collaboration with the GIS department on the proper recording of surveys and other parcel data.

John Fahlgren and Ed Malone will work together through all stages of this project to fulfill its goal of collecting new PLSS control data and improving the Montana spatial data accuracy for PLSS, cadastral, and administrative boundaries. Both John and Ed have decades of experience in project management, which includes reporting progress, meeting project milestones and communicating with external partners. John and Ed will coordinate work with Valley County’s contracted surveyor on this project. Valley County followed their procurement policy when contracting with the consultant. Procurement for professional services of architects, engineers, and land surveyors requires a request for qualification or proposal and processed through County Commissioners Office.

John Fahlgren will be the primary project manager, coordinating all aspects of this project, including communication with the consultant, who will complete the survey and data collection. John will also report progress to the State Library, as required. John will also manage the financial aspects of the project, as part of his regular duties as Valley County Commissioner. Ed Malone will serve as the secondary project manager, also coordinating with the consultant and the State Library, as needed. John and Ed will also work with Jeff Hedstrom at the State Library to determine the final list of control points for survey collection.

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

An outline of the scope of work is below:

Goal 1. Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) – Hinsdale & Opheim Areas

- Objective 1.1. Establish Survey Control Points
 - Task 1.1.1. Prioritize and Map Locations for Data Collection with State Library
 - Completion Date: July 8, 2026
- Objective 1.2. Finalize Scope of Work and Consultant
 - Task 1.2.1. Finalize Control Point Locations with State Library
 - Completion Date: July 15, 2026
 - Task 1.2.2. Finalize Contract with Consultant
 - Completion Date: July 31, 2026
- Objective 1.3. Preparation for Field Work
 - Task 1.3.1. Review of Prioritized Survey Locations
 - Completion Date: August 7, 2026
 - Task 1.3.2. Generate Field Maps and Conduct Corner Research
 - Completion Date: August 21, 2026
 - Task 1.3.3. Obtain Authorization from Landowners
 - Completion Date: September 4, 2026
 - Task 1.3.4. Perform Field Work to Collect Control Point Locations
 - Completion Date: August 27, 2027

Goal 2. Ensure Data Quality and Submit Corner Recordation Data

- Objective 2.1. Finalize Grant and Deliverables

- Task 2.1.1. Quality Check the Survey Control Point Data
-Completion Date: September 10, 2027
- Task 2.1.2. Match the Consultant Report to the State Library's Technical Requirements
-Completion Date: September 10, 2027
- Task 2.1.3. Submit Reports to the State Library
-Completion Date: October 15, 2027
- Task 2.1.4. Submit Collected Survey Data to the State Library
-Completion Date: October 15, 2027
- Task 2.1.5. File Corner Records at County Clerk & Recorder's Office
-Completion Date: October 15, 2027
- Task 2.1.6. Submit Corner Recordation Documents to the State Library
-Completion Date: November 12, 2027

A detailed scope of work is below:

Goal 1. Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) – Hinsdale & Opheim Areas

Objective 1.1: Establish Survey Control Points

Task 1.1.1 - Prioritize and Map Locations for Data Collection with State Library

The County will work with the State Library to prioritize and map locations to prepare for data collection.

Objective 1.2: Finalize Scope of Work and Consultant

Task 1.2.1 - Finalize Control Point Locations with State Library

The County will finalize its' control point locations with the State Library.

Deliverable: Control point locations spreadsheet

Task 1.2.2 - Finalize Contract with Consultant

The County will hire and finalize the contract for a consultant.

Deliverable: Signed contract with consultant

Objective 1.3: Preparation for Field Work

Task 1.3.1 - Review of Prioritized Survey Locations

The County will review each prioritized survey location with the consultant and make any necessary revision. The County will communicate back to the State Library with any proposed revisions to the control point locations

Task 1.3.2 - Generate Field Maps and Conduct Corner Research

The consultant will generate field maps of each of the locations to assist while collecting the control points

Deliverable: Field maps of collection area

Task 1.3.3 - Obtain Authorization from Landowners

The consultant will obtain authorization from landowners for those survey locations that are private property.

Task 1.3.4 - Perform Field Work to Collect Control Point Locations

The Consultant will perform the field work to collect coordinate positional information for all point locations designed in the collection plan. The consultant will certify that the accuracy of each control point meets the State Library's Technical Requirements that are defined in this project.

Deliverable: Certification by consultant stating that all points collected or obtained from other sources meet the accuracy requirements defined by this project.

Goal 2. Ensure Data Quality and Submit Corner Recordation Data

Objective 2.1: Finalize Grant and Deliverables

Task 2.1.1 - Quality Check the Survey Control Point Data

The county will quality check survey point data gathered for the grant by matching the Section Township Range along with quarter section and GCDB ID to those within the data collection plan. Ensure that the intended deliverables meet the submission standards. The data within the MCPD spreadsheet will follow MSDI Mapping Control data quality standards.

Task 2.1.2 - Match the Consultant Report to the State Library's Technical Requirements

The county will match the consultant's match with the State Library's technical requirements outlined in the grant package or agreed upon differences.

Task 2.1.3 - Submit Reports to the State Library

The county will submit the final reports to the State Library.

Task 2.1.4 - Submit Collected Survey Data to the State Library

The county will submit the collected survey data to the State Library via a method agreed upon by both parties. The MCPD spreadsheet deliverable will conform to MSDI Mapping Control data quality standards.

Deliverable: The MCPD spreadsheet confirming compliance with MSDI Mapping Control data quality standards

Task 2.1.5 - File Corner Records at County Clerk & Recorder's Office

The consultant will file corner records at the County Clerk & Recorder's Office for each of the survey locations. The county will ensure that these recorded documents are sent to the State Library.

Deliverable: Corner documents are recorded at County

Task 2.1.6 - Submit Corner Recordation Documents to the State Library

The county will submit corner recordation documents that are digitally available to the State Library.

Deliverable: Digitally available corner recordation documents

List of deliverables

1. Finalized control point locations spreadsheet
2. Signed contract with consultant
3. Field maps of collection area
4. Certification by consultant stating that all points collected or obtained from other sources meet accuracy requirements defined by this project.
5. The MCPD spreadsheet confirming compliance with MSDI Mapping Control data quality standards
6. Corner documents are recorded at County
7. Digitally available corner recordation documents

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

Valley County’s consultant for this project will survey approximately 30-35 control points within the Hinsdale and Opheim areas. The cost quote from Benchmark Surveying per control point is \$500.00 and includes all travel expenses, deliverables, and corner recordation. County staff will work with the consultant and the State Library to finalize the list of control points to be surveyed. The proposed cost for this project is \$17,000 (\$15,000 request MGIA funding + \$2,000 match cash). The county will also contribute in-kind work to the project. We are requesting grant funds of \$15,000 to cover contractual payment to the consultant. The consultant will conduct all his or her corner research and field work from funding of this proposed grant.

* See the MGIA_FY27_ValleyCounty_DetailedBudgetTable.xlsx within the submitted materials for a more detailed budget for the proposed project.

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

Valley County has experience hiring and managing projects with consultants in the past. The county has a long-standing and current contract to maintain and enhance their GIS data with MaPS, Inc. Matt Peierce at MaPS has been contracted to perform GIS duties including addresses and road naming within Valley County. He also collects data out in the county each year for new housing structures and road centerlines. The detailed data will soon be available on Valley County’s website. Valley County’s other consultant, Big Sky Engineering, performs work on new land splits, certificate of surveys, subdivisions, and floodplain review for Valley County.

Valley County has demonstrated successful grant management in the past. In 2022, the county applied and received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds received were allocated to three major projects: system upgrade to the Hinsdale water treatment facility, wastewater improvements to the Cherry Creek Water Users Association facility and system upgrades to the North Valley County facility.

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).

Not applicable to Valley County.

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

Organization:

Project Name:

Improvements to the PLS – Valley County

Identified Project Manager:

John Fahlgren, County Commissioner

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	31N	36E	31	SW	Township	First Priority	
2	31N	36E	31	SE	Section	First Priority	
3	31N	36E	31	S	1/4	First Priority	
4	31N	36E	31	S	1/16	First Priority	
5	31N	36E	31	SE	1/16	First Priority	
6	30N	36E	6	N	1/16	First Priority	
7	31N	36E	32	SE	Section	First Priority	
8	31N	36E	34	SE	Section	First Priority	
9	31N	36E	36	SE	Township	First Priority	
10	30N	36E	16	SE	Section	First Priority	
11	30N	36E	18	SW	Section	First Priority	
12	30N	36E	5	SE	Standard	First Priority	
13	30N	35E	1	NW	Closing Section	First Priority	
14	31N	34E	34	SW	Section	First Priority	
15	31N	34E	22	SW	Section	First Priority	
16	31N	34E	3	NW	Section	First Priority	
17	36N	41E	19	NE	Section	Second Priority	
18	36N	41E	19	NW	Section	Second Priority	
19	36N	41E	19	W	1/4	Second Priority	
20	36N	41E	19	Center	1/4	Second Priority	
21	36N	41E	19	S	1/16	Second Priority	
23	36N	41E	19	C-S	1/16	Second Priority	
24	36N	41E	21	NE	Section	Third Priority	
25	36N	41E	24	NE	Section	Third Priority	
26	36N	41E	36	SE	Township	Third Priority	
27	31N	37E	33	SE	Section	Third Priority	
28	31N	37E	36	SE	Township	Third Priority	
29	30N	37E	18	SW	Section	Third Priority	
30	30N	37E	16	SE	Section	Third Priority	
31	30N	37E	13	SE	Section	Third Priority	
32	31N	35E	18	NW	Section	Third Priority	
33	31N	35E	15	NW	Section	Third Priority	
34	31N	35E	25	NE	Section	Third Priority	
35	31N	35E	13	NE	Section	Third Priority	

DRAFT

*Proposed PLS Control - This form is only required for applicants proposing PLS/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.

OBJECTID *	SHAPE *	Point_ID	GCDB_Point_ID	Y_or_Latitude	X_or_Longitude	Township	Range	Section	Quarter	Point_Typ	Priority	ID
1	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	31	SW	Township	First Prior	1
2	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_2C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	31	SE	Section	First Prior	2
3	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_1A	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	31	S	1/4	First Prior	3
4	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_2C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	31	S	1/16	First Prior	4
5	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	31	SE	1/16	First Prior	5
6	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0360E_2C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	06	N	1/16	First Prior	6
7	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_3C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	32	SE	Section	First Prior	7
8	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0360E_5C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	34	SE	Section	First Prior	8
9	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0370E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	36E	36	SE	Township	First Prior	9
10	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0360E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	16	SE	Section	First Prior	10
11	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0360E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	18	SW	Section	First Prior	11
12	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0360E_3C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	05	SE	Standard	First Prior	12
13	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0340E_5C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	35E	01	NW	Closing Se	First Prior	13
14	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0340E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	34E	34	SW	Section	First Prior	14
15	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0340E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	34E	22	SW	Section	First Prior	15
16	Point Z	<Null>	0320N0340E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	34E	03	NW	Section	First Prior	16
17	Point Z	<Null>	0360N0410E_2C	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	NE	Section	Second Pri	17
18	Point Z	<Null>	0360N0410E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	NW	Section	Second Pri	18
19	Point Z	<Null>	0360N0410E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	W	1/4	Second Pri	19
20	Point Z	<Null>	0360N0410E_1A	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	Center	1/4	Second Pri	20
21	Point Z	<Null>	0360N0410E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	S	1/16	Second Pri	21
31	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	19	C-S	1/16	Second Pri	23
32	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	21	NE	Section	Second Pri	24
33	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	24	NE	Section	Third Prior	25
34	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	36N	41E	36	SE	Township	Third Prior	26
22	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0370E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	37E	33	SE	Section	Third Prior	27
23	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0380E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	37E	36	SE	Township	Third Prior	28
24	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0370E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	37E	18	SW	Section	Third Prior	29
25	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0370E_4C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	37E	16	SE	Section	Third Prior	30
26	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0380E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	37E	13	SE	Section	Third Prior	31
29	Point Z	<Null>	0310N0350E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	31N	35E	18	NW	Section	Third Prior	32
35	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	31N	35E	15	NW	Section	Third Prior	33
36	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	31N	35E	25	NE	Section	Third Prior	34
37	Point Z	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	31N	35E	13	NE	Section	Third Prior	35
27	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0370E_1C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	96
28	Point Z	<Null>	0320N0340E_6C	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	97
30	Point Z	<Null>	0300N0360E_2C	<Null>	<Null>	30N	36E	08	SW	Section	<Null>	99



Valley County
Commission
501 Court Square
Glasgow, MT 59230

INVOICE TO

PROJECT	JOB	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
---------	-----	---------------	----------

Due on Receipt

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
----------	-------------	------------	------------

Subtotal	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Total	<input type="text"/>