



Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant Program Webinar

Thursday, January 22, 2026



MONTANA
STATE LIBRARY

MGIA GRANT PROGRAM



Agenda

- MGIA
 - Council
 - Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure
 - Geospatial Information Plan
- Grant Program
 - General Overview & Nitty Gritty
 - Application Walkthrough
 - Contract Development
 - Grant Cycle – setting expectations.
- Questions

Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA)

- State GIS Coordination
 - Advisory Council
 - **Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure**
 - **Grant Program**
 - General Overview
 - Application

Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council



- Governor's Appointed Council
- 11 Members
- Advise the State Library on ...
 - Geographic information systems, geospatial information, and geospatial technologies;
 - Data Development;
 - Geospatial Information Plan;
 - MGIA Grant Program;
 - Promote coordination of programs, policies, technologies for geographic information systems, geospatial information, and geospatial technologies;
 - Advocate for the development of consistent policies, standards, and guidelines for geographic information systems, geospatial information, and geospatial technologies

Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council

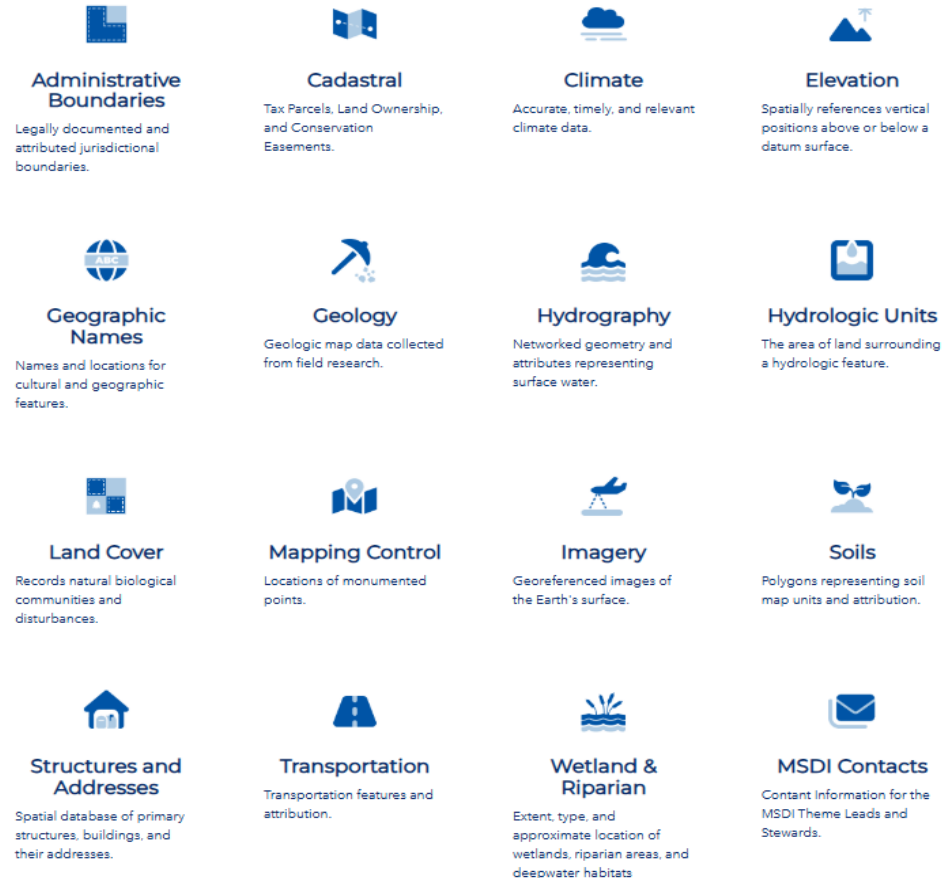
	First	Last	Agency/Organization	Representative Type
1	Allen	Armstrong	Bureau of Land Management	Federal Government Representative
2	Adam	Carpenter*	State Chief Data Officer (Dept. of Admin)	Director of the Dept. of Administration or Designee
3	Maureen	Celander	Custer County	County or Municipal Government Representative
4	Nick	Youngstrom	MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	State of Montana Executive Branch Department Director
	Vacant		tbd	Tribal Government Interests Representative
6	Valentijn	Hoff	University of Montana - Fire Center	Montana University System Representative
7	Joseph	Kauffman	MARLS	Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors Representative
	Vacant		tbd	Private Business (Active in GIS) Representative
9	Lee	Macholz	City of Missoula	County or Municipal Government Representative
10	Eric	Spangenberg	MAGIP Rep (City of Helena/LC County)	Montana Association of GIS Professionals Representative
11	Jennie	Stapp*	State Librarian	State Librarian or Designee - Serves as Presiding Officer

**Denotes Permanent Member*

Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure

Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

The Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) is made up of fifteen (15) framework geographic data themes vital to Montanans for viewing, analyzing, exploring, and understanding its expansive and complex geography. Eight (8) themes are federally defined framework themes. Seven (7) additional framework layers were selected by the Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council (MGIAC).



- Stewarding Agency
- Theme Lead
- Statewide Datasets
 - Downloadable
 - Web Services
 - Metadata
 - Applications
- Working Group – open to all
- 1-3 Data Improvement Plan*
- Documented Standards*



Montana Geospatial Information Plan

- Written in consultation with the MGIA Council, Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Theme Leads, and our stakeholders.
- Prioritizes:
 - needs to collect, maintain, and disseminate geospatial information;
 - Geospatial coordination
 - MGIA Grant awards
- Reviewed and, if appropriate, updated every three years.

An aerial photograph of a river network in Montana, showing a complex web of channels and meanders. The water is a light blue/white color, contrasting with the darker blue of the surrounding land. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right, with many smaller tributaries branching off.

Montana Geospatial Information Plan

- Review & public comment period:
 - Spring & Summer 2025
- MGIA Council approved the Plan at the September 25th meeting and recommended the MSL Commission adopt the Plan.
- The MSL Commission approved the Plan at the October 8th meeting.

MGIA Grant Program Overview

Erin Fashoway



GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must represent one of the following forms of government within Montana:
 - Any department, agency, board, commission, or other division of state government.
 - The Montana University System
 - Any city, county, or other division of local government.
 - A tribal government within the state.



PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

- Upon award, all data, information, products, code, media, etc. created or updated through a Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant must be made publicly available.
- All deliverables created or updated are considered public information and can and will be freely used by the Montana State Library.
- Sensitive or private information must not be collected through an MGIA Grant project.



CHANGES TO THE MGIA GRANT CYCLE

NEW MGIA GRANT CYCLE – THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

FY2027 MGIA GRANT CYCLE

- January 2026 | MSL Open Application Process
- May 15, 2026 | Grant awards finalized
- July 1, 2026 | 2-year grant cycle begins
- June 30, 2028 | 2-year grant cycle ends

FY2029 MGIA GRANT CYCLE

- January 2028 | MSL Open Application Process
- May 15, 2028 | Grant awards finalized
- July 1, 2028 | 2-year grant cycle begins
- June 30, 2030 | 2-year grant cycle ends

KEY DATES



- January 15, 2026 – Application period opens
- **February 25, 2026 – Application period closes**
- By May 1, 2026 – Grant Funding Priorities Endorsed by the Council
 - Council Meeting – April 23, 2026
- By May 15, 2026 – MSL Commission will Award Grant Projects
 - MSL Commission Date to be set.
- July 1, 2026 – FY2027 Grant Cycle to Begin
- August 10, 2026 (week of) – Mandatory Grantee Kick-off Meeting & Training in Helena
- June 30, 2028 – FY2027 Grant Cycle to End

MGIA GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITIES

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MSDI Framework Theme Grant Priorities

Administrative Boundaries	Hydrography
Cadastral	Transportation
Elevation	Structures & Addresses

Key Geospatial Data Initiatives:

NG9-1-1 Data Development
Geo-Enabling Montana's Elections
3DHP/Elevation Derived Hydrography

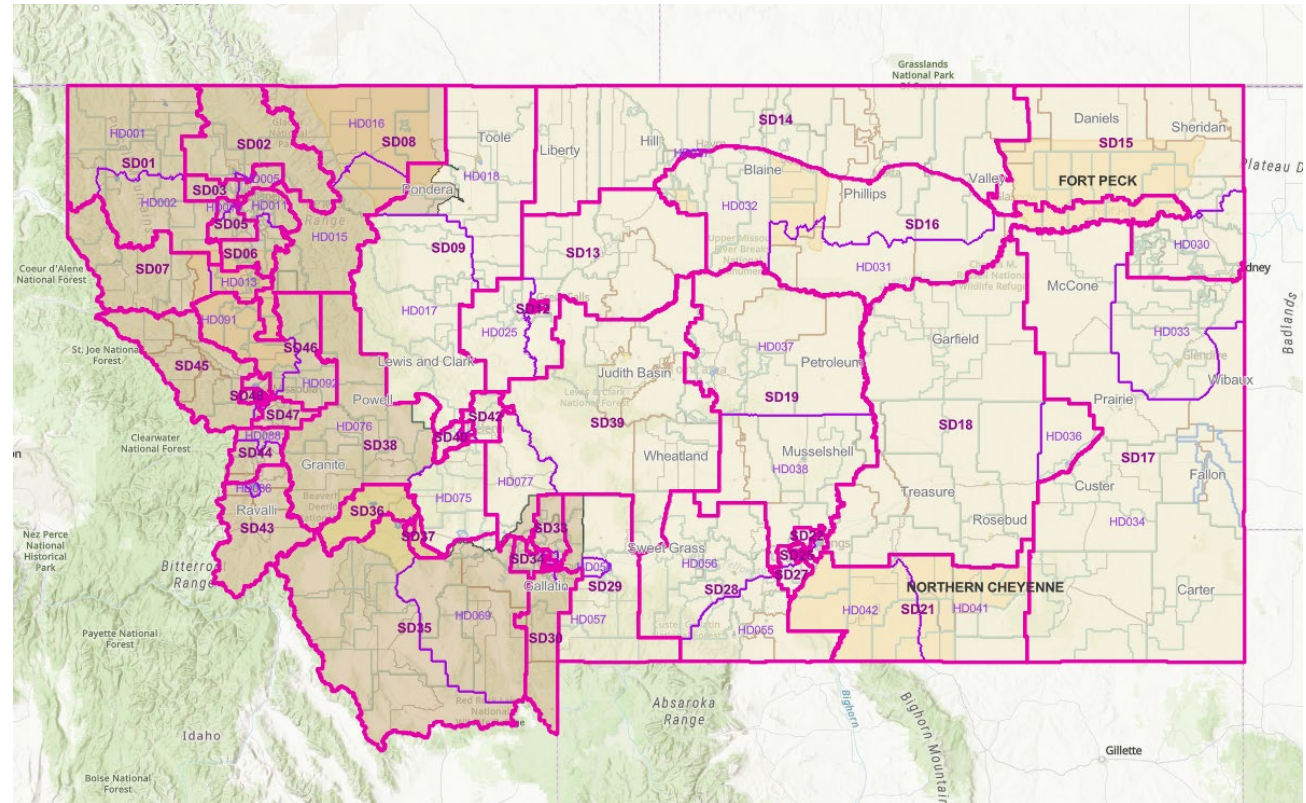
Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Administrative Boundaries

Creating or improving sub-theme data layers recognized by the MSDI Administrative Boundaries Theme.

Administrative Boundaries

MSDI Theme Lead: Meghan Burns

mburns@mt.gov

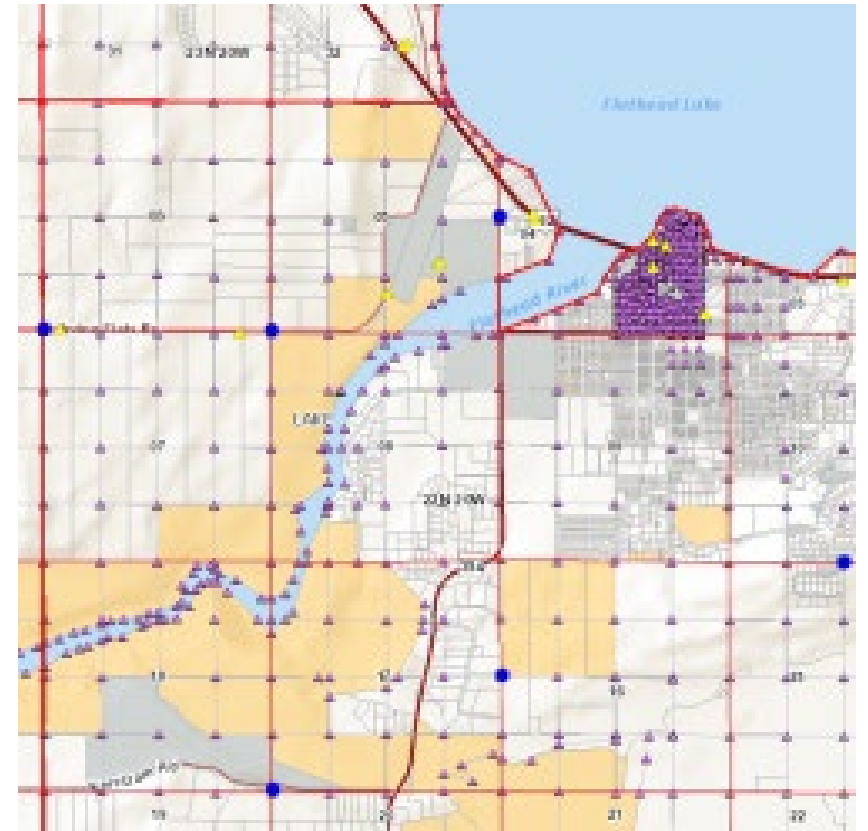


Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Cadastral

Improving the digital representation of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and associated datasets (e.g., tax parcels) by collecting new survey control data or the digitization and dissemination of documents related to PLSS corners.

Cadastral MSDI Theme Lead:
Jeff Hedstrom - jhedstrom@mt.gov

Mapping Control MSDI Theme Lead:
Bob Holliday - rholliday@mt.gov

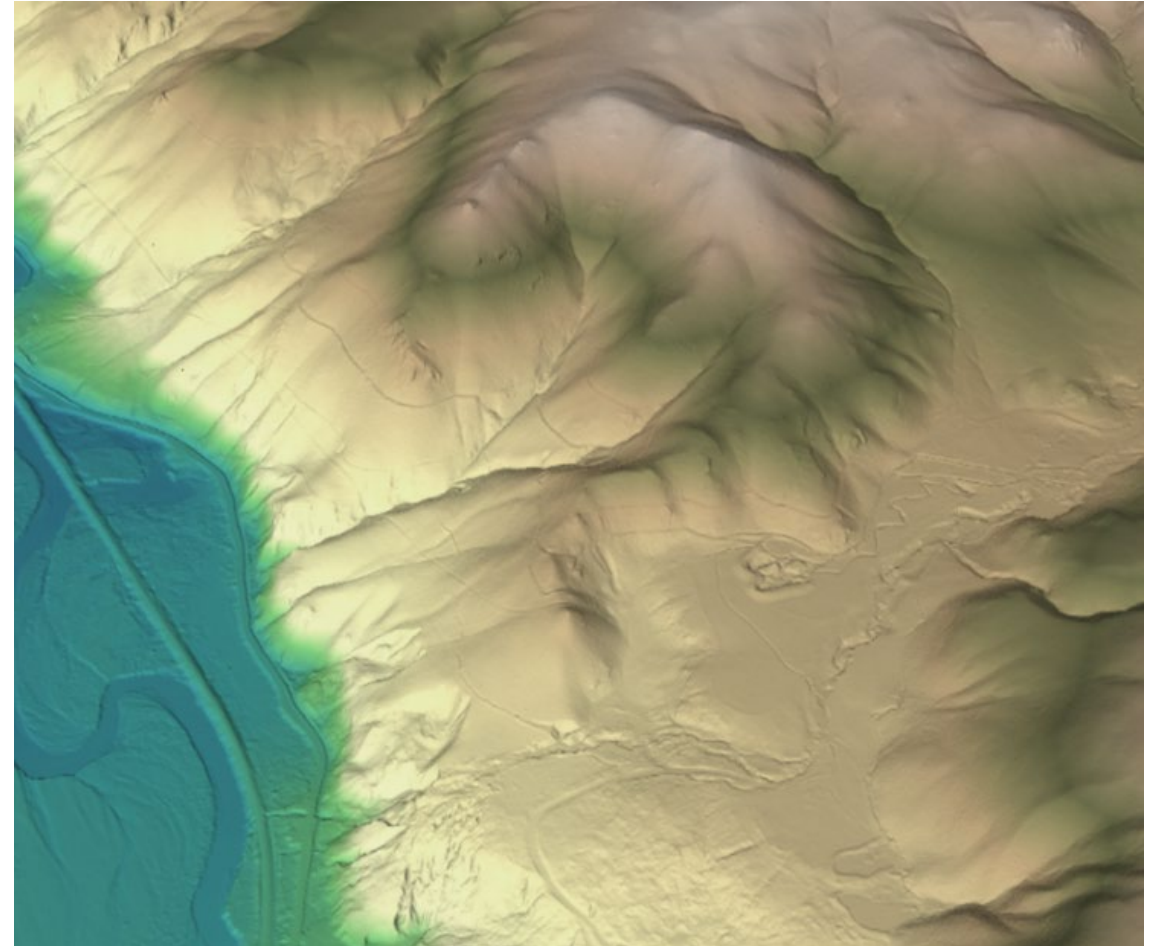


Please Note New Technical Requirements for Collecting Mapping/Survey Control – Appendix B of Grant Package (pgs 22-23).

Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Elevation Framework

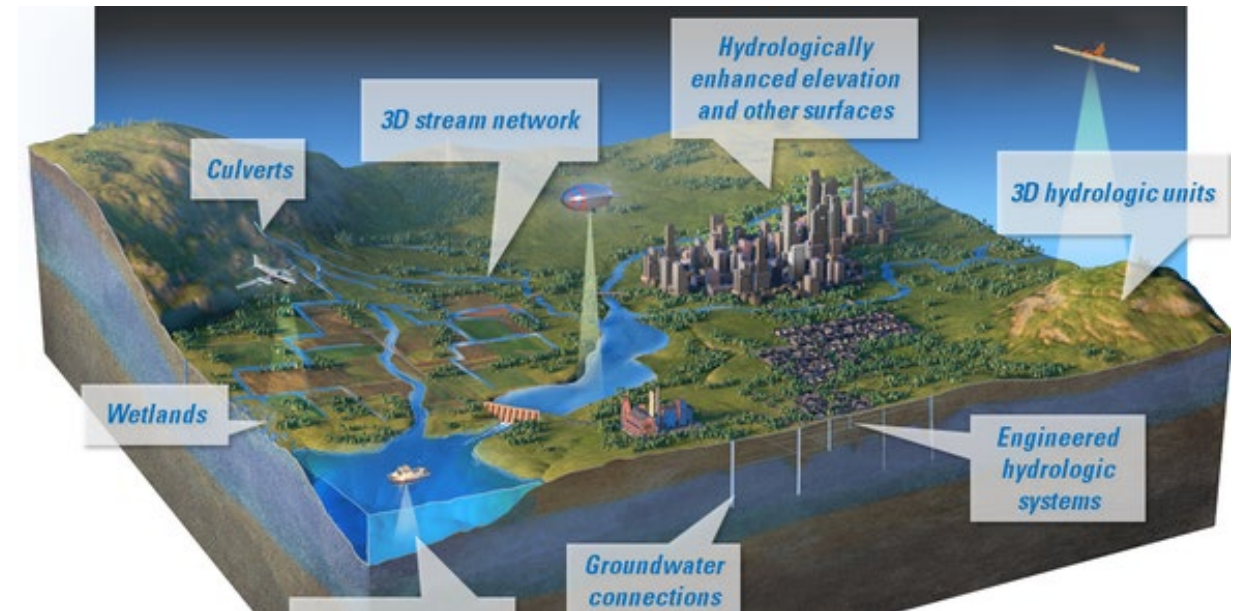
Creating Lidar-derived products, such as contours, building footprints, etc., that integrate into statewide Elevation Theme datasets. Participating in 3DEP, the USGS' 3D Elevation Program for the purpose of the collecting new lidar for Montana.

Elevation MSDI Theme Lead:
Troy Blandford - tblandford@mt.gov



Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Hydrography Framework

Improving Montana's surface water mapping by participating in the 3DHP, USGS' 3D Hydrography Program, for the purposes of the developing elevation derived hydrography data for Montana.



[Hydrography](#) MSDI Theme Lead:
Troy Blandford - tblandford@mt.gov

Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Structures & Addresses

Creating or improving structures or address data that are NENA (National Emergency Number Association) standard compliant and meet requirements for integration into the Theme.

Structures & Addresses MSDI Theme Lead:
Michael Fashoway - mfashoway@mt.gov



Improving the MSDI Framework Theme: Transportation

Creating or improving road centerlines that are NENA (National Emergency Number Association) standard compliant and meet requirements for integration into the Theme.

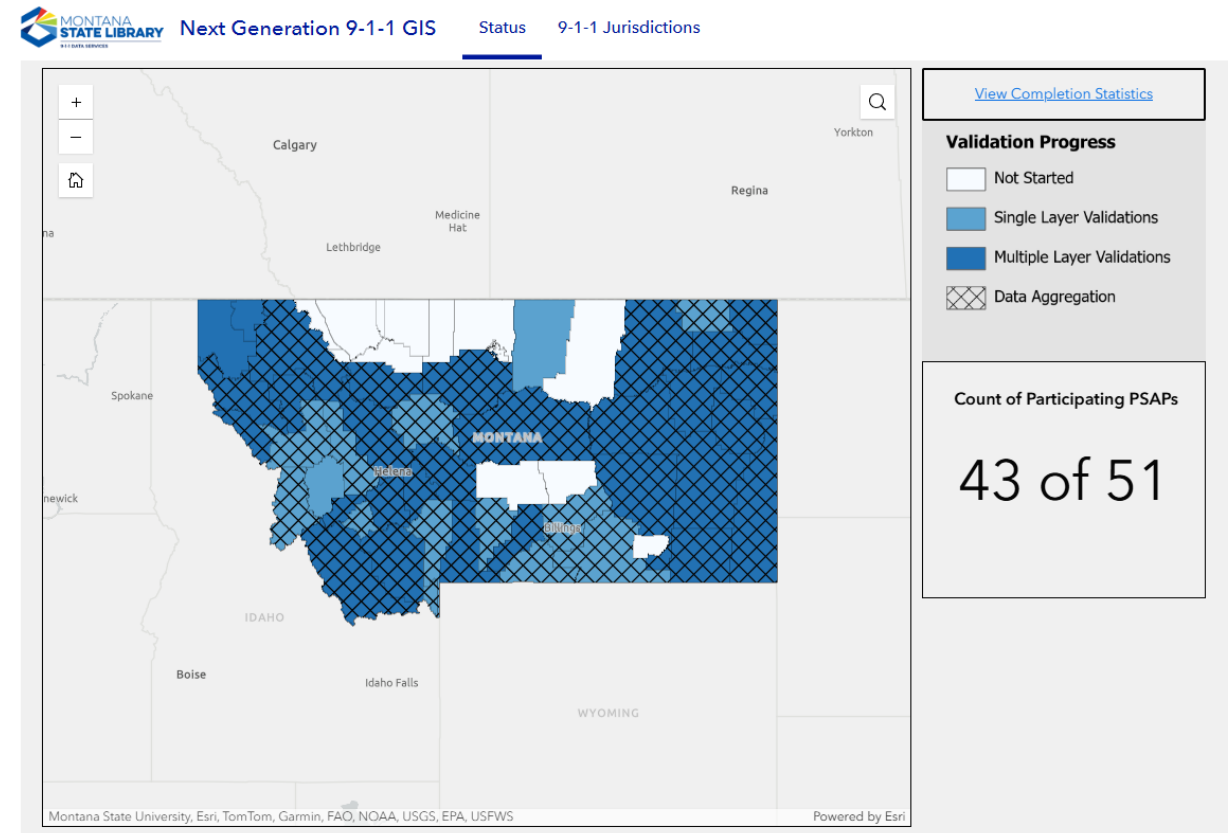
[Transportation](#) MSDI Theme Lead: Michael Fashoway - mfashoway@mt.gov



Prioritized Key Geospatial Data Initiatives: Next Generation 9-1-1

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Data Development.
Projects that create or improve GIS datasets needed for NG9-1-1.

Data Initiative Lead:
Michael Fashoway
mfashoway@mt.gov



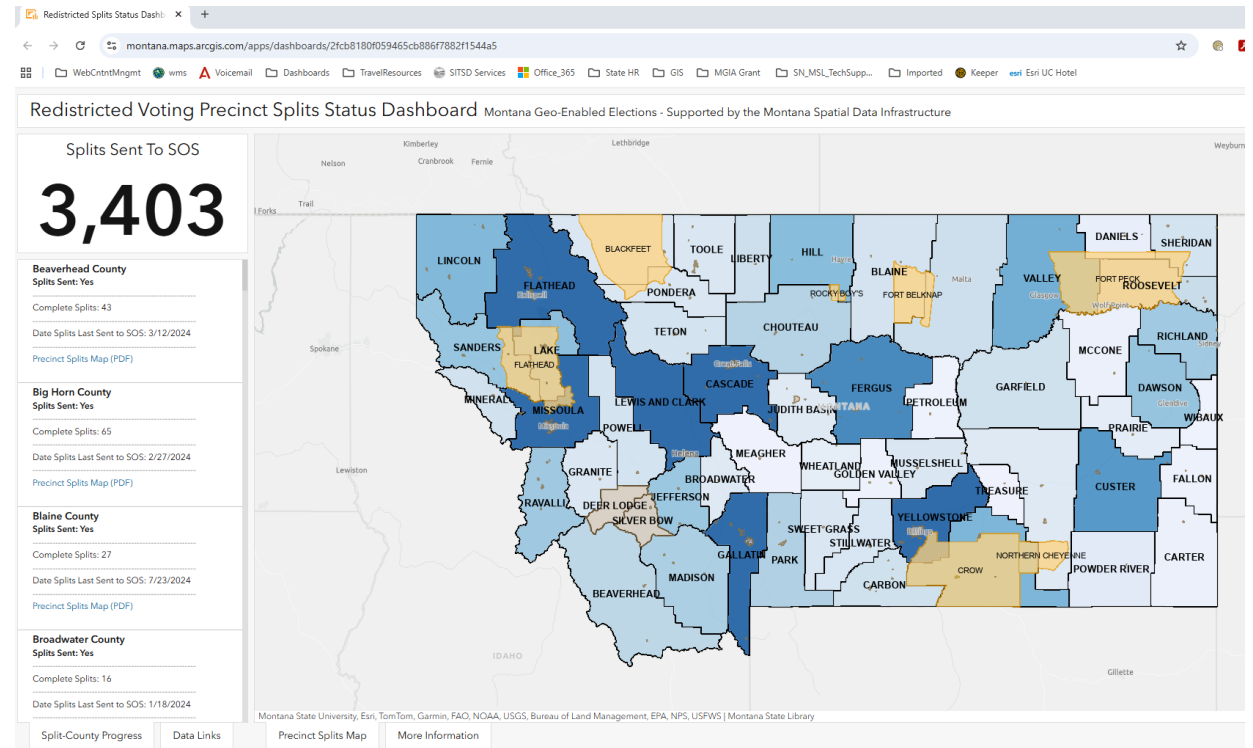
Prioritized Key Geospatial Data Initiatives: Geo-Enabled Elections

Geo-Enabled Elections
projects that integrate GIS
into election planning and
operations.

Data Initiative Lead(s):

Meghan Burns - mburns@mt.gov

Michael Fashoway - mfashoway@mt.gov



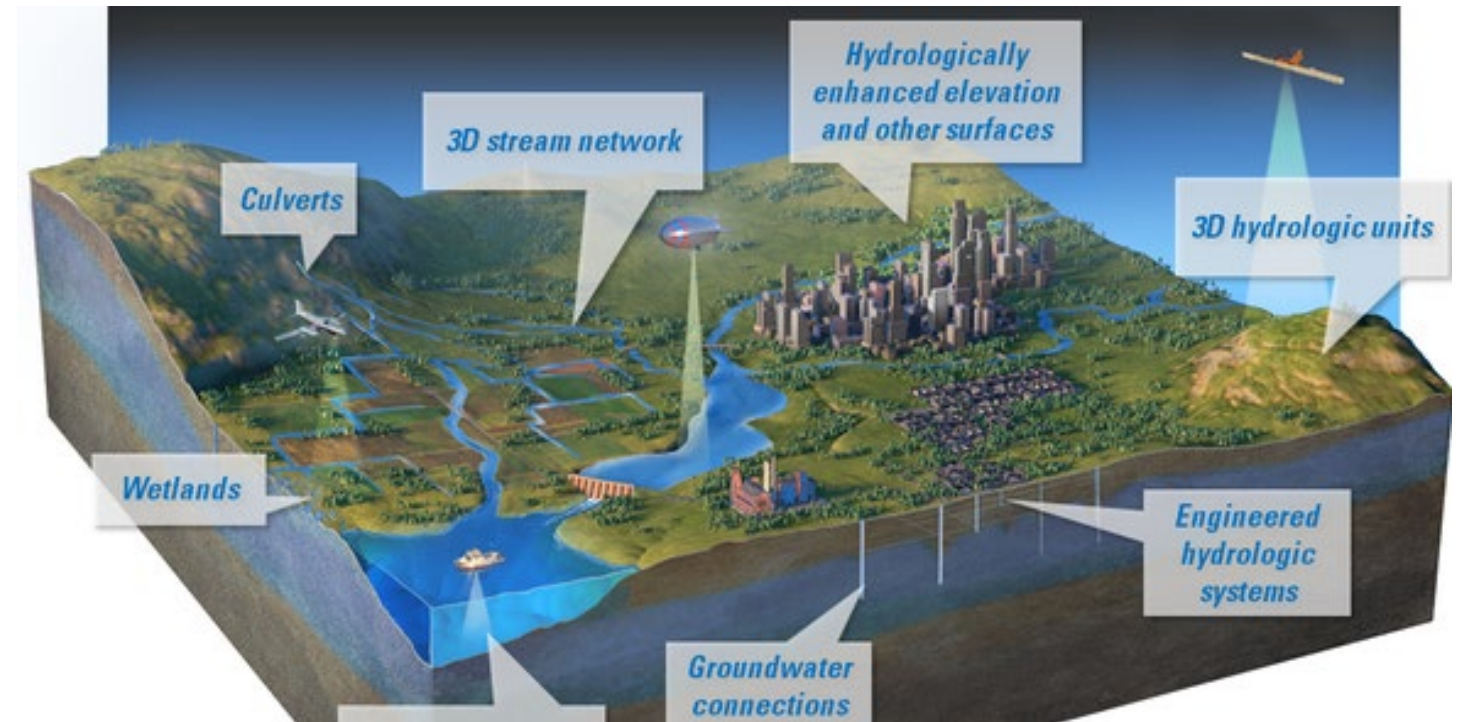
Prioritized Key Geospatial Data Initiatives: 3D Hydrography (EDH / 3DHP)

Participating in the 3DHP, USGS' 3D Hydrography Program, for the purposes of the developing elevation derived hydrography data for Montana.

Data Initiative Lead:

Troy Blandford

tblandford@mt.gov



EDH – Elevation Derived Hydrography
3DHP – 3D Hydrography Program

GRANT COMPLIANCE



COMMUNICATION

- Sign up for email or TXT notifications about Geospatial Data Services/Apps, Programs, Meetings, Trainings, etc:
 - https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTLIBRARY/subscriber/topics?qsp=MTLIBRARY_3
- For all questions about the MGIA Grant Program please email MGIAgrants@mt.gov



Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

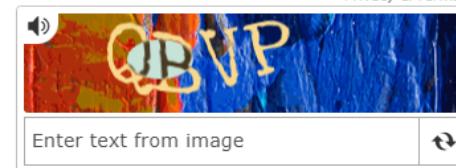
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FUNDING INFORMATION



- MGIA Grant Funds are established as state special revenue funds from recordation fees
 - *These are not Federal funds.*
- Projected FY2027 MGIA Grant funds for the two-year grant cycle: **\$500,000.**
- Mandatory travel can & should be factored into budgets.
- Grantees may request up to 80% of the total awarded grant funds, and the final 20% of the awarded grant funds will be withheld until approval of the project's completion, *unless negotiated otherwise.*

PRESENTATIONS, SITE VISITS, & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Presentations:
 - Grantees will be asked to present, to demonstrate grant project successes, at relevant conferences and/or MGIA Council or MSL Commission meetings.
- Site Visits/Trainings:
 - The week of August 20th - Mandatory, in-person kick-off meeting & training for awarded grantees in Helena, MT.
 - MSL staff will conduct site visits throughout the grant cycle.
- Project Status Reports:
 - Reports will inform the MSL on any/all summary of the tasks, goals, spending to date. There will be a total of 3 project status, roughly every 6.
 - This is assuming a two-year timeline; shorter timelines may be negotiated otherwise.
 - The MSL uses online reporting through ArcGIS Survey123.
- Final Status Report:
 - Due by the project closeout, the report includes a summary of project, financial report, description of methods for data creation/collection, data and its associated metadata, proof data has been published to the Montana GIS Data List (if applicable), map depicting the project, and all negotiated project deliverables.

Application Walkthrough

Sean Anderson



Contract Development

Sean Anderson



Questions?



Thank
You!

*Please reach out with your
questions:*

mgiagrants@mt.gov