

**MONTANA LAND
INFORMATION ACT
GRANT APPLICATION
STATE FISCAL
YEAR 2024
JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC LAND SURVEY
SYSTEM (PLSS) - BLAINE COUNTY AREA**



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APPLICATION FOR FY2024 MLIA 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:	Blaine County
Department:	GIS
Division/Section:	
Street:	420 Ohio Street
City:	Chinook
County:	Blaine
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59523
<i>Project Manager Contact Information:</i>	
Name:	Shane Fox
Title:	Commissioner
Email Address:	Sfox@blainecounty-mt.gov
Phone Number:	406-357-3250
Fax Number:	406-357-2199
<i>Secondary Project Manager Contact Information:</i>	
Name:	Haley Velk
Title:	Emergency Manager
Email Address:	Hvelk@blainecounty-mt.gov
Phone Number:	406-357-3310

MLIA Grant Funding Request & Match:	
Total Requested MLIA Funds:	\$49,000
Total Matched Funds:	\$6,800

Proposal Information	
Date Submitted:	2/15/23
Identified Grant Priority:	Tier 1 Grant Priority
Annual or Multi-Year Proposal:	FY2024
Proposal Prepared By:	Shane Fox
Short Title of Proposal:	Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) - Blaine County Area
<p>Executive Summary</p> <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 Blaine County due to the lack of Survey Control Points, particularly near Chinook, Hogeland, and Turner. These inaccuracies are particularly problematic when authoritative GIS data is combined with the cadastral framework, resulting in mistrust and/or misuse of the data. It is the goal of Blaine County to address these spatial inaccuracies through a collaborative effort. The proposed solution to this problem is to acquire better survey control, using Blaine County’s contracted engineer and land surveyor, WWC Engineering (consultant), to improve the accuracy of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Blaine County. 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 public and local governments. As mapping control data is collected by a licensed surveyor, Blaine County’s consultant, reviewed by Blaine County, 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 the City of Chinook and areas near Hogeland and Turner.</p>	

Funding Partners: <i>(required for each partner, copy box as needed)</i>	
Name of Contact:	Shane Fox
Name of Agency:	Blaine County
Street:	420 Ohio Street
City:	Chinook
County:	Blaine
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59523
Contact Email Address:	Sfox@blainecounty-mt.gov
Contact Phone Number:	406-357-3250

SECTION 2 – RELEVANCE

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

SECTION 4 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

The proposed project will be undertaken by Blaine County Commissioner, Shane Fox, and Emergency Manager, Haley Velk, and the Blaine County GIS team, which contributes pertinent knowledge to support and sustain the project. The Blaine County GIS team works towards projects which further the accessibility of records while promoting intradepartmental collaboration to improve efficiency and reduce the duplication of efforts across Blaine County. Blaine County has the software, hardware, and infrastructure necessary for a project of this scope. The GIS team 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 Blaine 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. Additionally, the GIS team collaborates with the Blaine County Health Department, Planning, Treasurer, County Attorney, and the Board of County Commissioners to meet their individual department business needs. Support for the project is demonstrated through the attached letter of support.

Shane Fox and Haley Velk 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 Shane and Haley have a combined experience of 50 years of project management, which includes reporting progress, meeting project milestones and communicating with external partners. Shane and Haley will coordinate work with Blaine County's contracted surveyor, engineer, planner and floodplain administrator, the consultant, on this project. Blaine 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. Shane and Haley have worked on multiple projects with the consultant and multiple MLIA grant funded projects with the State Library. These projects were successfully completed and include; FY2018 MLIA grant to access, improve, and maintain road centerline for NG911, FY2019 was to update and standardize its existing Site/Structure Address Point Layer for NG911, and FY2021 was to implement the Geo-Enabled Elections Pilot Project.

Shane Fox 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. Shane will also report progress to the State Library, as required. Shane will also manage the financial aspects of the project, as part of his regular duties as Blaine County Commissioner. Haley Velk will serve as the secondary project manager, also coordinating with the consultant and the State Library, as needed. Shane and Haley will also work with the Jeff Hedstrom at the State Library to determine the final list of control points for survey collection.

SECTION 5 – SCOPE OF WORK

Goal 1.

Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) - Blaine County Area

Objective 1.1. Establish Survey Control Points

Task 1.1.1. Prioritize and Map Locations for Data Collection w/State Library procedures
-Completion Date: **July 14, 2023**

Objective 1.2. Contract with consultant

Task 1.2.1. Finalize Contract
-Completion Date: **July 31, 2023**

Objective 1.3. Preparation for field work with consultant

Task 1.3.1. Review of Prioritized Survey Locations w/consultant
-Completion Date: **August 4, 2023**

Task 1.3.2. Generate Field Maps, Corner Research w/consultant
-Completion Date: **August 11, 2023**

Task 1.3.3. Obtain Authorization from Landowners w/consultant
-Completion Date: **August 18, 2023**

Objective 1.4. Finalize grant and deliverables

Task 1.4.1. Submit Collected Survey Data and File Corner Records w/consultant
-Completion Date: **June 28, 2024**

SUBSECTION 5 – DELIVERABLES

Submit Collected Survey Data to the State Library

Submit Corner Recordation

SECTION 6 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE

Blaine county’s consultant for this project will survey approximately 54 control points throughout Blaine County. The cost per control point is \$1,000.00 and includes all travel expenses, deliverables, and corner recordation. Blaine county staff will work with the consultant and the state library to finalize the list of control points to be surveyed. All services will not exceed \$55,800.00, with the county contributing the amount of \$5000.00 as county cash match for this project. Blaine county will also be contributing in-kind funds to the project through staffing cost for all the participants to accomplish this project at a cost of \$1,800.00. We are requesting grant funds of \$49,000.00 to cover contract payments to consultant.

SECTION 7 – PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Blaine County has a team of three GIS professionals, who continue to enhance GIS data within Blaine County. Blaine County’s GIS specialists will further enhance our PLSS and cadastral alignment with this survey. Blaine County’s consultant performs work on new land splits, certificate of surveys, subdivisions, and floodplain review for Blaine County. The Blaine County GIS team provides technical expertise in GIS technology to create, maintain and display spatial and non-spatial data. Haley Velk also coordinates and administers our rural addressing and 911, which is responsible for naming and re-naming roads, as well as handling any requisite re-addressing. Haley assists with enhancing our NG911 system response, by coordinating with Blaine County Sheriff’s Office. Blaine County GIS staff also operate mapping grade GPS equipment to collect data, such as road centerlines, culverts, signs, bridges, addresses and other pertinent County data.

SECTION 8 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Blaine County's MLIA grant project for FY2019 was to update and standardize its existing Site/Structure Address Point Layer in preparation for the Next Generation 9-1-1(NG911) implementation and will reflect the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards. The data will also be disseminated to the State Library to be integrated into the structure and address theme within the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI). This project falls within the FY2019 Land Information Plan Priority of Public Safety and Emergency Response, NG911, and Addresses. Blaine County received an extension on this grant. We found it difficult when coordinating with multiple jurisdictions on verification and validation of addresses. We also found that the site structure addresses used by others were often outdated or missing. Blaine County completed this project within the timeframe of our extension and within budget.

Blaine County's MLIA grant project for FY2021 was the Geo-Enabled Elections Pilot Project. Blaine County partnered with the State Library and other stakeholders, to conduct a pilot project aimed at implementing a best practice and workflow for Geo-Enabled Elections. Blaine County successfully completed this project in a timely manner, within budget, and all deliverables were submitted to the State Library within the fiscal year.

MLIA Grant FY2024 - Proposed Survey Control Point Collection*

Grant Project Name: **Improvements to Public Land Survey System (PLSS) - Blaine County Area**
 Grant Project Identified Project Manager: **Shane Fox, Commissioner**

Number	GCDB ID	Township	Range	Section	Quarter	Corner	Priority	Notes	
		(This is where the grantee will identify the corners for collection)					(Priority Corner vs.		
101	MT200360N0230E0_100700	36N	23E		6 NW	Township Corner			
102	MT200360N0240E0_100700	36N	24E		6 NW	Township Corner			
103	MT200360N0230E0_300400	36N	23E		16 SW	Section Corner			
104	MT200360N0230E0_600300	36N	23E		24 SW	Section Corner			
105	MT200360N0240E0_100303	36N	23E		24 SE	Section Corner			
106	MT200360N0230E0_640240	36N	23E		25 Center	1/16 Corner			
107	MT200360N0230E0_400200	36N	23E		27 SW	Section Corner			
108	MT200360N0230E0_100100	36N	23E		31 SW	Township Corner			
109	MT200360N0240E0_100100	36N	24E		31 SW	Township Corner			
110	MT200360N0250E0_100700	36N	25E		6 NW	Township Corner			
111	MT200360N0260E0_100700	36N	26E		6 NW	Township Corner			
112	MT200360N0250E0_400400	36N	25E		15 SW	Section Corner			
113	MT200360N0250E0_600240	36N	25E		25 W	Quarter Corner			
114	MT200360N0250E0_600200	36N	25E		25 SW	Section Corner			
115	MT200360N0250E0_640200	36N	25E		25 S	Quarter Corner			
116	MT200360N0250E0_100100	36N	25E		31 SW	Township Corner			
117	MT200360N0250E0_400100	36N	25E		34 SW	Section Corner			
118	MT200360N0260E0_100100	36N	26E		31 SW	Township Corner			
119	MT200350N0240E0_400400	35N	24E		15 SW	Section Corner			
120	MT200350N0240E0_100100	35N	24E		31 SW	Township Corner			
121	MT200350N0250E0_100100	35N	25E		31 SW	Township Corner			
122	MT200350N0250E0_400400	35N	25E		15 SW	Section Corner			
123	MT200340N0180E0_100400	34N	18E		32 SW	Section Corner			
124	MT200330N0180E0_100400	33N	18E		18 SW	Section Corner			
125	MT200330N0180E0_400500	33N	18E		10 SW	Section Corner			
126	MT200330N0180E0_600500	33N	18E		12 SW	Section Corner			
127	MT200330N0180E0_200100	33N	18E		32 SW	Section Corner			
128	MT200330N0180E0_400100	33N	18E		34 SW	Section Corner			
129	MT200320N0190E0_100700	32N	19E		6 NW	Township Corner			
130	MT200330N0190E0_500100	33N	19E		35 SW	Section Corner			
131	MT200330N0200E0_400400	33N	20E		15 SW	Section Corner			
132	MT200330N0200E0_313100	33N	20E		3 NW	Section Corner			
133	MT200340N0210E0_100100	34N	21E		31 SW	Township Corner			
134	MT200340N0210E0_400100	34N	21E		34 SW	Section Corner			
135	MT200330N0210E0_100400	33N	21E		18 SW	Section Corner			
136	MT200330N0210E0_400400	33N	21E		15 SW	Section Corner			
137	MT200330N0210E0_140240	33N	21E		30 Center	1/16 Corner			
138	MT200330N0210E0_100200	33N	21E		30 SW	Section Corner			
139	MT200330N0210E0_160200	33N	21E		30 S	1/16 Corner			
140	MT200330N0210E0_100100	33N	21E		31 SW	Township Corner			
141	MT200330N0220E0_100100	33N	22E		31 SW	Township Corner			
142	MT200330N0170E0_427100	32N	17E		3 NE	Section Corner			
143	MT200320N0170E0_640400	32N	17E		13 S	Quarter Corner			
144	MT200320N0170E0_640100	32N	17E		36 S	Quarter Corner			
145	MT200320N0180E0_400100	32N	18E		34 SW	Section Corner			
146	MT200320N0190E0_100100	32N	19E		31 SW	Township Corner			
147	MT200320N0190E0_300400	32N	19E		16 SW	Section Corner			
148	MT200310N0190E0_500700	31N	19E		2 NW	Section Corner			
149	MT200320N0200E0_100100	32N	20E		31 SW	Township Corner			
150	MT200320N0200E0_200400	32N	20E		17 SW	Section Corner			
151	MT200310N0200E0_400700	31N	20E		3 NE	Section Corner			
152	MT200320N0210E0_100100	32N	21E		31 SW	Township Corner			
153	MT200320N0210E0_300400	32N	21E		16 SW	Section Corner			
154	MT200310N0210E0_597700	32N	21E		36 SW	Section Corner	MT200310N0210E0_600700		

*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 into their respective grant applications in Amplifund.

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.

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Miles G. Hutton, Chair
Shane Fox
Dolores Plumage

PO BOX 278
(406)357-3250

CHINOOK, MT
59523-0278

Grant Review Subcommittee
Montana Land Information Advisory Council
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

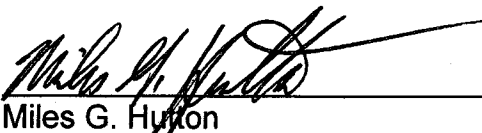
To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Commissioners, Clerk and Recorder, and Emergency Manager, Blaine County is writing this letter in support for the Fiscal Year 2024 Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) grant request.


MLIA grant funds will be utilized by Blaine County to conduct a Public Land Survey System (PLSS) survey to improve the accuracy of the PLSS in Blaine County. 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 public and local governments. As mapping control data is collected by a licensed surveyor, the proposed project will improve the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) and PLSS standardized data for the Cadastral National Spatial Data Infrastructure (PLSS CadNSDI) to increase spatial accuracy for the area in and around the City of Chinook and areas near Hogeland and Turner. Blaine County continues to promote the development of geographic information systems that support ongoing government workflows and build GIS capacity as a whole county.

Thank you for your consideration of our support of Blaine County for a Montana Land Information Act Grant.

Sincerely,



Miles G. Hutton


Haley Velk, DES


Shane Fox

ATTEST:


Dolores Plumage


Pauly B. Miller, Clerk & Recorder



**BLAINE COUNTY
CLERK AND RECORDER
PAULY B. MILLER
P.O.BOX 278
CHINOOK, MT 59523-0278
(406) 357-3240
(406) 357-2199 FAX**

December 1, 2023

Re: December 2023 Invoice

To Whom It May Concern,

I have enclosed your December 2023 invoice. Please send your payment within 30 days of this invoice to avoid overdue charges. If you have any questions regarding the invoice, please call me at 406-357-3240. I would be happy to assist.

Thank you for your business and supporting Blaine County.

Amber Calvert
Deputy Clerk & Recorder
Blaine County

Authorizing Statement

I hereby certify that I have read the application 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.

Miles Hutton

Chairman Blaine County Commission

Authorized Signer Name

Title

DocuSigned by:

Miles Hutton

9BCAF0A56B1F4EA...

Signature

2/24/2023

Date Signed

Completed Application Package Received by:

Erin Fashoway

MLIA Grant Administrator

Name

Title

DocuSigned by:

Erin Fashoway

898149F544564A6

Signature

2/24/2023

Date Signed

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 4125D71AFCEB457A8EE863A34409DACD
 Subject: Complete with DocuSign: FY24 Blaine Co COMPLETE.pdf
 Source Envelope:
 Document Pages: 18 Signatures: 2
 Certificate Pages: 2 Initials: 0
 AutoNav: Enabled
 Enveloped Stamping: Enabled
 Time Zone: (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

Status: Completed

 Envelope Originator:
 Sean Anderson
 PO Box 201800
 Helena, MT 59620-1800
 sanderson@mt.gov
 IP Address: 161.7.39.7

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Signer Events

Miles Hutton
 mhutton@blainecounty-mt.gov
 Chairman Blaine County Commission
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

DocuSigned by:

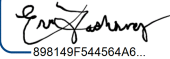
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Not Offered via DocuSign

Erin Fashoway
 efashoway@mt.gov
 Montana GIS Coordinator
 State of Montana
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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MLIA Grants mliagrants@mt.gov Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	COPIED	Sent: 2/24/2023 11:23:39 AM
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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