To:

From:

Re: MAGIP Big Sky GeoCon 2021 Conference Proposal

I would like to attend the 2021 MAGIP Big Sky GeoCon, the annual conference of the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP), which will be held April 5-8 as a virtual conference, due to the pandemic. The opportunities available at this conference can ensure that we are getting the most from our GIS investment. I can learn firsthand about new ideas and best practices in the industry, and more importantly, I can bring this knowledge back to our organization.

The Big Sky GeoCon serves as MAGIP’s and Montana’s key geospatial networking event, attracting over 200 geospatial technology users and professionals each year that represent nearly every commercial sector, government and tribal organization, and nonprofit field over a wide variety of professions including natural resources, agriculture, utilities, geospatial services, health, and emergency services. The conference includes multiple networking events that provide opportunities for connecting with other professionals and GIS users.

The conference will cover a broad spectrum of content including analytics, data acquisition, data science, and how geospatial technology augments them all. This year’s conference theme is *Analyzing the Past, Adapting to the Present, Shaping the Future*. Conference attendees can choose from over 50 hours of training opportunities, including two full days of presentations, lightning talks, panel discussions, and two days of hands-on workshops. The conference also includes sponsor exhibits featuring innovative GIS solutions, a poster and web map competition, and a career development booth.

With GIS becoming more powerful and accessible every year, I need to know how we can leverage its capabilities to make the most of our resources and stay ahead of the digital curve. While the topics covered at the conference are applicable to many areas of our organization, these three projects, in particular, would benefit from my attendance:

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Since the conference is being held virtually this year, this is a great opportunity for me to attend a professional education and networking event at a significant discount, since there are no traveling and lodging costs. I can further reduce costs at this and future conferences by becoming a MAGIP member.

The total cost for my conference registration is: $\_\_\_\_. With MAGIP membership, my total costs will be $\_\_\_.

If I attend, it would be my priority to explore practical topics and share what I learn with my colleagues. I plan to submit a post-conference summary, including a set of recommended actions to further our GIS work. I would also be happy to share what I learn with other staff members and departments.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to your reply.