**GIS PROFESSIONAL (GISP) CERTIFICATION ASSISTANCE**

In 2009 MAGIP endorsed the GISP Certification and encouraged its membership to achieve a professional development GIS certification. MLIAC also endorsed the GISP Certification in 2009.

The GISP Certification:

* Allows its members to be recognized by their colleagues and peers for having demonstrated exemplary professional practice and integrity in the field
* Establishes and maintains high standards of both professional practice and ethical conduct
* Encourages aspiring GIS professionals to work towards certification for the purpose of professional development and advancement
* Encourages established GIS professionals to continue to hone their professional skills and ethical performance even as GIS technology changes

The GIS Certificate Institute (GISCI) is an independent, non-profit organization providing the geographic information system (GIS) community with a complete certification program; and was created as a federation of GIS professional associations capable of representing the broad spectrum of the profession.

A Certified GIS Professional (GISP) must meet the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as established by the GISCI; and certified GIS Professionals adhere to the GIS Code of Ethics and do not practice beyond the limitations of one’s own knowledge.

MAGIP recognizes the GIS Certificate Institute (GISCI) as the organization capable of providing a complete certification program to the broad spectrum of GIS professionals in the Montana GIS community.

The Professional Development Committee proposes that MAGIP provide financial assistance to MAGIP members that successfully apply or renew their GISP certification.

* **Reimburse 50% of GISP Certification application and renewal fees**. Current fees are $250 for application and $115 for renewals.
* Budget two line items for GISP application fees and GISP renewal fees. For 2014 we propose that MAGIP shall cover 50% of the cost for no more than **7 applications**, $875, and **7 renewals**, $402.50, for a total of **$1,277.50**.
* Reimbursement for fees would be processed through the standard **MAGIP Request for Assistance** **on a first come basis**. An Applicant will be responsible for paying the total application fee to GISCI and submitting the GISP application. An Applicant will submit a request for reimbursement from MAGIP for 50% of the application/renewal cost after they have received confirmation that their application/renewal has been approved.
* To qualify for GISP fee reimbursement the applicant must be a **MAGIP member for 3 years and in good standing at the time of the request**.
* To qualify for GISP fee reimbursement the **applicant’s employer must not be willing/able to pay for the fees.**
* This program is **not retroactive** and will only apply to GISP certifications received in 2014.
* In addition to providing reimbursement MAGIP would like to **recognize individuals for obtaining their GISP** by sending a congratulatory letter and acknowledging them on the MAGIP website
* As GISCI updates their certification requirements in the future, MAGIP will also review the GISP Assistance Policy yearly, **reevaluating** any reimbursement processes and budget amounts.