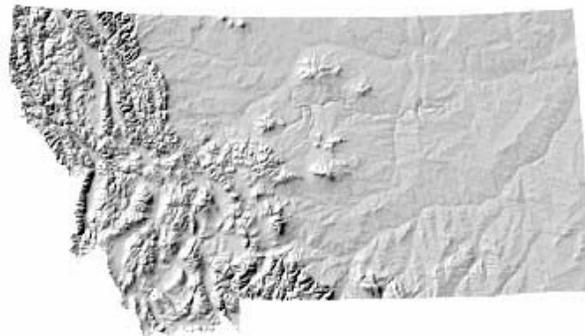


# Montana GIS News



Special Edition, September, 2003

## Planning and Coordination Meeting to be Held in Bozeman

Sponsored by the Montana Users Group

This special edition of the Montana GIS User's Group Newsletter is to alert all members of the Montana GIS community of an important planning and coordination meeting being held in Bozeman, October 15 and 16, 2003. Our regular fall edition of the Newsletter will be published following this planning session and will include an update from the meeting.

All GIS professionals are strongly encouraged to attend and discuss GIS coordination efforts and a structure for organizations that can best serve the interests the GIS community statewide.

A draft agenda for the October 15 & 16 quarterly joint ITWG\MLGGC meeting is now posted at the following weblink: <http://www.forestry.umt.edu/infotech/gis/itwg/new/default.htm>. Please send additional agenda items or changes to Mike Sweet (ITWG secretary) at ([sweet@forestry.umt.edu](mailto:sweet@forestry.umt.edu)); Jeff Hutten (ITWG chair, [jhutten@state.mt.us](mailto:jhutten@state.mt.us)); or Rj. Zimmer (acting MLGGC chair at [rjzimmer@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:rjzimmer@co.lewis-clark.mt.us)).

Wednesday October 15 will be an all day facilitated workshop on GIS coordination in Montana, hosted by MTGIS and supported by MGIC, MLGGC, ITWG, and other GIS-related organizations such as the MSDI I-Teams, GPS Users' Group, Water\Wastewater Group, Addressing Group, MARLS, etc.

On Thursday October 16 representatives from MTGIS, MLGGC, and ITWG will gather to determine the day's agenda. This will include action items based on the workshop the prior day, and topics suggested by the respective memberships.

This meeting is being held to address organization and coordination issues that have been the subject of recent ITWG and MLGCC meetings, and in

response to a request from the Montana Geographic Information Council (MGIC) to be provided with input from active GIS coordination groups.

### MGIC Meeting Executive Summary

The following is an executive summary from the quarterly meeting of the Montana Geographic Information Council (MGIC) that was held September 4 and 5, 2003 at Seeley Lake. The agenda included a progress report on the GIS strategic initiative, a report on the status of the MSDI critical infrastructure theme, and an update on the development of the National Map.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to a strategic planning session. This session began with a discussion of the results from a survey completed by the MGIC membership prior to the meeting. The survey had queried member perspectives regarding:

1. The value of GIS to Montana
2. Using the "enterprise" approach to GIS development and implementation
3. Emerging issues and trends
4. Barriers to effective GIS implementation and coordination
5. MGIC's role in improving GIS coordination and implementation
6. The role of MGIC and members of the GIS community to encourage greater commitment to coordination and support for the use of GIS technology.

Members agreed that a primary role for MGIC should be a focus on leadership for the purpose of increasing its influence on policy decisions related to the use of and funding for GIS technology. Members

also agreed that MGIC should develop strategies to achieve this goal that emphasize increased coordination and collaboration, communication and outreach, and exploring funding opportunities.

The Council also requested support from the Montana GIS User's Group in hosting a facilitated planning and coordination meeting in conjunction with the regularly scheduled ITWG and MLGCC October meeting to encourage dialogue and input from other GIS coordination organizations to the goals and objectives of the MGIC strategic plan.

**Please take time from your busy schedules to participate in this important coordination effort. Call Jeff Hutten at 751-4571 or email him at [jhuttten@state.mt.us](mailto:jhuttten@state.mt.us), if you plan to attend so we can have plenty of room for all.**

The following excerpt from the 1997 Executive Order establishing the MGIC, describes its intended purpose and duties.

I. PURPOSE and DUTIES

The purpose of the Montana Geographic Information Council is to provide policy level direction and promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters related to geographic information. To that end it shall:

- A. promote a spirit of cooperation among state, federal and local agencies, and the private sector in addressing geographic data and information needs and services in Montana; and
- B. review and establish priorities for statewide geographic information needs and assist in the development of implementation plans; and
- C. facilitate cost sharing and collaborative arrangements to develop and maintain high-priority GIS data bases and applications programs; and
- D. promote coordination of programs, policies, technologies and resources to maximize opportunities and minimize duplication of effort, and to facilitate the documentation, distribution and exchange of geographic information; and
- E. ensure the development of consistent policies, standards and guidelines for geographic information; and
- F. complement and enhance ongoing coordination efforts of the Montana GIS Interagency Technical Working Group, the Montana Local Government GIS Coalition, the Montana GIS Users Group, and others; and
- G. serve as the primary point of contact for national, regional, and other states' GIS coordinating groups for the purpose of channeling issues and projects to the appropriate individuals, organizations, or agencies; and
- H. provide recommendations to the Governor and the legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to geographic information in Montana. ✱

