

## **A Proposed Geographic Information System Professionals' Code of Ethics<sup>1</sup>**

- I. GIS professionals must provide the highest standards of service through appropriate and usefully organized data, and skillful, accurate, and unbiased analyses.
- II. GIS professionals should adhere to accepted cartographic principles in the management, display, and reproduction of spatial data.
- III. GIS professionals must resist all efforts by groups or individuals to restrict access to public information.
- IV. GIS professionals must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received, and information consulted, borrowed, or acquired.
- V. GIS professionals must adhere to the principles of due process and equality of opportunity in peer relationships and personnel actions.
- VI. GIS professionals must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of an institution or professional body.
- VII. GIS professionals must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of data users, colleagues, or the employing institution.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the *Librarians' Code of Ethics*, as adopted by the American Library Association Council, June 30, 1981

## Proposed GIS Code of Ethics Comment Form

In developing the *Montana GIS Standards Plan*, the Montana Interagency GIS Technical Working Group (TWG) discussed ethical issues related to GIS development, operation, and data sharing. Out of that discussion evolved a draft GIS Professional Code of Ethics. Before proceeding further with its development, endorsement, or adoption, the TWG would like comments and feedback from the Montana GIS user community. Please take a moment to review the Proposed GIS Professional Code of Ethics and answer the brief questionnaire below. If you would like to make additional comments, please use the blank space at the end of the form.

Please leave the completed questionnaire at the conference registration desk or send it to:

Allan Cox  
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Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-5357

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1. Do you think a GIS Professional's Code of Ethics is: (mark one)

Needed     Good Idea     No Opinion     Bad Idea     Not Needed

2. The appropriate place for a GIS Code of Ethics is: (mark all you think are appropriate)

Published in a *Standards Plan*  
 Published in a newsletter  
 Separate Document  
 Published in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please indicate an evaluation of each statement in the proposed code. Mark one choice for each code statement.

**I. GIS professionals must provide the highest standards of service through appropriate and usefully organized data; skillful, accurate, and unbiased analyses.**

Good as written  
 Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)  
 Should be deleted

**II. GIS professionals should adhere to accepted cartographic principles in the management, display, and reproduction of spatial data.**

Good as written  
 Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)  
 Should be deleted

**III. GIS professionals must resist all efforts by groups or individuals to restrict access to public information.**

- Good as written
- Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)
- Should be deleted

**IV. GIS professionals must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received, and information consulted, borrowed, or acquired.**

- Good as written
- Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)
- Should be deleted

**V. GIS professionals must adhere to the principles of due process and equality of opportunity in peer relationships and personnel actions.**

- Good as written
- Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)
- Should be deleted

**VI. GIS professionals must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of an institution or professional body.**

- Good as written
- Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)
- Should be deleted

**VII. GIS professionals must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of data users, colleagues, or the employing institution.**

- Good as written
- Should be included, but needs revision (indicate changes)
- Should be deleted

Additional Comments: