

Geographic Names for Montana

Presented by Lee Macholz (National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis – UM), Michael Sweet (UM), and Lance Clappitt (USGS).

“... first and foremost a table of names”

Completed:

“GNIS in Montana: Final Report from the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis to the USGS”, June 2008. (Available on-line at http://firecenter.umontana.edu/files/images/GNIS_in_Montana_NCLFA_FinalReport_June08.pdf)

- Analysis of existing federal geographic names database (GNIS)
- Montana geographic names data model
- Recommendations for stewardship of geographic names in Montana

Priority activities:

Pursue the “phase-one” option presented to Council in June 2008. This option adopts a Montana geographic names database and incorporates value-added information to enhance content from the federal geographic names database. The development and maintenance of a Montana geographic names database is based on three characteristics: (1) a single well-defined process for populating a Montana geographic names database, (2) integration with framework layers, and (3) a data-management structure that distributes valid content to application needs. An indicator of successful completion of phase-one would be a robust approach for maintaining a Montana geographic names database that integrates with and leverages the federal geographic names (GNIS) effort.

The following priority activities are recommended for advancing the phase-one option:

1. Allocate funding\responsibility to establish an environment that will replicate data from the USGS federal geographic names database and populate the Montana data model for geographic names continually and automatically; eventually this replication should push Montana names data back to the USGS federal geographic names database as well.
2. Allocate funding\responsibility to ensure Montana framework themes crosswalk feature names with the Montana database of geographic names (consider one or more of the following: Cadastral, Critical Infrastructure, Elevation\Elevation points, Government Units, Hydrography, Hydrologic Units, Wetlands).
3. Allocate funding\responsibility to develop\prototype a (non-spatial) web interface for maintaining (add\retire\change) the Montana table of geographic names.

Council\Stakeholder actions:

1. Include a reference to Montana Geographic Names in the FY2010 MLIA Land Information Plan that will provide an opportunity for entities to compete for funding to achieve one or more of the above priority activities.
2. Develop and publish a Geographic Names stewardship profile and submit profile to the GIO for consideration.