

# Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure Selection Criteria

**Background:** *The Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure or “MSDI”* is defined as the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve the utilization of geospatial data in Montana.

A *Montana Framework Data Layer* is a State recognized, commonly needed and digitally formatted representation of land information features, natural and cultural that are coordinated, developed, integrated, maintained, and distributed through a community based effort over the geographic area of Montana and are, in the determination of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council and the Geographic Information Officer, significant to a broad variety of users within Montana and the Nation.

The Montana Framework Data can and does include data themes identified in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and where collaborative opportunities exist, presents an ability to support framework data for the nation.

The MSDI Framework Data selection process should consider these definitions within the context of the defined requirements, qualifiers and criteria.

In order to be considered for inclusion as a MSDI Framework Data layer, data must meet all three (3) Mandatory Requirements and either qualify under the Automatic Qualifiers section or meet the minimum point criteria.

**Theme Name:**

**Sponsor (Name(s) and Agency(s):**

**Theme Summary:** Please write a short paragraph describing the proposed MSDI theme.

## Mandatory Requirements

- Is the layer based on state-wide collection and maintenance? And;
- Is the layer considered the state recommendation or source for a given theme? And;
- **Will the data reside in the public domain? And;**
- Does the layer have a documented “best practice” or standard?

[ ] Yes – proceed to automatic qualifiers or criteria

[ ] No – the theme cannot be considered as an MSDI theme

**Automatic Qualifiers:** A digitally formatted land information theme automatically qualifies for recommendation if it meets the mandatory requirements listed above and meets one or more of the following qualifiers:

1. an existing NSDI Framework layer  
(Documented NSDI layers include: Elevation, Hydrography, Geodetic Control, Cadastral, Transportation, Governmental Units, and Orthoimagery) <or>
  2. a represented layer on a official State Base Map or U.S. Geological Survey topographic map <or>
  3. a mandated geospatial layer by state law
- Is the layer an existing NSDI Framework layer; part of a standard USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic map or official State Base Map; or mandated geospatial layer by state law?
- [ ] Yes – Layer may be proposed as an MSDI theme
- [ ] No – Layer may still be proposed as a MSDI layer if it meets the minimum criteria point total below.

**Criteria:** If the layer meets the mandatory requirement above but none of the automatic qualifiers it may still qualify as a proposed MSDI layer by meeting the minimum 24 criteria points established below. \* Please document answers on summary page.

- Is the layer a critical component in one or more core state business processes or applications?
- Part of 1 business process or application [2 points]
  - Part of 2-4 business processes or applications [5 points]
  - Part of 4 or more business processes or applications [10 points]
- \*List each core business process or application
- Does the theme have other state/federal stakeholders
- 1 other stakeholder [2 points]
  - 2-4 stakeholders [5 points]
  - 4 or more stakeholders [10 points]
- \*List stakeholders and theme

- Are MSDI layers dependent on <or> does this layer underpin other MSDI layers? Which layers? Explain. Max Points  
[5 points]
- Does the layer provide a benefit to the public? List benefits. What segments of the ‘public’ benefit most? Why? [5 points]

- Is the theme part of the state Land Information Plan? Explain [5 points]
- Is the theme currently maintained by a state or federal agency? Which agency? [5 points]
- Does the layer have a state sponsor/steward? Who? [5 points]

### MSDI Decision Tree

