



MEMO

To: Montana Geospatial Information Advisory Council
From: Troy Blandford, GIS Lead – Water Information
Subject: FY27 Blaine County Grant for Hydrography Data Development - 3DHP
Date: January 9, 2026

At the November 13, 2025 meeting, the Council preapproved Blaine County's FY25 grant application for prioritization in FY27. The preapproved amount requested is \$50,000, plus an inflationary amount. I am writing to request the Council consider approving an additional \$40,000 for a total award amount of \$90,000.

The additional funding will allow for an expanded area of interest and better position the project to leverage additional funding through the USGS 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP). The USGS funding opportunity prioritizes full 8-digit Hydrologic Units (HU) or, at a minimum, multiple 10-digit Hydrologic Units. An expanded project would complete the Battle Creek 8-digit HU (10050008) in full, plus six 10-digit Hydrologic Units within the Middle Milk Subbasin (10050004).

The final project area of interest is subject to change. Blaine County applied to the USGS 3DHP in November 2025 and is awaiting a final award decision. USGS funding availability in federal FY27 is also unknown.