

Memo

To: Montana Land Information Advisory Council

From: Erin Fashoway, State GIS Coordinator

Date: December 03, 2020

Re: **Montana Land Information Plan 2021/2022: Public Comment**

The [Montana Land Information Plan](#) 2021/2022, state fiscal year 2022, was published for a 30-day public comment period: 11/3/2020 - 12/2/2020.

Please see the attached public comment received by the Montana State Library.

From: [Anderson, Dawn](#)
To: [Montana State Library GeoInfo](#)
Subject: Land Plan Comments
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:00:02 PM

Overall, I think the land plan is trying to accomplish too much and is drifting from its intended purpose in Montana code of a "...plan that describes the priority needs to collect, maintain, and disseminate land information." The focus of the land plan should be on updating and maintaining the MSDI layers and then making them accessible. Prioritizing the layers for attention in the land plan would also be a positive step.

Since the land plan is annual, I would treat it more like an MSDI workplan. As such doesn't need to include as much information as this plan currently does. Streamlining the plan would make it easier to manage and report on at the end of the year as well.

Land information Plan Goals

Edit/Reorder the goals to make it clear that current and maintained MSDI layers are the priority. This is in line with the intent of the land plan.

Goal #1 – "Improve the quality and efficiency of critical business processes of stakeholders through the use of GIS technology and adoption of MSDI data layers." Should be removed. The land plan itself cannot accomplish this goal. Quality and efficiency of business processes may be able to be improved through technology and using MSDI, however that is likely the result of having current and easily accessible MSDI layers.

Goal #2 "Ensure the existence (sustainability/stability) of a collaborative Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure." Is unnecessary. The land information and MSDI are described in ARM 10.102.9102 so no need for this.

Make Goal #3 – "Ensure the consistent collection, accurate maintenance, and dissemination, in accordance with standards, of the MSDI data layers." Move this to goal #1

Goals #4 – "Promote the use of GIS across the state through funding, coordination, education, and outreach." Should also be removed since the land plan itself cannot do this. This is the role of MSL and the State GIS Coordinator separate from the land plan.

By making these proposed changes the Land Plan now has 1 goal - Ensure the consistent collection, accurate maintenance, and dissemination, in accordance with standards, of the MSDI data layers.

The asterisk next to the layers in the list on page 9 should be explained. If those layers are not current and/or being maintained that should be clear to the reader and an explanation why on pages 12-13. I also advocate for some of these layers (specifically transportation and geographic names) which are hugely important for many uses across the state to receive attention. Some of them haven't been updated in years and are critical layers.

Priorities for grants could be looked at differently. Rather than specifying a project and indicating the layers, the layers could be listed and the projects they support detailed. If done this way, the magnitude and importance of the layers themselves would become evident and the focus would be on the data and not the project.

I don't think the Geo-enabled election project should not be included in the land plan as a Tier 1 priority. While an important project, it is out of scope of the intent of the land plan as defined. It appears to be a very large project requiring a lot of coordination. If the Secretary of State's office needs/wants this done or needs assistance, it should be an entirely separate project for MSL to take on with dedicated funding attached.

The GIS Coordination section should be removed or if kept, only those duties that relate to MSDI layers should be listed. Many of the tasks listed are general duties of the state GIS coordinator position and not specific to the land plan.

Fashoway, Erin

From: McFadden, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Montana State Library GeoInfo
Cc: Anderson, Dawn
Subject: public comment - Draft Land Info Plan 2021/2022

Hello,

I am submitting a few comments for the Draft Land Information Plan 2021/2022:

- I use transportation data almost daily for my work. The transportation data currently provided by MSL is in need of attention. I would really like to see the transportation data them become a routinely actively maintained data theme. With as much development that is occurring in our state, we need accurate and up-to-date transportation data. It would seem to be just as important, if not more important and critical, than many of the other data themes listed in the Plan that are currently being maintained.
- I am glad to see the road centerline data as a Tier 1 Priority and would like to see some long-term commitments to regular maintenance of the transportation data theme.
- I am eager to see the lidar data delivery system you plan to develop! I receive feedback from some GIS users that downloading NAIP is a cumbersome process. While under normal circumstances, access to NAIP is quite easy and efficient, under these remote work settings with VPN connections, the need to access and download NAIP effectively and efficiently is critical. I am hopeful that the system for the lidar data delivery is user friendly.

Thanks for all the work you do, it really is greatly appreciated!

Cheers,
Jamie

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