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**State of Montana**  
**Office of the Governor**

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FEB 12 2001

OF MONTANA



**Executive Order No. 17-97**

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EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE  
MONTANA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL

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WHEREAS, geographic information plays a vital role in decision making processes for local, state and federal government entities as well as private businesses and citizens; and

WHEREAS, geographic information is expensive to collect, maintain and analyze; and

WHEREAS, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer systems for storing, assembling, manipulating and displaying geographically referenced material; and

WHEREAS, GIS serve as valuable mediums for scientific investigation, resource management and development planning; and

WHEREAS, GIS are currently being used and developed across Montana by local, state and federal agencies, as well as the business community, to facilitate effective decision making; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to coordinate these efforts to provide a cost effective, efficient means of assembling and distributing geospatial data among interested agencies and

1 parties; and

2 WHEREAS, a broad based effort, commitment, policy  
3 direction and framework is needed for Montana to develop and  
4 manage its geographic information resources; and

5 WHEREAS, GIS is of long-term importance to all of the  
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, the state recognizes the importance of  
8 coordinating technology, including the concept of data sharing;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the state adopted and endorses an aggressive  
11 policy regarding the use of technology to provide access to  
12 services and current and retrospective information with  
13 appropriate regard for budgetary considerations; and

4 WHEREAS, the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)  
15 recommended the creation of a formal position and coordinating  
16 body expressly to coordinate the collection, maintenance and  
17 distribution of geographic information,

18 NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of  
19 Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and  
20 Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby create the  
21 Montana Geographic Information Council.

22 I. PURPOSE and DUTIES

23 The purpose of the Montana Geographic Information Council  
24 is to provide policy level direction and promote efficient and  
25 effective use of resources for matters related to geographic  
26 information. To that end it shall:

27 A. promote a spirit of cooperation among state, federal

1 and local agencies, and the private sector in addressing  
2 geographic data and information needs and services in  
3 Montana; and

4 B. review and establish priorities for statewide  
5 geographic information needs and assist in the development  
6 of implementation plans; and

7 C. facilitate cost sharing and collaborative arrangements  
8 to develop and maintain high-priority GIS data bases and  
9 applications programs; and

10 D. promote coordination of programs, policies,  
11 technologies and resources to maximize opportunities and  
12 minimize duplication of effort, and to facilitate the  
13 documentation, distribution and exchange of geographic  
14 information; and

15 E. ensure the development of consistent policies,  
16 standards and guidelines for geographic information; and

17 F. complement and enhance ongoing coordination efforts of  
18 the Montana Interagency Technical Working Group, the  
19 Montana Local Government GIS Coalition and others; and

20 G. provide recommendations to the Governor and the  
21 legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to  
22 geographic information in Montana.

23 II. COMPOSITION

24 The Council shall consist of fourteen members, appointed by  
25 the Governor, as follows:

26 A. the Director of the Department of Administration (or  
27 designee) who shall serve as chair or appoint a chair from

- 1 the council membership; and
- 2 B. the State Librarian (or designee); and
- 3 C. the Directors of two state agencies (or designees);
- 4 and
- 5 D. three representatives from county and municipal
- 6 government, at least one of whom is a local government
- 7 representative active in land information systems; and
- 8 E. a representative from the Federal Geographic Data
- 9 Commission (FGDC) to be selected by the Chair of the FGDC;
- 10 and
- 11 F. one representative from the US Department of
- 12 Agriculture; and
- 13 G. one representative from the US Department of the
- 14 Interior; and
- 15 H. two representatives chosen from public utilities or
- 16 private businesses active in land information systems; and
- 17 I. one Tribal representative; and
- 18 J. one representative of the University System.

19 The Department of Administration/Information Services

20 Division will provide technical and administrative support for

21 the Council. The Council, at its discretion, may seek the

22 advice of the Montana Technical Working Group (TWG), the Montana

23 Local Government GIS Coalition (MLGGC), the GIS Users Group and

24 technical resources in the private sector for additional

25 support.

26 The names and addresses of members are submitted by

27 separate letter to the Secretary of State and the Department of

1 Administration.

2 III. DURATION

3 This Council shall exist for a period of two years from the  
4 effective date of this Order unless otherwise ordered by  
5 subsequent Executive Order.

6 This order is effective immediately.

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8  
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10  
11 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT  
12 SEAL of the State of Montana,  
13 this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1997.

4 Marc Racicot  
MARC RACICOT, Governor

15 ATTEST:

16 Mike Cooney  
17 MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State