

## **Montana Endorses GISCI Certification**

**12/31/2009**

Des Plaines, IL - The Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) and the Montana Land Information Act Council (MLIAC), the primary geographic information systems organization and the coordinating council for the state, have formally endorsed the GIS Certification Institute's (GISCI) certification program for GIS professionals. Montana has joined California, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon and North Carolina as the six states to offer endorsements of the program.

"Montanans (via the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals and the Montana Land Information Act Council) are very happy to have endorsed GIS Certification," says Kris Larson, MAGIP Past President and MLIA Council Member. "More and more people have access to GIS technology, but they may not have any background in some basic geographic concepts. Therefore I feel that it is increasingly important to have a professional certification along with a promise of ethical conduct. It validates the work we do as professionals, just as there are Professional Engineers and other certified professions. The Montana GIS community has rallied around the concept of certification and now works even harder to offer continuing education opportunities. This ultimately benefits everyone in our state as better information becomes available to decision makers."

MAGIP is a non-profit professional association that works to identify and support the strengths of individual members, find solutions to individual and collective problems, and address the needs of the Montana GIS community as a whole. The mission of MAGIP is to stimulate, encourage, and provide for the advancement of an interdisciplinary approach to the use of geographic information. The Association sponsors educational workshops, conferences, forums, educational grants, and scholarships. We work collectively with educators, data creators, data users, application developers and software vendors to foster technical cooperation and promote the development of sound policy and practices that will support the efficient and effective use of geographic information systems.

MLIAC is made up of representatives from local, regional, state and federal government agencies and the private sector. The Council advises the Department of Administration on the planning and grant process established in statute, as well as providing policy level direction in the advancement of Geographic Information Technology in general.

Currently, 25 certified GIS professionals (GISPs®) reside in the state of Montana. There are 4,400 GISPs® as of December 31, 2009. To download application materials or for more information regarding the GISCI certification program please visit [www.gisci.org](http://www.gisci.org) or call (847) 824-7768.