

from Treasure State Surveyor (Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors magazine).

Along with Idaho State University and the Idaho Geodetic Control Framework Group, the Montana Base Map Service Center and the Montana Geodetic Control Working Group /Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee (<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/heightmod.shtml>) are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a FY2011 Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP) grant at a funding level of \$39,336. The Montana-Idaho application was submitted through Idaho State University in Pocatello. A short description of the project is below. We will provide a link to the full text of the proposal off the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Geodetic Control web page (http://giscoordination.mt.gov/geodetic_control/msdi.asp) as soon as the FGDC publishes the grants.

A portion of the award will be used to adapt our present Montana Control Point Database database schema and application (<http://gisservice.mt.gov/MCPDviewer/>) to a multi-state approach. The other part of the grant is to develop a business plan for a Regional Geodetic Reference Center for Montana and Idaho. The Geodetic Reference Center would support various positioning projects and programs such as densifying the CORS network, hosting the Multi-state Control Point Database, and establishing a real-time network. We thank the National Geodetic Survey and the Idaho and Montana/Dakotas BLM state offices for supporting this proposal.

This joint proposal by Montana and Idaho employs a two-part approach to demonstrate technical and governance approaches to support Geodetic Control in a multi-state environment. The technical part will provide tools to support the discovery, use, and exchange of geodetic information in two states by adapting the Montana Control Point Database and application to consume and make available Idaho's control points. The result will be a Multi-state Control Point Database and application (MCPD).

To achieve long-term success, the second part addresses collaborative development of a business plan to:

- a) Establish and operate a Regional Geodetic Reference Center to sustain the MCPD and
- b) Realize a real-time network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in both states and possibly others.

The plan will address governance, management, funding, technical issues, and other aspects that insure accountability, longevity and stability.

The results will demonstrate a viable path to a Geodetic Control Framework for the region and, potentially, the nation.

Rj Zimmer, PLS

on behalf of the Montana Geodetic Control Working Group and the Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee