

MAGNET S2

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DTG: 260720-2000Z | Geographic Focus: MARS Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

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REPORT IDENTIFICATION

Subject	Flock Safety ALPR Camera Deployment and Privacy Posture — MARS Region 8 (CO/MT/ND/SD/UT/WY)
Purpose	Provide intelligence assessment of Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera deployment, state-level regulatory posture, and data-sharing risk across MARS Region 8 for operator situational awareness and personal OPSEC planning.
DTG	260720-2000Z
Reporting Period	January 2026 – 20 July 2026
Geographic Focus	MARS Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)
Precedence	RR -- ROUTINE
MagCon Status	3 -- ELEVATED (NO CHANGE)
Sources	Multiple source reporting from Local, National, and International platforms. See source list.

SUMMARY (BLUF)

Flock Safety ALPR cameras are confirmed operational in some capacity across all six MARS Region 8 states, with active deployments identified in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, though saturation, funding levels, and public oversight vary widely by state and by agency.

None of the six Region 8 states currently maintain statutory limits on ALPR data retention, cross-jurisdictional sharing, or third-party access comparable to states such as Washington or Maine, leaving policy almost entirely at individual agency discretion.

Public pushback is emerging unevenly across the region: Douglas County, Colorado has canceled its Flock contract in favor of a competing vendor, while Wyoming and Utah face active ACLU-affiliate advocacy campaigns without confirmed contract cancellations to date, and Montana and North Dakota show comparatively lower public controversy.

The most significant regional intelligence indicator is the near-total absence of state-level regulation governing cross-jurisdictional and federal data sharing, meaning Region 8 agencies could route locally collected plate data to out-of-state or federal requestors with limited transparency, consistent with documented incidents reported in other regions of the country.

BACKGROUND

Flock Safety is a private ALPR and public-safety technology vendor whose network has expanded to more than 100,000 camera devices nationwide, performing over 20 billion vehicle scans per month across more than 5,000 communities and roughly 4,500 law enforcement agencies as of mid-2026.

MARS Region 8 consists of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming — a geographically large, comparatively low-population-density region bisected by major interstate corridors (I-25, I-70, I-76, I-80, I-90, I-15) that concentrate both commercial and law enforcement ALPR deployment.

Regional camera adoption has been driven primarily at the municipal and county level rather than through statewide programs, resulting in significant variation in camera density, funding source, and public transparency between neighboring jurisdictions within the same state.

SITUATION

Colorado

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office operates roughly 26 Flock cameras in high-traffic areas and has used them to recover stolen vehicles, including a publicized case in Lakewood. El Paso County's Flock system contributed to a stolen-vehicle recovery and four arrests near Fountain on 13 July 2026.

Summit County is installing approximately 300 cameras focused on major entry and exit points along Interstate 70 and Highway 9, joining a statewide data-sharing network that extends beyond county lines. Glenwood Springs Police Department also operates Flock cameras for investigations and Amber Alert response.

In the region's most significant contract development, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office is discontinuing its Flock Safety system in favor of a nearly \$22.8 million contract with competing vendor Axon — the first confirmed Region 8 agency-level move away from Flock, though it represents a vendor switch rather than a rejection of ALPR technology.

Utah

Approximately 30 Utah cities, counties, and police departments used Flock cameras in 2025. Ogden is the state's largest municipal spender on the technology (\$123,000 in 2025), followed by Wayne County (\$95,100) and Provo (\$75,406); Ogden signed its first Flock contract in 2021 after a multi-year vendor evaluation.

Ogden residents have raised concerns about camera use at city council meetings and on social media, and West Valley City is among other municipalities operating the technology. State-level ALPR privacy legislation has not been identified in current reporting.

Wyoming

Flock cameras are installed in Jackson and Cheyenne, and are described by the ACLU of Wyoming as 'virtually unregulated' at the state level. The Jackson Town Council approved \$184,800 to fund new surveillance cameras amid community pushback.

By contrast, the town of Glenrock's Flock deployment has drawn comparatively little controversy over roughly two years of operation, in contrast to more contentious rollouts in Cheyenne, Jackson, and jurisdictions bordering tribal land referenced in regional reporting.

North Dakota

The Fargo Police Department has launched a Flock Safety Transparency Portal allowing residents to view the number of cameras deployed, the department's ALPR policy, audit logs of search purpose and timing, and 30-day search totals — a notably more proactive transparency posture than most other Region 8 jurisdictions identified in current reporting.

South Dakota

South Dakota has no state law addressing ALPR privacy or surveillance oversight. Confirmed Flock users include the Sioux Falls Police Department, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Madison. The Sioux Falls PD's own Flock Transparency Portal states the system does not perform facial recognition or identify gender or race.

Montana

Flock camera deployment in Montana is raising new privacy questions statewide. Camera locations are being actively documented by the crowdsourced DeFlock mapping project, indicating community-driven monitoring is currently filling a gap left by limited official transparency reporting from Montana agencies.

COMMENTS / ASSESSMENT

Regulatory Posture

None of the six Region 8 states impose meaningful statutory limits on ALPR retention periods, cross-jurisdictional sharing, or third-party data access. This places the region's regulatory posture well behind states that have enacted specific ALPR safeguards, and leaves data-handling practices almost entirely at the discretion of individual purchasing agencies.

Contract Stability

Douglas County's move to Axon is the first confirmed Region 8 contract change identified in current reporting, but it reflects vendor competition rather than a rejection of ALPR technology outright, and should not be read as evidence of a broader regional cancellation trend at this time.

Transparency Variance

Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls, SD are the only Region 8 jurisdictions identified with public Flock Transparency Portals, suggesting a small but growing subset of agencies are adopting Flock's voluntary transparency tooling. Adoption remains inconsistent and agency-optional across the region.

Camera Effectiveness vs. Community Trust-Building: Comparative Evidence

This comparative evidence bears directly on Region 8 jurisdictions currently weighing new or expanded Flock contracts (e.g., Summit County, CO; Jackson, WY) against alternative or complementary community-engagement investment. Independent, non-vendor-funded evaluations of ALPR effectiveness remain limited and produce more mixed findings than vendor marketing suggests. The most rigorous controlled study of ALPR-focused deterrence, a randomized controlled trial conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum in Mesa, Arizona, found that LPR use in auto-theft hot spots did not appear to reduce that crime type. A subsequent National Institute of Justice quasi-randomized patrol study similarly found LPR use increased stolen-vehicle recoveries but did not reduce the likelihood of a new crime call while an officer was present, providing little clear evidence of general crime-prevention efficacy. A 2025 evaluation of a

major ALPR expansion in Atlantic City, NJ produced mixed, model-dependent results, with some statistical models predicting crime increases associated with the intervention.

Broader closed-circuit television research is more consistent but still modest in scale. The most recent 40-year, 80-study Campbell Collaboration meta-analysis found CCTV associated with a significant but modest 16 percent overall crime reduction, driven heavily by a 51 percent reduction in parking-lot settings specifically, with substantially smaller effects in other settings; CCTV performed best when combined with other interventions rather than deployed as a standalone measure.

Community trust-building and procedural-justice-based policing show a different effect profile: smaller direct effects on crime, but stronger, more mechanistically established effects on citizen cooperation. A meta-analysis of community policing found limited direct effects on crime and fear of crime, but found community policing increases trust and satisfaction with police, which in turn increases citizens' willingness to report crime — a 'reporting effect' not driven by underlying crime-rate change. A dedicated meta-analysis of Tyler's procedural-justice model found consistent support that citizens who perceive police treatment as fair are more likely to view police as legitimate, and that perceived legitimacy predicts greater citizen cooperation and crime reporting; the same body of research finds that communities with low reporting rates nearly always have higher crime rates, while individuals who report victimization are less likely to be revictimized than those who do not report. A separate Campbell Collaboration review found community and problem-solving policing interventions produced the strongest crime-reduction effect sizes among disorder-policing strategies, while aggressive order-maintenance tactics generated no significant reduction.

Independent research on both interventions points to modest, narrowly-scoped direct effects rather than the broad reductions claimed in vendor-produced studies such as Flock Safety's self-reported customer survey claiming approximately 700,000 crimes solved annually nationwide. Camera systems appear to provide stronger investigative/case-clearance value than proven deterrence value, while trust-building interventions appear to strengthen the citizen-reporting pipeline that camera and other investigative data depend on to become clearance outcomes. This suggests camera expansion and trust-building investment function as complements rather than substitutes, and Region 8 jurisdictions that expand ALPR infrastructure without maintaining or improving community trust may realize a smaller share of total crime-clearance benefit than camera count alone would suggest.

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY	PROBABILITY
Continued ALPR Expansion Across Region 8 (12 mo.)	HIGH
State Legislative Action Imposing Meaningful ALPR Privacy Limits (12 mo.)	LOW-MODERATE
Additional Region 8 Agencies Canceling or Replacing Flock Contracts	LOW-MODERATE
Region 8 Plate Data Reaching Federal/Immigration Enforcement Without Local Authorization	MODERATE

Note: MODERATE probability for unauthorized federal data access reflects a documented national pattern (confirmed elsewhere in 2026 reporting) rather than a confirmed Region 8-specific incident; no such incident has been identified in Region 8 as of this writing.

INTELLIGENCE GAPS

- Are any Region 8 agencies confirmed to have shared ALPR data with ICE or other federal agencies without local authorization?
- What is the current total camera count in each Region 8 state? Only partial, agency-level figures are currently available for Colorado and Utah.
- Do Wyoming jurisdictions bordering tribal land operate independent ALPR agreements, and what data-sharing terms apply to those systems?
- Has any Region 8 state legislature introduced ALPR-specific privacy legislation for the 2027 session?
- What retention period does each individual Region 8 agency use, and does it deviate from Flock's default 30-day standard?
- What proportion of Region 8 agencies using Flock have adopted a public transparency portal versus operating without one?
- Has any Region 8 agency conducted or commissioned an independent (non-vendor-funded) evaluation of its own ALPR program's crime-reduction or clearance-rate impact, comparable in rigor to the Mesa, AZ PERF randomized controlled trial?

MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Members traveling through Region 8 metro corridors (I-25, I-70, I-76, I-80, I-90, I-15) should assume vehicle movement is logged by fixed ALPR infrastructure regardless of jurisdiction.
- Consult the crowdsourced DeFlock map (deflock.org) prior to travel to identify known camera locations in the operating area.

- Where a local agency operates a Flock Transparency Portal (confirmed for Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls, SD), review posted retention periods and data-sharing partners rather than assuming default settings apply.
- Avoid conflating ALPR presence with an elevated threat indicator; current regional deployment is consistent with standard crime-reduction use, not targeted surveillance of MAGNET activity.
- Track Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming legislative sessions for introduced ALPR regulation bills and report status changes through established S2 channels.
- Encourage Region 8 agencies weighing new or expanded ALPR contracts to pair camera investment with community trust-building and procedural-justice practices; independent research indicates trust-building strengthens the citizen-reporting pipeline that camera data depends on to become clearance outcomes, while camera deterrence effects alone remain modest and narrowly scoped in rigorous, non-vendor-funded studies.
- Reduce overall digital footprint, including migrating primary mobile devices used for MAGNET-related activity to de-googled builds (e.g., GrapheneOS-class operating systems) that do not run default Google Mobile Services, or equivalent de-Applied configurations, to limit continuous background location reporting to platform infrastructure.
- Do not use cell phones for purchases, including tap-to-pay/mobile wallet transactions. Mobile payment activity exposes real-time location and can be correlated to any Google or Apple account signed in on the device, regardless of whether that account is the one used for the transaction.
- Use offline-capable, login-free navigation applications such as Magic Earth in place of Google Maps or Apple Maps. Magic Earth does not require an account login to operate, reducing the number of platforms that receive continuous route and destination data during MAGNET-related travel.
- Where feasible, disable or restrict background location permissions for all non-essential applications on devices used for MAGNET activity, and periodically audit which applications retain 'always allow' location access.

MAGNET GUIDANCE

Members conducting field activity, meetups, or equipment transport within Region 8 should factor known ALPR coverage into route planning where operational security is a concern, without over-weighting ALPR presence as an elevated threat indicator absent additional reporting.

PACE tier: where movement to Region 8 activities is communications-sensitive, Primary and Alternate coordination should continue to rely on established MAGNET HF/JS8Call/VarAC BBS channels rather than cellular check-ins; cellular geolocation combined with ALPR vehicle tracking creates a more complete movement picture than either data source alone.

Report any confirmed instance of a Region 8 agency sharing plate data involving MAGNET-relevant travel with unauthorized third parties through standard S2 intake channels.

SOURCE LIST

- [1] [A1] **City of Fargo, ND — Official News Release** — Fargo PD launches Flock Safety Transparency Portal. <https://fargond.gov/news-events/city-news-releases/post-detail?id=6a451825f98ee2cff7a39d71>
- [2] [A1] **City of Glenwood Springs, CO — Official Government Page** — Flock Safety Cameras program overview. <https://cogs.us/930/Flock-Safety-Cameras>
- [3] [B2] **CBS News Colorado** — Arapahoe County Flock cameras aid stolen-vehicle recovery. <https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/colorado/news/flock-safety-cameras-helping-colorado-law-enforcement-solve-crimes-car-thefts>
- [4] [B2] **CBS News Colorado** — 300 Flock cameras coming to Summit County. <https://cbsnews.com/colorado/news/300-flock-cameras-colorado-mountain-county>
- [5] [B2] **Denver Gazette** — Douglas County to replace Flock cameras with \$22.8M Axon system. <https://www.denvergazette.com/2026/07/15/douglas-county-to-replace-flock-cameras-with-22-8-million-axon-system/>
- [6] [B2] **Yahoo News / wire report** — El Paso County, CO Flock alert leads to stolen-vehicle arrests. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/license-plate-cameras-capture-stolen-221841168.html>
- [7] [B2] **KUER (Utah NPR)** — Ogden is Utah's biggest municipal spender on Flock cameras. <https://www.kuer.org/politics-government/2026-01-21/ogden-is-utahs-biggest-spender-on-flock-cameras-heres-how-the-city-uses-them>
- [8] [B2] **KUTV Salt Lake City** — Ogden residents raise privacy concerns over Flock cameras. <https://kutv.com/news/local/automatic-license-plate-reading-cameras-raise-concerns-over-privacy>
- [9] [B2] **ACLU of Wyoming** — "Turn Off Flock" campaign describing Wyoming ALPR regulatory gaps. <https://www.aclu-wy.org/campaigns-initiatives/turn-off-flock/>
- [10] [B2] **Cowboy State Daily** — Glenrock, WY Flock deployment draws little controversy versus other WY jurisdictions. <https://cowboystatedaily.com/2026/07/03/unlike-cheyenne-jackson-and-the-reservation-glenrocks-flock-cameras-bring-little-drama/>
- [11] [B2] **Dakota News Now / South Dakota News Watch** — Fact brief: South Dakota has no ALPR privacy laws. <https://www.dakotaneWSnow.com/2026/05/16/fact-brief-does-sd-have-any-laws-about-automatic-license-plate-readers/>
- [12] [B2] **K99 (Townsquare Media, Montana)** — Flock cameras raise new privacy questions in Montana; DeFlock mapping effort. <https://k99hits.com/deflock-montana-cameras/>

- [13] [B2] **Tech Times** — Flock Safety crosses 100,000 cameras nationwide; 53 cities cancel over unauthorized federal data access. <https://www.techtimes.com/articles/319317/20260629/flock-safety-crosses-100000-cameras-53-cities-cancel-over-unauthorized-federal-data-access.htm>
- [14] [A1] **Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (George Mason Univ.)** — Evidence-based policing brief on the PERF Mesa, AZ randomized controlled trial finding LPR use in auto-theft hot spots did not reduce that crime type. https://cebcp.org/wp-content/evidence-based-policing/LPR_FINAL.pdf
- [15] [A1] **National Institute of Justice** — Quasi-randomized test finding LPR use did not enhance initial or residual deterrent effects of police patrol. <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/do-license-plate-readers-enhance-initial-and-residual-deterrent-effects-police>
- [16] [B2] **Justice Evaluation Journal (Taylor & Francis)** — 2025 evaluation of a major ALPR expansion in Atlantic City, NJ; mixed, model-dependent crime-impact findings. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/24751979.2025.2473363>
- [17] [A1] **Office of Justice Programs / Campbell Collaboration** — 40-year, 80-study systematic review and meta-analysis finding CCTV associated with a modest 16% overall crime reduction, concentrated in car parks. <https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/cctv-surveillance-crime-prevention-40-year-systematic-review-meta-analysis>
- [18] [B2] **Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being** — Meta-analysis of community policing's impact on crime reduction; limited direct crime effect, but increased trust, satisfaction, and citizen reporting. <https://www.journalcswb.ca/index.php/cswb/article/download/244/722/3870>
- [19] [B2] **ScienceDirect (Journal of Criminal Justice)** — Meta-analysis testing Tyler's procedural-justice model; fair treatment perceptions predict police legitimacy, which predicts citizen cooperation and crime reporting. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047235219300029>
- [20] [A1] **Office of Justice Programs / Campbell Collaboration** — Systematic review and meta-analysis finding community and problem-solving policing generate the strongest crime-reduction effect sizes among disorder-policing strategies. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/can-policing-disorder-reduce-crime-systematic-review-and-meta>
- [21] [C2] **Flock Safety** — Vendor-produced customer survey claiming approximately 700,000 crimes solved annually nationwide using Flock technology; self-selected sample, not independently peer-reviewed. <https://www.flocksafety.com/customers/how-many-crimes-do-automated-license-plate-readers-alprs-solve-anyway>

Submit reports through established MAGNET situational awareness channels. To Learn More About MAGNET, Visit www.MAGNETHF.COM