

USGS National Hydrography Dataset Newsletter
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by Jeff Simley, USGS

National NHD Stewardship Conference

Over 100 people will be attending the upcoming National Hydrography Dataset Stewardship Conference at the Denver Federal Center in Denver, Colorado, April 24-26, 2007. Representatives of 35 states will participate in a series of presentations outlining the issues involved in data stewardship. Current practices will be reviewed and demonstrated to give a clear understanding of how stewardship has developed. Many leading-edge and future developments will also be covered to give the attendees a good understanding of how stewardship will need to evolve in the future. Through the exchange of information and ideas, the next steps for a successful stewardship program can be developed. The stewardship of the NHD will launch a new era for the USGS and set a precedent for how databases are cooperatively managed and maintained in the future.

The conference is free and all who are interested in data stewardship are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you plan on attending, please notify Jeff Simley at jdsimley@usgs.gov and put NHD Stewardship Conference in the subject line. Also let your USGS Geospatial Liaison know that you would like to attend. For a list of these liaisons, see <http://nmcatalog.usgs.gov/crreps/faces/crreps.jsp>. The agenda is posted at ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/Stewardship_Agenda.doc. For a list of hotels see <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/Hotels.doc>. Five special rate rooms remain until April 7 ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/USGS_Stewardship_Conference.pdf. Rides to the conference from this hotel and perhaps other hotels should be available. If you want to avoid renting a car, shuttles from the airport can be found at <http://www.gwcommuter.com/>. A Denver Federal Center map can be found at ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/DFC_Map.doc.

NHD Workshops

In the past four years over 1,000 scientists and GIS specialists have received hands-on training in 57 workshops on the application of the National Hydrography Dataset in mapping and analysis. An additional 1,500 people attended another 70 presentations that demonstrated the NHD using a GIS. These presentations were made in 38 states. NHD workshops take an in-depth look at the NHD data structure and how all of the feature classes, features, tables, fields, network, and events can be exploited by a GIS to conduct powerful geographic and network analysis while using a dataset designed for long-term viability through a robust change management strategy.

Completion of the High Resolution NHD

Of a total of 2,259 subbasins in the high resolution NHD program there are 126 remaining to be completed and made available to the public. Based on projections, the current target for completion is July 2007.

NHD Documentation

Look for a new and revised set of NHD documentation in draft form available for your review and comments. The documents: (1) [Standards for National Hydrography Dataset – High Resolution](#), (2) [Best Practices for the Revision of the National Hydrography Dataset](#), (3) [The National Hydrography Dataset Concepts and Contents](#), (4) [Introducing the NHDinGeo](#), and (5) [Stewardship of The National Hydrography Dataset](#) will be found at <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Docs> on April 13.

ICWater

For more information about the Incident Command Tool for Protecting Drinking Water see the January 2007 edition of STREAM NOTES, the newsletter for the Stream Systems Technology Center, a Forest Service Tech Transfer Unit, at: http://www.stream.fs.fed.us/news/streamnt/pdf/SN_01_07.pdf

Answer to February Hydrography Quiz / New March Quiz

Dan Saul, a GIS Analyst/Programmer with the Washington State Department of Ecology in Olympia, was the first to correctly guess last month's hydrography quiz <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography21.pdf> as the Hoover Dam, sitting on the Colorado River along the Arizona/Nevada state line. The Washington State Department of Ecology is responsible for protecting the land, air, and water resources of Washington State. Dan's main duties are GIS application development, ArcSDE database administration, and serving as agency representative to the Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework Clearinghouse. Plans are to migrate the clearinghouse to serve as the regional NHD repository. Once the transition is complete, Dan's office plans to tie all Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings and water quality standards rules to the NHD as linear events.

Others with the correct answer were: Steve Aichele, Mel Landry, Rob Surber, Laura Gibson, Jim McDonald, Aaron Peter, Daniel Christiansen, Barbara Rosenbaum, Calvin Meyer, Tom Cosmas, Mike Wiedmer, Al Rea, James Seay, Greg Overtom, Mike Butler, Tommy Dewald, David Asbury, Mike Thompson, Craig Dalby, and Tom Christy. Mike Thompson notes: "Hoover Dam, located in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, was originally called 'Boulder Dam' as it was planned to be built in Boulder Canyon further up stream. Its name was changed to 'Hoover Dam' in honor of then President Hoover. During the Roosevelt administration the name was changed back to 'Boulder Dam'. In 1947 an act of congress restored the name 'Hoover'."

For the March quiz look at <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography22.pdf>. Can you identify where this is? It's another famous dam. The dam was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the New Deal and was completed in 1937. The lighter blue polygon is a major river, the red polygons are the dam, and the very dark blue polygon is a lock chamber. North is to the top and the water flows east to west. Send your guess to jdsimley@usgs.gov.

Upcoming NHD Geo Edit Tool Training

Anchorage, AK - May, 2007. Contact Paul Kimsey or Carl Markon markon@usgs.gov

Upcoming One-Day NHD Application Workshops

Champaign, Illinois – April 30, 2007. Contact Shelley Silch at ssilch@usgs.gov
Kalamazoo, Michigan – May 7, 2007. Contact Steve Aichele at saichele@usgs.gov

Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Thanks to Doug Ryan and Terry Higgins.

The NHD Newsletter is published monthly. Get on the mailing list by contacting jdsimley@usgs.gov.

You can view past NHD Newsletters at http://nhd.usgs.gov/newsletter_list.html

Jeff Simley, USGS, assumes full responsibility for the content of this newsletter.