OUTREACH – EDUCATION EVENT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Attendee and Report Writer's Name:
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Event: GIS Workshop for US Forest Service GIS Staff

Location: Fort Collins, Colorado
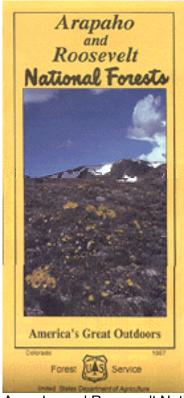
Event Date(s): 8 January 2004

At the request of Mary Hattis, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest GIS Coordinator, I conducted a one-day GIS workshop for the GIS staff of those national forests. It was a great privilege to do so, as I have much respect for the staff of the US Forest Service and the work that they do.

By conducting this training, we sought to further our partnership with the US Forest Service. We already cooperate with USFS on such projects as wildfire mapping and single-edition map sheet production.   Just this week, I discovered that the USFS announced that it would be participating in *The National Map* by putting on-line half of their forest service lands in this year, followed closely by the remainder.

DOQs, DLGs, and DRGs to create 3D visualizations of terrain.

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests cover a large area in North-Central Colorado. The forest also includes jurisdiction over the Pawnee National Grassland in northeastern Colorado.

Staff at the US Forest Service use DEMs,

Close-up of one of the 3D visualizations and

fly-throughs created during the class.

We structured the class as follows:

A. USGS base spatial data sets and how to obtain and format them for ArcGIS,

B. Using Spatial Analyst and 3D Analyst, visualizing terrains,

C. Querying in vector and raster mode using a fire tower siting lesson.

These were the GIS experts at the USFS, and I learned a great deal from working with them. The major goal was to spend time in Spatial and 3D Analysis, which they had not had much opportunity to do as of yet. We also spoke about IFSAR data available through the efforts of the GeoMac staff for the Hayman Fire burn area, and the data that they can obtain through the Geomac site.

I distributed my own GIS-based lessons, USGS information booklets, information about spatial data and about GIS, and information about upcoming GIS-related events.

The USGS has a wealth of data sets, programs, and research efforts that the USFS audience was interested in, particularly our digital data sets, and training that we conduct.

I was interested to hear what the USFS staff are involved in. Most of the class participants were GIS professionals and landscape architects. They do a large amount of visualizing and modeling forest growth, health, plantings, and wildfires. They showed me some of the output from their work in their office.

One of the US Forest Service buildings in Fort Collins. They will combine with their other office building to move to a site near the USGS office later this year.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the USFS for the privilege of working with their staff, to Liz Lile and John List for data and information, and the USGS for its support in allowing me to conduct this workshop. I hope to work with the USFS again.

*** End of US Forest Service Training Report ***