NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Metadata training & Outreach Project
Interim Project Summary

Agreement Number: 06HQAG0114
Interim Report

Organization: Strategic Consulting International
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Project Leader:

Project Narrative:

To date, activities have consisted on creating and preparing metadata class materials and investigating and learning the various tools that can be used to create and serve metadata. In addition, one metadata workshop has been conducted. The workshop was well received by the attendees. The attendees have been provided the necessary tools to begin the process of metadata creation and publication. Plans are now underway to schedule and conduct the remaining workshops.   There was good response to the announcement of the past workshop and we are hopeful of continued good attendance in the future.

Metadata training and outreach assistance

-The following organizations have received metadata training:
- Oklahoma Corporation Commission (state agency, 2 individuals)
- Oklahoma Biological Survey (state agency, 1 individual)
- Oklahoma House of Representative (state entity, 1 staff member)
- Oklahoma State Department of Health (state agency, 1 individual)

-Competency of individuals and organizations
Based upon the relatively short time spent with the attendees, it was apparent that competency of the attendees varied. This is to be expected. Some state agencies have a great deal of experience in creating geospatial data and are therefore aware of metadata. Other agencies are just beginning geospatial data creation and have no concept of the value of metadata.

-Level of proficiency or competency of trainees
The attendees were generally proficient in the use of GIS software, which helped in the training process. Several of the attendees were frequent GIS users. All attendees were able to utilize the metadata creation tools utilized in the workshop.

-Number, duration and venue of workshops
To date, one workshop has been conducted. It was held in Oklahoma City on July 25th. It lasted from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m.

-Character of workshop and participants
The workshop consisted of a PowerPoint presentation on the definition, value and use of metadata and the NSDI Clearinghouse. It also consisted of a demonstration of various metadata creation tools and hands-on assistance in metadata creation using the attendees' own geospatial data sets. The participants consisted of two field personnel from the State's oil and gas agency, a GIS manager from a state agency, a GIS staffer from the State Legislature, and a GIS staffer from the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

Status of Metadata Service
Currently, Oklahoma has two metadata clearinghouse nodes: Strategic Consulting International and the University of Oklahoma's GeoInfo System's Oklahoma Data Warehouse. To date, since implementation of this project has just begun, no metadata entries have resulted from this project. At this time, no assistance in providing for metadata service to organizations we have assisted is anticipated.

Next Steps
-We will continue to conduct workshops through the term of this agreement and will provide metadata creation assistance to any entity that requests it.

-SCI recognizes the value of metadata, and because of this has established relationships with several entities to promote metadata creation within the state. We have a good working relationship with the State Geographic Information Systems Council as well as the University of Oklahoma's GeoInformation Systems and Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma Center for Geospatial Information. We will strive to develop relationships with other geospatial creators as the opportunity arises.

-After SCI completes this series of metadata workshops, we plan on continuing the promotion of metadata creation within the state, either by working through established organizations, or by forging new alliances.

-Metadata creation can be a challenge, particularly for those new to the process. It is imperative that steps be taken to make metadata creation as painless as possible. The new software tools currently available make metadata creation much easier, and the continued development of such tools would be welcomed.

-See above

-SCI believes the FGDC is working in the right direction by providing local incentives to promote metadata and train users in the creation of metadata. It is important that the entire metadata creation process be as user-friendly as possible to ensure that all data creators feel comfortable in creating and sharing their data.

-SCI hopes that metadata creation and hosting activities will continue after the end of the project performance period. SCI also hopes that those workshop attendees who successfully create and post their metadata will share their experiences with others, who will then begin the process of creating their own metadata.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

-The Cooperative Agreements Program has served the geospatial industry well of the past several years by providing funding to the local level to meet local needs. The wide variety of projects funded has served as catalysts to the development of many additional worthwhile activities. Like most grant programs, funding remains an issue, but the FGDC does an excellent job of doing the most with the amount of funding available.

-The program makes the greatest difference at the local level, where funds for training and development of pilot projects are often nonexistent.

-SCI believes that the assistance provided by the grantor has been both sufficient and effective. Of particular benefit was the workshop in Denver conducted by Sharon Shin. This workshop assisted by providing a good foundation on what was expected by the cooperative agreement and also by being the source of good workshop materials.

-As new grantees to the Cooperative Agreements Program, SCI has no recommendations on what should be done differently.

-We are not aware of any missing factors or needs to consider. The Cooperative Agreement provides sufficient freedom to create and conduct quality metadata creation workshops to meet the needs of at the local level.

-The time frame is sufficient to meet the terms of the agreement.

-If we were to do this again, we would probably begin offering the workshops earlier. However, it takes time to develop workshop materials and this must be factored into the process.