

Success Stories

Geospatial Information Making a Difference



An accurate base map of the nation's surface water network means agencies can share and view water resources data in a geographic context to enable informed decision-making.

CHALLENGE:

Clean, Safe Water

Within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, individual programs maintain multiple critical water databases to support the mission of achieving clean and safe water. The Office of Water needed a way to view disparate water quality information together, to perform national level analyses.

ACTION

The Watershed Assessment, Tracking & Environmental Results (WATERS) architecture was developed to manage water data in a GIS environment, using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the framework. The NHD, created in partnership with the US Geological Survey, is built using standards and FGDC compliant metadata and is registered with the NSDI Clearinghouse. The NHD framework provides a base mapping capability that includes watersheds, streams, lakes, and wetlands, onto which other data can be overlaid for analysis and interpretation. The framework allows users to understand upstream/downstream relationships to support drinking water protection, emergency response, and modeling efforts. More information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/waters/>

RESULTS

Program managers are able to integrate critical water resource information. Water resources information can be viewed, and managed, based upon its geographic location. EPA is using WATERS to share data between Federal and state agencies. EPA is able to better monitor and ensure clean, safe water for the entire nation, and enable informed decision-making.



Do you have a story to share? Visit the FGDC website at www.fgdc.gov to learn more.