Spatially Speaking

FGDC Monthly Update

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ICMA Annual Conference	Oct 7—10
FGDC Steering Committee Meeting	Oct 24
ACM GIS Conference	Nov 7—9
National Congress of American Indians	Nov 11—16
GSDI 10 Conference	Feb 25—29

For more information on FGDC events view the calendar at:

http://www.fgdc.gov/calendar

Addressing Federal Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordination and Data Accessibility Issues

In response to findings of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the 2004 National Research Council assessment of national coastal zone mapping and charting activities, the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) established the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM). This interagency working group seeks to avoid duplication of mapping efforts and facilitate the coordination and leveraging of mapping resources across the Federal sector and with State, industry, academic and NGO mapping interests.

As a first step, the IWG-OCM sponsored a three-day workshop in Charleston, SC, in September 2007 to begin the development of a comprehensive ocean and coastal mapping data and activities inventory. This Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inventory will offer a clearinghouse for data and interpretive information, and a registry of completed and projected mapping activities via a single web portal. The inventory will reduce duplication of mapping efforts and facilitate cooperative mapping activities and data accessibility.

Although not all Federal agencies within the OCM community sent representatives, the 35 workshop participants represented NOAA, USGS, USACE, MMS, FWS, as well as NSGIC and CCOM-JHC. They identified key user requirements and reviewed existing data systems and inventories before reaching consensus to use Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) as the tool to build the OCM Inventory.

The workshop participants also developed concrete recommendations to move this effort forward. Concurrent working groups, focusing on technical, metadata, and management issues and requirements, outlined a short-term strategy and a detailed list of actions for the next three months. In addition, representatives of each agency met to recommend individual agency contributions and discuss commitments to this effort.

Recommendations and actions emerging from the workshop include:

- Establishing a small Interagency Project Team to manage the initiative and develop the long-term project plan
- Encouraging the use and testing of the GOS portal to identify needed enhancements for the OCM Inventory
- Identifying the technical requirements and features needed to enhance the GOS portal
- Using all seven sections of FGDC-compliant metadata
- Requesting an OCM representative on the GOS Technical Team
- Adopting and using the GOS Oceans and Coasts Community as the primary communication vehicle for the OCM Community of Practice
- Engaging other agencies and academia in this initiative
- Reporting individual agency decisions and actions to support the development of the inventory by mid-December to the IWG-OCM

For more information and specific results of the workshop, visit http://www.csc.noaa.gov/iwg/

View the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov

Highlights

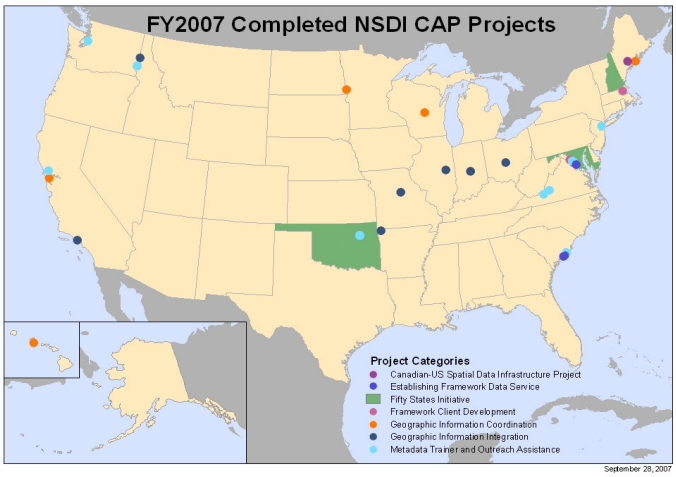
NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

It is the beginning of a new fiscal year and it is the traditional time to look back and see what has been accomplished during the fiscal year. 2007 has been a very good year for the NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) with the completion of 31 projects which had been awarded during the 2005 and 2006 CAP seasons. Funds totaling just over $2.5 million (federal share $1.2 million and agency in-kind match $1.3 million) were expended. The results of the projects demonstrate their great diversity both in geography and in scope. Over 27 metadata workshops were conducted that trained close to 400 individuals from across the United States in a wide variety of organizations. Materials for on-line metadata training were developed by Virginia Tech and will be posted on the NBII portal when it is available.

- NSDI Clearinghouses were established, developed, and/or expanded for State of Virginia, local agencies in New York City, Idaho GIS community, North San Francisco Bay Initiative, State of Oklahoma, Japan's Marine Information Research Center, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, and National Biological Information Infrastructure.
- Web Feature Services for national scale hydrography, political boundaries, and transportation framework data were established using the data models from the draft ANSI Framework Data Standard.
- Developed framework clients for accessing, visualizing, analyzing, and sharing geospatial data, http://victor.cira.colostate.edu/imat/ and http://www.thecarbonproject.com/gaia.php.
- Geospatial Strategic Plans for the States of Maryland, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire were completed.
- Established or supported the multi-organizational collaboration to share geospatial information in a variety of communities in regions and organizations like the Southern Red River Basin, the California Invasive Plant Data Consortium, Coastal Maine, the Pacific Ocean area, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Maine-New Brunswick (Canada) border.
- Web Mapping Services for Native names; Indiana orthophotography and elevation; Chicago Urban Area orthophotography; Idaho roads, structures, boundaries, and imagery; Benton County, Arkansas; and California's Channel Islands Region GIS were established and are available via *The National Map* and registered in Geospatial One Stop. Missouri's local governments delivered a mirrored site for *The National Map*.

The NSDI CAP solicitation for the 2008 season will be posted on Grants.gov later this month. There are six categories which include fifty States initiative, geographic information integration, FGDC-endorsed standards implementation assistance and outreach, metadata trainer assistance and outreach, best practices in geospatial service oriented architecture, and joint US and Canadian spatial data infrastructure project. The federal funding is close to $1.3 million.

Final technical reports for completed projects and information about the 2008 NSDI CAP can be found at http://www.fgdc.gov/grants. For more information please contact Gita Urban-Mathieux (burbanma@fdgc.gov, 703-648-5175).



Spatially Speaking" is designed to provide updates on the activities of the FGDC. Subcommittees, workgroups, and other FGDC participants are urged to submit updates to Alison Dishman adishman@fgdc.gov by the 20th of each month.

Housing and Public Health Establish MOU to Geocode National Health Data

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) making HUD geocoding services available to NCHS. This effort was envisioned and led by Dr. Chuck Croner of NCHS, and Dr. Jon Sperling of HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research. The team of Chuck, Jon and the late Fred Broome (of the Census Bureau's Geography Division) developed close working ties as agency representatives to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and spent several years instructing GIS classes at CDC conferences for a variety of federal, State and local public health agencies. The topic of geocoding, especially the need for a standardized, timely and cost-effective agency-wide mechanism, was always a discussion theme that arose from their public health audiences.

Geographic information is integral to nearly all of HUD's programs. HUD's state-of-the-art Geocode Service Center (GSC) supports 17 HUD data systems, processes 130 million addresses annually and features the highest standards of address validation with quick turnaround times tailored to customer needs--in both a secure and confidential environment.

The latter conditions are critical requirements for public health agencies, as is the need for locational accuracy to support geospatial science and analysis. It became clear that HUD's GSC could perform an important role in geocoding public health data. After confidentiality and security issues were worked out, an NCHS dataset was transferred to the GSC and geocoded.

While the outcomes of this collaboration are still being evaluated, it promises to be a model for future interagency collaboration and potentially the development of a highly sophisticated government-wide geocoding service. More detailed information about this initiative will be prepared for a future issue. This activity supports the Geospatial Line of Business to leverage scarce resources and increase federal collaboration through partnerships, and helps build the FGDC goal of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

YOUR INFO HERE!

Showcase your geospatial activities, awards and collaborations in this e-newsletter.

Please send your text to Alison Dishman (adishman@fgdc.gov) by the 20th of the month.