NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
2005 Category 1
Metadata Training & Outreach Project
Final Project Report
Award Number: 05HQAG0114

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Project Narrative:

This project was intended to promote ongoing spatial data documentation activities in Northwest Indiana. Previous funding received from the US EPA Region 5, was used to create an online metadata compilation tool that is currently hosted by the Indiana Geological Survey. The tool ultimately produces an essential FGDC metadata record in text file format that can be saved to the user's local computer. The text file produced is in the proper format so that it may be uploaded to a metadata clearinghouse without further processing. In addition to the tool, the website offers numerous metadata related resources including the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) Workbook, Version 2.0.

In the spring of 2005, the State of Indiana completed its Statewide Digital Orthophotography Program. This program created high-resolution orthophotography for counties on a statewide basis to support homeland security, emergency management, and other business and government applications. Delivery to local government took place in the spring of 2006. Funding received from the FGDC from this grant was used to

provide metadata outreach activities associated with the release of this dataset. GIS development among Northwest Indiana communities varies greatly. This new data will allow entities previously unable to afford the cost of creation or enlargement of their GIS programs to do so. It will be more important than ever for those who will use this data for basemap purposes to be able to document any new dataset that they create. It is our wish to promote documentation of new datasets by creating FGDC metadata for their spatial datasets through the use of the previously created online metadata tool. The Online Metadata Tool will provide a convenient and easy way for spatial data creators to document new datasets.

Metadata Training and Outreach Activities

The following metadata presentations were included during four full day events held in the spring of 2006 to introduce the new orthophotography to current and prospective GIS users around the state. At least an hour was allotted for each presentation and included information about preparing FGDC compliant metadata using the Online Metadata Tool. Most participants had at least a basic understanding of metadata.

April 19, 2006
Metadata presentation at Portage, Indiana, GIS Orthophotography Road Show
http://www.in.gov/apps/utils/calendar/eventcal?PF=ingisi&Clist=81&Elist=106692
Sponsored by Indiana Geographic Information Council – 38 in attendance

Organizations in Attendance:

City of Crown Point Engineering	Lake County
City of Crown Point Public Works	Lake County HIDTA
City of Hammond, IN (3)	Lake County, Indiana Parks Dept.
City of Hobart, IN	LaPorte County GIS
City of LaPorte, IN	Northwest Indiana Forum
City of Valparaiso, IN	Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (3)
City of Whiting, IN (2)	Openlands
DLZ	Pinnacle Mapping Technology
EarthData International	Porter County, IN
Great Lakes Commission	Porter County, Indiana 911
Hammond, IN Fire Department	Porter County, IN Surveyor's Office
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (2)	Purdue University Calumet
Indiana University Northwest (2)	Sidwell Company
Interfaith Federation	Town of Dyer, IN
JF New & Associates	Town of Griffith, IN Police Dept.

May 9, 2006
Metadata presentation at Warsaw, Indiana, GIS Orthophotography Road Show
http://www.in.gov/apps/utils/calendar/eventcal?PF=ingisi&Clist=81&Elist=106693
Sponsored by Indiana Geographic Information Council – 32 in attendance

Organizations in Attendance:

Allen County, IN	Miami County, IN 911
City of Elkhart, IN	Miami County, IN EMA
City of South Bend, IN	Miami County, IN IT Dept.
City of Warsaw, IN	Newton County, IN (3)
EarthData	Noble County, IN
Fulton County, IN REMC	Northwest Indiana GIS Forum
Huntington County, IN (2)	Pinnacle Mapping
Indiana Department of Transportation	Starke County, IN
Kosciusko County, IN (4)	Steuben County, IN (2)
LaGrange County, IN	US Dept. of Agriculture NRCS
Lake of the Woods, Marshall County, IN	Whitley County, IN
Lawson-Fisher Associates (2)	

May 23, 2006
Metadata presentation at Richmond, Indiana, GIS Orthophotography Road Show
http://www.in.gov/apps/utils/calendar/eventcal?PF=ingisi&Clist=81&Elist=106696
Sponsored by Indiana Geographic Information Council - 21 in attendance

Organizations in Attendance:

Amherst College	Jay County, IN
CB Burke Engineering	Northwest Indiana GIS Forum
EarthData	Pinnacle Mapping
EIDD	Randolph County, IN
Hancock County, IN (4)	Resource Inventory Council
IMAGIS	The Salvation Army (2)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management	US Geological Survey
Indiana Department of Homeland Security	Waynet.org
Indiana State University	

June 8, 2006
Metadata presentation at Terre Haute, Indiana, GIS Road Show
http://www.in.gov/apps/utils/calendar/eventcal?PF=ingisi&Clist=81&Elist=106698
Sponsored by Indiana Geographic Information Council – 30 in attendance

Organizations in Attendance:

Alpha Engineering of Indiana	Indiana Department of Transportation (2)
Brown County, IN	Mason & Hanger Corp. (2)
City of Terre Haute, IN (2)	Northwest Indiana Center for Data & Analysis
Clay County, IN	Pleasant Township, Johnson County, IN
Grant County, IN (3)	Putnam County, IN
Greene County, IN	Sullivan County, IN
Hendricks County, IN (2)	Tippecanoe County, IN
Indiana Department of Homeland Security (2)	Vanderburgh County, IN (2)
Indiana Geographic Information Council	Vincennes University
Indiana Department of Natural Resources (3)	Warren County, IN

Additional Metadata Outreach Activities:

- November 16, 2005
  GIS Day Metadata Presentation. 10 people were in attendance for a short (half hour), Basics of Metadata presentation.   Approximately 30 individuals attended during the half day of GIS activities held at Indiana University Northwest. Most attendees had very limited knowledge of anything related to GIS.

- December 9, 2005
  Workshop for Save the Dunes Conservation Fund and the Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team (ICRAT)
  Title: An Introduction to GIS Tools for Restoration Projects - Presentation to 6 in attendance. One-hour, metadata portion of the hands-on workshop included a brief introduction to FGDC compliant metadata. A previously created dataset was documented using essential metadata tool found at the following location: http://igs.indiana.edu/metadata/index.cfm. Those in attendance had varying experience with GIS software and creating data. Those with more experience were very interested in how the tool helped to create a text document that was easily imported into ArcCatalog to reside with the dataset.

- March 8, 2006 – Metadata presentation at Indiana State GIS Conference ~ 12 in attendance - How to Create an Essential Metadata Record Using an Online Tool

- October 23, 2006 and November 20, 2006 – Presentations re FGDC metadata to Indiana University Northwest, Computer Methods in Geography class –9 students in attendance

- November 3, 2006 – Metadata presentation by Tim Sutherland at Indiana State Library to Government Documents Librarians ~ 25 in attendance.

- March 14, 2007 – Indiana State GIS Conference ~ 10 in attendance - A Metadata Refresher Using the Online Metadata Tool

Future Metadata Activities

The Northwest Indiana Center for Data & Analysis was awarded a 2007 FGDC CAP category 1 funding to continue metadata training and outreach activities. Activities associated with this project will include:

1. Continued basic metadata outreach and training to Northwest Indiana GIS professionals. Our local GIS users group, the Northwest Indiana GIS Forum will be the focus of our efforts. Activities will include formal metadata training sessions. Outreach activities will also be provided on a statewide basis through participation with the Indiana Geographic Information Council.
2. Metadata assistance to participants providing local spatial data sets for an updated Lake Rim GIS (http://129.79.145.5/arcims/lrim/index.html) interactive website (working with the Indiana Geological Survey).
3. Engagement of those familiar with metadata creation through presentations and encouragement to continue metadata efforts.

Comments on Cooperative Agreements Program

This program is a tremendous effort to promote metadata creation and ultimately data sharing. CAP Category 1 Coordinator, Sharon Shin, is generous with her time and assistance. It is clear that she can be contacted for any questions or concerns regarding metadata.

The numerous metadata training resources easily available through the FGDC website are appreciated. Most training materials currently include guidance on how to search for metadata records using the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, "Legacy Gateway". After much testing of the system, it is my opinion that it is not particularly helpful. I realize that this was probably part of a first generation system and the FGDC now promotes its Geospatial One Stop. Getting appropriate results from searching the GOS for local metadata records is also difficult. It appears to me that the best way to find local metadata records is to search for a particular state spatial data library. GOS appears great to search for national metadata, but not particularly helpful for local metadata searching.