Agreement Number:
05HQAG0141-Metadata Training and Outreach Assistance

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Final

Organization:
University of Idaho
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Project Narrative:
This grants project activities included conducting metadata outreach and training workshops, enhancing our ArcCatalog metadata extension, and aiding the Idaho Geospatial Committee (IGC) and the Information Resources Technology Management Council (ITRMC) of Idaho in the drafting and adopting the FGDC metadata standard and a metadata guideline document.

We worked closely with the IGC to recommend that ITRMC adopt: 1). the FGDC metadata standard as the state of Idaho metadata standard and, 2). a metadata guideline to aid state agencies in interpreting the FGDC standard. The successful effort resulted in ITRMC adopting the following standard and guideline:

>ENTERPRISE STANDARDS – S4000 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DATA
>Category: S4220 – GEOSPATIAL METADATA
>http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/plan&policies/Standards/S4220%20-%20Geospatial%20Metadata.pdf
>
>ENTERPRISE GUIDELINES – G300 INFORMATION AND DATA
>Category: G320 – GEOGRAPHIC METADATA GUIDELINE
>http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/plan&policies/guidelines/G320%20-%20Metadata.pdf

We have introduced the standard and guideline during our workshops to encourage organization to develop practices to support metadata creation and maintenance. While some have embraced these standards, further challenges include helping state agencies, local governments, and other implement the standard within their respective organizations. In many ways it comes down to helping them integrate metadata creation into their workflow and providing the software tools to make it as easy as possible.

METADATA TRAINING AND OUTREACH ASSISTANCE
A list of workshops conducted follows:

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
U.S. Geological Survey
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID

Participants:

Jon Hortness	USGS - Water Resources Division
Kenneth Skinner	USGS - Water Resources Division
Al Rea	USGS - Water Resources Division
Charles E Berenbrock	USGS - Water Resources Division
Steve P Garcia	USGS - Water Resources Division
Ross G Dickinson	USGS - Water Resources Division
Gene Dana	USGS - Water Resources Division
Douglas S Ott	USGS - Water Resources Division
Andrew W Tranmer	USGS - Water Resources Division
Orquidea Flores	USGS - Water Resources Division

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
Idaho State University
GIS Training and Research Center
Pocatello, ID

Participants:

Keith Webber	Idaho State University
Michelle Byrd	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Dennis Hill	City of Pocatello
Ryan Colyerr	Friends of the Teton River
Dan Jensen	City of Idaho Falls
Christopher Bowman	First American Title
Jack Owens	Idaho State University
Ronald Rope	INL
Sherry Lufkin	Jefferson County GIS

Felica Pierotti	Freemont County GIS
Bonnie Morre	Freemont County GIS
Mike Lien	Friends of the Teton River
Cheryl Robertson	Bingham County GIS
Kit Na Goh	Idaho State University
Scott Taylor	Idaho State University
Cyndi Anderson	City of Idaho Falls

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
University of Idaho
Boise Center
Boise, ID

Participants:

Toni Williams	USDA
Dan Narsavage	IDWR
Ann Manning	Intermountain West Coordinated Bird Monitoring
Sarah Chamberlin	NOAA Fisheries
Todd Milich	Nampa Highway District 1
Brad Burge	Nampa Highway District 1
Michele Porter	BLM
Jon Bart	USGS Forest & Rangeland Eco. Science Center
Dixie Booker-Lair	Idaho Dept. of Lands
Mike Butler	Idaho Power Co.
Mike Radko	Idaho Power Co.
Cindy Cassity	Boise School District
Shane Hopkins	Spatial Dynamics
John Courtright	BLM
Karla Baker	City of Caldwell
Kathy Knapp	Canyon County Highway District No. 4
Reggie Townley	U.S. Forest Service
Joan Appell	City of Jerome

Jay Young	City of Nampa

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
University of Idaho Research Park
Post Falls, ID

Participants:

Barbara Whitaker	Worley Highway District
Donna Phillips	City of Haden
Gwain Oka	City of CDA Water Department
Betty Conces	Kootenal County GIS
Dave Christianson	Kootenal County GIS
Dave Williamson	City of Post Falls
Debbie Frisbie	City of CDA
Dan Spinosa	Bonner County GIS Dept.
David Yarnell	Bonner County GIS Dept.
Tracy Morgan	Idaho Dept. of Lands
Jennie Knutson	ITD
John Gravelle	Private Company
Tom Hobson	CDA School District 271
Kathy von Kienast	City of Dalton Gardens
Robert Cloward	Avista
Jason Ren	Avista

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
University of Idaho
Boise Center
Boise, ID

Participants:

Michael Ciscell	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Jacob Mundt	Ada County Weed, Pest, and Mosquito Abatement
Sharon Parkes	USFS - Rocky Mtn. Research Station
Dona Horan	USFS - Rocky Mtn. Research Station

Jason Talbot	USDA - APHIS - PPQ
Tom Marks	Idaho Transportation Department
Carolyn Bohn	USFS
Charlla H. Adams	Boise State University
James R. Bartolino	U.S. Geological Survey
Danielle Bruno-Favreau	IDWR
Dorene E. MacCoy	U.S. Geological Survey
Cargie Aitchison	Idaho Transportation Department
Tracy Fuller	U.S. Geological Survey

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
Kootenai County GIS Department
Post Falls, ID

Participants:

Dave Christianson	Kootenai County
Dave Williamson	City of Post Falls
Donnna Phillips	City of Hayden
Betty Conces	Kootenai County
Debbie Frisbie	City of Coeur d'Alene

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
University of Idaho
Boise Center
Boise, ID

Participants:

Angie Hopf	City of Caldwell
Renee Bettis	Holladay Engr.
Kathy Knapp	Canyon Highway District
Tony Almeida	Canyon County Assessor
Mike Borzick	Canyon County Assessor

The level of proficiency among the trainees for these workshops was quite broad. However, the majority of folks are still not very proficient. It is not uncommon to have a workshop where some folks have attended training before and are aware of the standard but they just have not been able to integrate it into their daily workflow. Toward the end of the grant though, we were able to do a couple of very targeted workshops with folks that were ready to get down to the nuts-and-bolts of making metadata a priority in their organizations.

STATUS OF METADATA SERVICE

The primary location for metadata created under this grant is the Idaho Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (http://insideidaho.org). Our clearinghouse node is running the ISITE software on port 6668 at 129.101.196.109.

We have probably seen about 50 metadata entries have resulted from this project and have made their way up to Geospatial One-Stop. The Idaho Geospatial Data Clearinghouse has 23,493 metadata entries. 229 of these metadata entries are served to Geospatial One-Stop via the ISITE software. We've also had some that are not new but are getting updated as folks learn more about the standard so some entries have been updated as well.

NEXT STEPS

Activities associated with this grant are continuing and will continue in the future. Earlier this month we did another metadata workshop:

Geospatial Metadata Workshop
Idaho State University
GIS Training and Research Center
Pocatello, ID

Participants:

Craig Rindlisbacher	Madison County
Kevin Riggs	Madison County
Janet Cheney	Bonneville County
Keith Klement	USDA
Corey Moffet	USDA
Kit Na Goh	Idaho State University
Mansoor Raza	Idaho State University
Jacob Tibbits	Idaho State University
Jack Owens	Idaho State University

To make progress on this endeavor, I believe, we need to develop better software for metadata creation and management. I think folks know what metadata is, why it's important, and the basic information that needs to be captured. The out-of-the-box software is just not up to speed yet. The standard needs to be presented in plain-english in the software. The user interface must improve if we are to make progress. The vast majority of people who attended the workshops we did are using ArcCatalog to create and manage metadata so that is the basis for my comments. To be honest, the editor is just not that good. I mean, it's SMMS version 2 – that's awful old. Yes, there are vast opportunities do develop your own editor, or stylesheet, or extension or whatever you want but the county, city, and other folks don't have the time or interest in doing that. They just want something that is easy to use out of the box. It shouldn't take more effort to develop and maintain the metadata than it does the data. If we want to use data from local government to integrate into regional, state, or national data sets and we require metadata, we need to make the metadata less of a hurdle. I think this is the area that needs work.

We have been working to address issues that we experience through the development of a software extension for ArcCatalog. An overview of the tool can be found here: http://insideidaho.org/tools/metadata/gettingStarted.htm#Overview. Screen captures of the tool can be found here: http://insideidaho.org/tools/metadata/details.htm.

FEEDBACK ON COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

I believe the CAP is very strong. The grant awards have allowed us to help folks through metadata training and really make a difference in Idaho. We received sufficient assistance and what we received was effective. I don't have any negative comments nor do I think anything should be done differently. I strongly support the program and the work you are doing.