

**NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Metadata Training & Outreach Project
Final Project Report**

NOAA CAP award - IA560110408

Organization :

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Project Narrative

The NOAA Coastal Services Center provided metadata training to 11 members of the National Geospatial Technology Network (NGTEN). This network is comprised of university-based geospatial extension specialists (GES) who typically work within the Cooperative Extension System of their state's land-grant university. The GES program was initiated by NASA in 2000 with three pilot projects in Arizona, Utah and Mississippi. The pilot projects were designed to explore and assess the roles that faculty geospatial extension specialists could play to help educate a variety of end-users about geographic information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems, airborne and satellite remote sensing and other geospatial datasets.

Each GES is an expert in one or more geospatial technology fields and works with a variety of clients in his/her state to help them incorporate geospatial technologies into the everyday business activities of their organization or business. The GES provide geospatial technology training through meetings, workshops, conferences, seminars, informal short courses and formal hands-on training courses. In addition to face-to-face work with small groups and individuals, each GES has established strong ties to the professional geospatial community within his or her state and often works closely with state agency geospatial staff. Programs differ among the states and are designed to meet local needs. For example, some GES programs focus on uses of geospatial technology to support precision agriculture while others focus on geospatial technology and data used to support local government. The GES serve on state mapping councils, have created and support individual web sites and an NGTEN website (<http://geospatialextension.org/index.asp>), publish statewide geospatial technology newsletters, host Internet discussion lists and in other ways support communications and networking among professional to novice geospatial technology users.

The NOAA Coastal Services Center pursued funding under the CAP program in 2005 to provide formal metadata training to the GES. The funding provided travel and per diem support for GES to attend metadata training at the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The training was designed to teach them the concepts of metadata as well as how to educate others in their states on the need for and benefits from metadata. Because each GES works with a large number of individuals and organizations, there will be many ongoing opportunities to introduce data users and data producers to metadata content standards and to teach them about the value of metadata to their organization and to the wider geospatial data user community. The diffusion of information about metadata standards and metadata training will be based upon traditional Cooperative Extension System methods that efficiently and effectively “get the word out” and that put appropriate technology into the hands of those who will benefit from it.

Each GES, trained in the FGDC metadata content standard, in methods to develop and maintain metadata, and in clearinghouse node establishment and maintenance, will serve to promote the adoption of metadata programs within their respective geospatial user communities (i.e. their clients or target audiences). This will help to promote an increased knowledge of the NSDI and of the critical importance that metadata will play to support the NSDI.

Metadata training and outreach assistance

The NOAA Coastal Services Center provided a full week of training: two days of metadata training, two days of remote sensing training, and an opportunity for members of the NGTEN to present on their work. The agenda and trainee list is below.

Metadata Workshop
National Geospatial Technology Extension Network
March 20-24, 2006

Course Agenda

Day One

Welcome and overview of class

Metadata - The What, the Why, and the Value

Metadata as a management tool - Making metadata part of the process

Metadata on a national level - The NSDI, the FGDC, Geodata.gov, and

Geospatial One-Stop

Standardized Metadata and the FGDC Metadata Standard - How to read and interpret the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata

Wrap-up and questions

Day Two

Day one review/questions

The Metadata Quick Guide - Tips for metadata creation

Tools for metadata creation, validation, and publication

Hands-on metadata creation and validation

Data discovery through metadata - publishing your metadata to the NSDI Clearinghouse and Geospatial One-Stop (Geodata.gov)

Wrap-up, questions, and workshop evaluation

Days Three and Four

Remote sensing for GIS Analysts (agenda available upon request)

Day Five

Brown bag for NGTEN presentations – Several participants delivered 15-minute presentations about the work they are currently involved in. This day was also an opportunity for NGTEN folks to meet with individuals at the Coastal Services Center about specific projects of interest.

Attendees:

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Status of Metadata Service

A major benefit from this project will be the ability to use the existing network of geospatial extension specialists to deliver education and training on metadata to a large and diverse group of geospatial technology users and data producers. Follow-up interviews will have to occur to determine how many additional people have been educated as a result of this workshop, as well as how many metadata records have been developed and services set up.

Next Steps

The NOAA Coastal Services will continue to advocate the development and use of metadata to its customers; however, there are no current plans to continue training the NGTEN.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

The funding was sufficient to conduct the training. The only thing that presented a problem for our office was the timing of the funding at the end of fiscal year 2005. The CAP program seems to be on a better funding cycle in 2007. Our office greatly appreciates the opportunity to continue to work with the FGDC and the broader geospatial community on promoting and building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.