

Spatially Speaking

FGDC Monthly Update

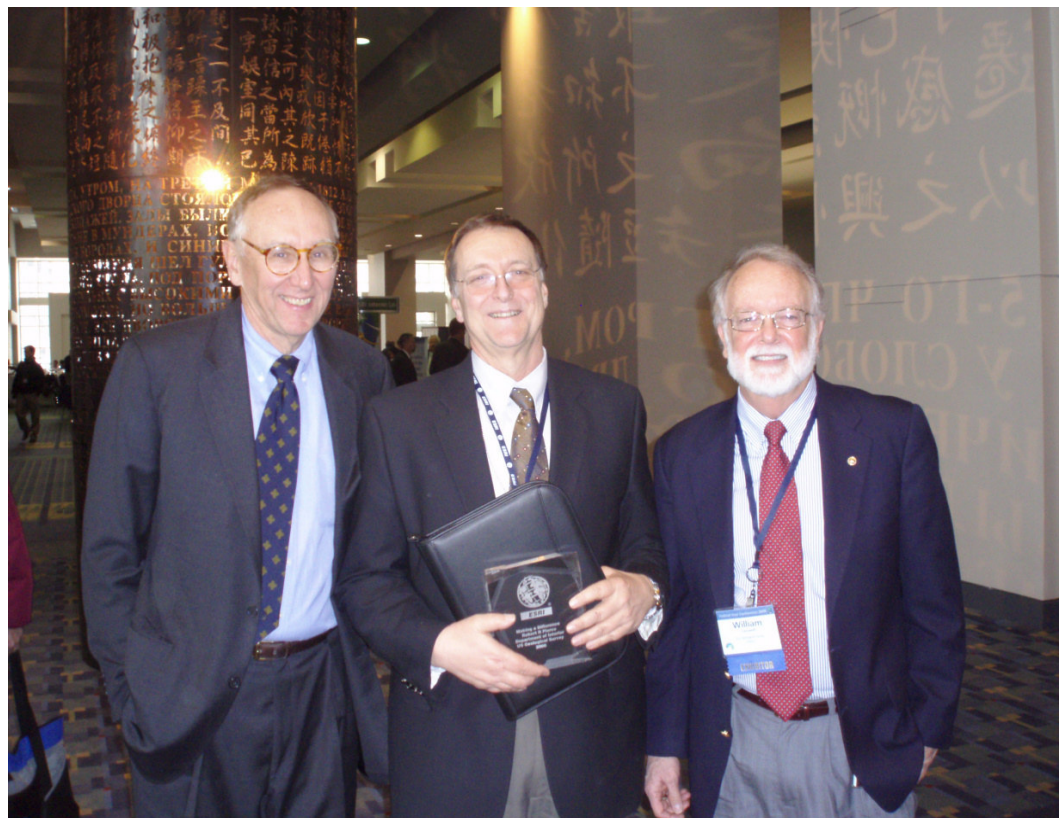
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ESRI Federal Users Conference

The ESRI Federal Users Conference was held at the Washington D.C Convention Center on February 19-22, 2008. ESRI President Jack Dangermond launched the plenary session by speaking about the future of GIS in government and presenting examples of organizations using the technology to make a difference for the country. The opening session also included a keynote video presentation by Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Kempthorne shared how GIS is making it possible for policymakers, scientists, and the public to do more. James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior, discussed his role as Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and how to lead the charge of implementing the enterprise GIS vision.

Pictured below is Jack Dangermond, ESRI; Bob Pierce, DOI; and William Carswell, USGS. Bob was acknowledged at the ESRI FED UC for his exemplary GIS service in a "Making a Difference Award".



UPCOMING EVENTS

GITA's annual Conference 31 **March 9-12**
Seattle, WA

NSGIC 2008 Mid Year Annapolis, MD **March 9-12**

FGDC Coordination Group Meeting Washington DC **April 1**

National Geospatial Advisory Committee meeting **April 15-16**

Association of American Geographers Boston, MA **April 15-19**

For more information on FGDC events view the calendar at:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/calendar>

View the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov

"Spatially Speaking" is designed to provide updates on the activities of the FGDC. Subcommittees, workgroups, and other FGDC participants are welcome to submit updates to Pat Phillips at pPhillips@fgdc.gov.

Common Services Work Group

The Geospatial Line of Business Common Services Work Group invites agencies to join them in their efforts to build a common portfolio of enterprise licenses, software solutions, data, other tools and services. Every agency's geospatial program has unique challenges with supporting its mission, yet many of the commercial products, software solutions, data and services needed are very similar across agencies. The Work Group members believe that the federal government has a lot to gain by leveraging commercial licensing and reusing software solutions already in existence. To this end, the Work Group has an ambitious goal of implementing two cross-licensing agreements for the federal geospatial community by the end of calendar year 2008. They are also planning to market at least three software solutions that can be reused by most federal agencies over the course of the year. Since the Work Group's inception in November, there has been a great deal of progress toward these goals. Most vendors have indicated a willingness and enthusiasm to work collaboratively with the group, and there is considerable momentum for building a federal software solutions registry. The Work Group is benefitting from tremendous support from General Services Administration, the Federal Geographic Data Committee and active participation from agencies that include Justice, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior and NOAA. At the same time, the Work Group needs the help of the broader federal community, including agencies with large, medium and small geospatial operations, to develop approaches that maximize benefits to diverse business operations. If you are interested in joining our group or would like to be copied on the Work Group meeting invitations and materials, please contact Matt Leopard at 202-566-1698 (leopard.matthew@epa.gov).

The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program

The U.S. Geological Survey's National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) Advisory Committee will meet March 6-7, 2008. The Advisory Committee, composed of scientists from Federal Agencies, State Agencies, academic institutions, and private companies, will advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on planning and implementation of the geologic mapping program. Topics to be reviewed and discussed by the Advisory Committee include: progress of the NCGMP towards fulfilling the purposes of the National Geological Mapping act of 1992, field oriented geoscience experience for college and university students, and the paucity of Black, Hispanic, and Native American college and university students with geoscience majors.

EPA Launches New Metadata Editor Web site!

The EPA has created an EPA Metadata Editor (EME) Web site to provide users with EME related information and resources. Users can now get access to the EME source code, on-line training, announcements, and other useful information at <http://geodata.epa.gov/eme.html>. (Michelle Torreano, 202-566-2141)

Georgia Wants Piece of Tennessee River

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed a resolution to restore the state boundary with Tennessee to the 35th parallel, so Georgia can access a piece of the Tennessee river to help Georgians deal with the current severe drought in the state. In 1796, Congress created the state of Tennessee with a southern boundary at the 35th parallel, however, due to mistakes, the boundary was actually set about one mile south of the 35th parallel and coincidentally just south of a large bend in the mighty Tennessee River. Tennessee ratified this boundary in 1818; however, Georgia never did and tried to correct the mistake in the 1880s, the 1940s and the 1970s. The Georgia state constitution defines their northern boundary as the 35th parallel.

If the resolution passes both houses of the state legislature, then the Governor of Georgia would attempt to establish a boundary line commission with Tennessee and North Carolina. If this does not work, then Georgia can appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is currently deciding a similar dispute between South Carolina and North Carolina, which is based on water access wars between those states. These cases show how the southeastern droughts have led to desperate measures. These cases also highlight the need for a national census of U.S. water supply and quality and a national policy on water resources for the future. The President's fiscal year 2009 budget request would initiate a national water census to be conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

Tele Atlas to Deliver Map Data for USGS Products and Operations

[Tele Atlas](#) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have entered an agreement whereby the USGS will leverage Tele Atlas digital map data to help develop internal USGS mapping operations solutions, and for use within the USGS Web Locator application for the display of maps and geocoded addresses.

"As we continue to expand the scope of our map-based offerings and more organizations and individuals seek map-related information from USGS, it is vital that we are able to continue to offer products of the highest quality," said Kari Craun, director of the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC).

Through the agreement, the USGS will deliver Web-based 1:24,000-scale maps containing the U.S. National Grid in conjunction with Tele Atlas map data, to support the efforts of the USGS serving the emergency and first responder communities. All USGS products will continue be modeled on the traditional 7.5-minute topographic maps and designed for mainstream digital map users.

"We're proud to work with the USGS to power its mapping applications and to collaborate to help deliver its first products based on private and public cartographic resources," said John Cassidy, vice president of enterprise and government markets, Tele Atlas. "The strength and accuracy of our digital maps and the broad application offerings available through the USGS combine to meet the demands of vital government and public service functions, as well as for the individual map user, to better support the USGS mission."