



Spatially Speaking

FGDC Monthly Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008

COMING EVENTS

MAPPS 2008 Winter Conference Jan 31–Feb 4

ESRI Federal Users Conference Feb 20-22

GSDI 10 Conference Feb 25—29

National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan Workshop Feb 26-28

GITA's Annual Conference March 9—21

New Mosaic of Antarctica - LIMA

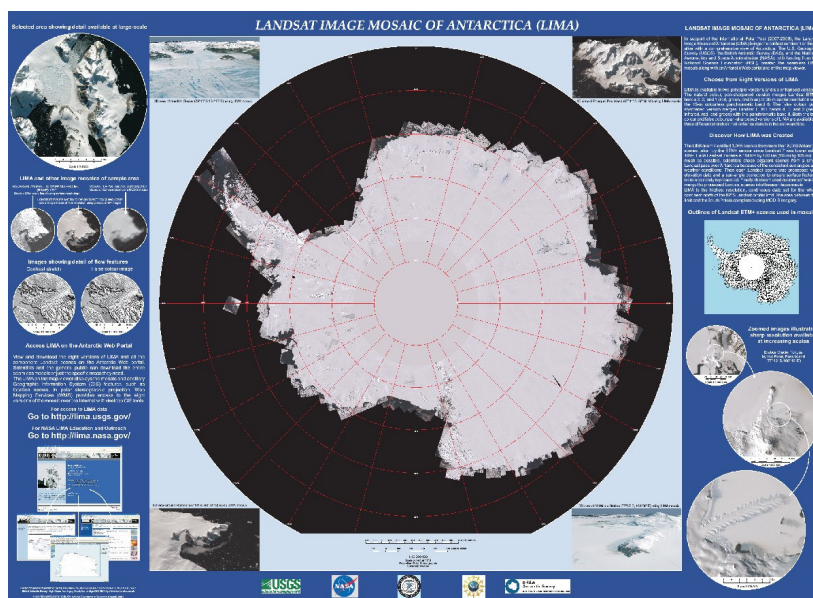
The Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica (LIMA) brings alive the coldest continent on Earth, providing the first -ever true- color high-resolution satellite view of the continent. In support of the International Polar Year (2007-2008), LIMA enables the world community of scientists, educators, and the general public to explore the southernmost environment and learn why Antarctica is important to us. LIMA is a collaboration between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), and the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Antarctic map and raw data are seamless, high resolution and nearly cloud free. The scenes were collected from 1999 through 2006 by the Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus sensor onboard Landsat 7. The entire mosaic of over 1,100 hand selected scenes or just a specific area of need are web enabled and can be downloaded free of charge. For more information, see the following websites:

- <http://lima.usgs.gov>
- <http://lima.nasa.gov>
- <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk>
- <http://www.ipy.gov>

- [The U.S. Geological Survey's LIMA website](#)
- [NASA's LIMA website](#)
- [The British Antarctic Survey's website](#)
- [The U.S. Government portal for the International Polar Year](#)

For more information on FGDC events view the calendar at:

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



View the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov

Highlights

"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 Pat Phillips paphillips@usgs.gov by the 20th of each month.

- **The Fourth Group on Earth Observation (GEO) Plenary and Ministerial meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa** with advance and side meetings scheduled from November 26th -December 1st. The purpose of the meeting was to re-affirm commitments on the part of members' countries and organizations to improve standardized and coordinated access to all earth observation data -- from satellites and in-situ measurement networks. A GEO-IV Summit Declaration was completed to underscore these plans and achievements. Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne lead the delegation. Doug Nebert (ddnebert@usgs.gov).

- **The CBERS-2B, the third satellite from a partnership between China and Brazil, announced their plan at the gathering of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) that they plan to relay images to four ground stations for dissemination to African states.** The data would be made available to environmental and research institutions, as well as public and private organizations responsible for land management. China and Brazil will also sponsor the software needed to read the satellite data. The first ground station located in South Africa will start to receive data immediately. The second station in Kenya would follow by early in 2008 and those in the Canary Islands and Matera, Italy, by next June.

CBERS-2B will guarantee that the supply of images, started in 1999 with CBERS-1, won't be interrupted. The estimated useful life of the satellites CBERS 1, 2 and 2B is two years and for the satellites CBERS 3 and 4, it is three years. CBERS-1 operated successfully until August 2003, beyond its useful life, an outcome that has been repeated with CBERS-2. The launch of CBERS-3 is foreseen for 2009, and CBERS-4, for 2011. Doug Nebert (ddnebert@usgs.gov).



Dr. Alan Stevens, International Program Manager for the Federal Geographic Data Committee, will retire in January 2008.

He is best known at the FGDC Secretariat as the man with the witty puns and the huge tub of mints he proffers at FGDC staff meetings. We will miss our day-to-day contact with Al, but look forward to his continuing work on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI). Throughout his tenure at FGDC (2001-2007) he developed partnerships with nations, regional organizations, NGO's, vendors, and donor organizations for training and implementation of the GSDI.

Al's story: In 1972, after earning his doctorate from University of Wisconsin, Al began his long and storied career in the Federal Government-- first at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and then at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Over the course of his 30 year career at the USGS, Al served many leadership positions in the USGS National Mapping Division and branches related to International Activities, and Programs and Partnerships. He is affiliated with the International Federation of Surveyors, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (President 1986-7), American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and the North American Cartographic Information Society. Al and his wife (Dr. Karen Stevens) also work with families of chemically dependant adolescents. He has received too many awards to list. We will miss you Al!

National Hydrography Data -

Nationwide, High Resolution Coverage

In response to the current importance of surface water issues throughout the nation, the U.S. Geological Survey is pleased to announce the completion of the National Hydrography Dataset. The NHD is a five-year, fifty-million dollar project spearheaded by the USGS to provide 1:24,000-scale high resolution hydrography coverage of the nation in a geospatial database.

At a recent roll-out ceremony in Reston, Va., the USGS Director Mark Myers pointed to this milestone as a “huge accomplishment” and a model for other Federal programs to emulate with regards to multi-agency cooperation and coordination.

The NHD was made possible by a partnership of more than 30 federal, state, and local government agencies that banded together to pool their resources into a single mapping solution for scientists studying the nation’s surface water. This seamless dataset is the hydrography component of *The National Map*. Content is generally based on surface water features portrayed in the 7.5-minute topographic map series and has been updated in a number of states with increased data content and better temporal accuracy. Efforts are now underway to begin the stewardship of the NHD in which state and federal agencies upgrade and continuously maintain the data to meet their business needs.

The US Forest Service and Environmental Protection Agency were primary contributors to this effort to support agency business needs for spatially based surface water data.

Tod Dabolt of the Environmental Protection Agency stated that the NHD is invaluable to a broad range of water associated product from recreation to hazards, and that the partnership created during the NHD project has resulted in huge savings to the taxpayers.

Brian Sanborn from the U.S. Forest Service reflected on the promise of continued stewardship by noting that the NHD was “created at the national level, and ‘stewarded’ at the local level, by the people who know the data the best.”

The NHD is characterized by its ability to serve both as a robust analytical tool in water science as well as an easy to use source in general purpose mapping.

More information can be found at: <http://nhd.usgs.gov>.

A fond farewell to Billy Tolar, we wish you luck! - In November, 2007, Billy Tolar, former FGDC Standards Coordinator, embarked on a new career with the Department of Health and Human Services.

What's Happening

Prototype Mapping Viewer

On November 5, 2007, the MMS announced in the Federal Register an interim policy for authorization of the installation of offshore data collection and technology testing facilities in federal waters. The MMS is accepting comments and nominations concerning the authorization of OCS activities involving the installation of meteorological or marine data collection facilities to assess alternative energy resources (e.g., wind, wave, and ocean current) or to test alternative energy technology. The interim policy is in effect until the MMS promulgates final rules for the Alternative Energy and Alternate Use (AEAU) program.

In an effort to facilitate the nomination and commenting process, MMS is deploying a prototype web-mapping viewer. The purpose of the web-mapping viewer is to assist the public in nominating and commenting on specific areas. The viewer depicts the characteristics of areas and identifies their use and/or restricted use in the marine environment. The MMS has selected information that is most readily available and likely to provide the greatest benefit such as data layers showing protraction diagrams, OCS blocks, shipping lanes, National Marine Sanctuaries, etc. Since this viewer is a prototype and still undergoing development, data layers will be updated throughout the commenting period.

Inherent in any data set used to develop graphical representations, are limitations of accuracy as determined by, among others, the source, scale and resolution of the data. While the MMS makes every effort to represent the data shown with this web viewer as completely and accurately as possible (given existing time and resource constraints), the MMS gives no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Graphical representations provided by the use of this web viewer do not necessarily represent a legal description of the data. It is up to the user to ensure the accuracy, reliability and completeness of the information. Information and access to the viewer can be found at:

<http://www.mms.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/WebMappingViewer.htm>

National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan Workshop Fort Lauderdale - February 26 - 28, 2008

The Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM), established by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST), will host a workshop to support the development of a National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan.

The workshop will bring together key individuals from federal agencies, non-federal partners and stakeholders to frame a Strategic Action Plan designed to expand, improve and/or develop a) coordination and partnerships; b) data collection, availability, dissemination, interoperability and standardization; and c) products and tools required of ocean and coastal geospatial data users.

For more information contact one of the following IWG-OCM co-chairs:

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