

USGS National Hydrography Dataset Newsletter
Vol. 8, No. 4, January 2009
by Jeff Simley, USGS

Hydrography Stewardship Conference

Stewardship 2009, the bi-annual NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference, will be held April 14, 15, and 16, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel, 360 Union Blvd. in Lakewood, Colorado. See attached preliminary agenda and synopsis below. If you are interested in attending the three-day conference, send an email to the Conference Chairperson, Ariel Bates, at atbates@usgs.gov with “Stewardship 2009” in the subject line. Notifying Ariel is not an obligation that you will attend, but rather is a way to gauge interest in the conference and will put you on an email list for updates and more conference information. You need to notify Ariel even if you are a USGS employee. Don’t wait too long!

Why You Should Attend This Conference

The U.S. Geological Survey and its partners have made a huge investment in the National Hydrography Dataset and the Watershed Boundary Dataset. This was done to create an advanced, standardized, and seamless hydrography coverage of the United States that would elevate the geographic analysis of surface water information to a new level and stimulate advances in science and resource management. It fosters the sharing of scientific information across agencies and across state lines that will allow greater scientific discovery, and do this with a dataset that is both powerful and easy-to-use to greatly expand the number of people that can use the data. This \$100-million investment must be maintained through a process of stewardship so that it can remain relevant and realize a significant return on investment for many years to come. The stewardship of the data will also expand the value of the dataset many times through the updating, enhancement, and linking of more information. The USGS has very limited resources to do this and must rely on a vast partnership of data users across the country to help maintain the data. This conference is an important part of the stewardship process by providing important information that will make stewardship a success. You will learn how others have succeeded in stewardship as well as learn from the challenges faced so far. You will have a wonderful opportunity to network with your colleagues for whom you can share your support and provide a resource to help optimize your water program. You will learn about new capabilities and plans for the future that can help guide the future of your work.

Important Conference Information

Plans are to hold the conference at the Sheraton Hotel next to the Denver Federal Center. A block of 100 rooms is being held for the conference at a rate of \$149.00, which is the government rate. The block of rooms can be expanded if there is sufficient interest in the conference. Holding the conference at the Sheraton will facilitate a more efficient conference and ease transportation requirements. The Sheraton offers many amenities, which include free continental breakfast associated with the conference, free breaktime snacks, free wireless internet, and others. When it comes time to register for the conference, you can combine hotel registration and conference registration on one website. You do not have to stay at the hotel to attend the conference. After March 23, the block of rooms will be released and the room rate will revert to the standard room rate.

If you are a state employee, notify your USGS NSDI liaison immediately for more information about the conference including a limited opportunity for travel support.

Note that this conference introduces Watershed Boundary Dataset stewardship as part of the conference objective. An effort is being made in 2009 to incorporate the full WBD into the NHD geodatabase and develop capabilities for strong interoperability between the two datasets. This includes methods for the joint stewardship of the two datasets.

The previous NHD Stewardship conference held in April 2007 drew over 150 participants from 43 states, six federal agencies, and six private firms. At that conference there was a call to hold a follow-on conference in 2009. Now that we know a lot more about data stewardship, what works and what doesn't, the timing is good to learn more about the subject. Budgets have been hard hit and travel to the conference will not be easy for many, particularly for the states. None-the-less, it is hoped that this conference will draw a good turnout. If it doesn't, then the conference may be moved to the Denver Federal Center.

The winners of the February and March NHD quiz will have their Sheraton Hotel room upgraded compliments of the Sheraton Hotel.

Stewardship 2009 Agenda Synopsis (Preliminary Agenda)

Monday, April 13 (Afternoon) Pre-Conference Workshop – Tips on using NHDGeoEdit

Tuesday, April 14

Keynote Address: “A Vision for *The National Map*” by Mark DeMulder

Overview and Future Direction of the Hydrography Theme

Stewardship Concept

Improving Science with Data Stewardship

Role of the Hydrography Points of Contact

Role of the NSDI Liaisons

Role of the Stewards

Maintenance Lite Program

Maintenance II Program

Datum Correction Program

Stewardship in Arkansas

Stewardship in Washington/Oregon

Stewardship in New York

Stewardship in Colorado

Stewardship in Alabama

Stewardship in Wisconsin

Stewardship in West Virginia

Stewardship in Idaho

Stewardship in New Jersey

Evening Social – Cash bar – Poster Session - Hydrography Jeopardy Game

Wednesday, April 15

Track 1 NHD (Morning)

NHD Conflation Tool

Surface Water Maintenance Tool

Twin Cities Stormwater

Missouri Stewardship Report

Indiana Stewardship Report

Colorado Stewardship Report

Utah Revision Results

Michigan Revision Results
The Future of NHDPlus

Track 2 WBD (Morning)
Loading WBD into NHD Geodatabase
7th and 8th Level
Revision with High Resolution Data
Stewardship Roles and Responsibilities
Offshore Delineations
2-4-6-8 Level Legacy Names Management and 10-12 Names Management
Cross-Border Delineations
Process for Making Updates – NRCS and USGS Processes
Open Discussion
(Afternoon)
NHD/WBD with Canada
NHD/WBD with Mexico
Stewardship in Minnesota
Stewardship in Vermont
Stewardship in Louisiana
Stewardship in California
Stewardship in Alaska
Stewardship in Nebraska
Stewardship at the U.S. Forest Service
Dinner with your POC

Thursday, April 16

NHD Issue Paper – User Community
NHD Issue Paper – USGS
WBD Issue Paper
NHD/WBD Geodatabase
WBD Stewardship
NHD Stewardship Page
Names in Hydrography
NHDGeoEdit Tool
Grants/Funding
State Steward Caucus
Feedback to the USGS
Jointly Identify Areas of Improvement
Questions to USGS Panel

Friday, April 17 (Morning) Post-Conference Workshops
HEM Tool, NHDPlus, Minnesota Exchange Process

Note that the conference is a full-day conference on Thursday and it is recommended that attendees stay in Denver Thursday night.

See attached for more details about the agenda.

Conference Posters

All participants in the conference are encouraged to bring a poster to the conference and share your work in hydrography with your colleagues. This is an important part of the learning process. The subject can be anything hydrography related. It doesn't have to be about the NHD or WBD or about stewardship. Posters must have at least one blue line and/or one blue polygon and/or one hydrologic unit to qualify.

December Hydrography Quiz / New January Quiz

Steve Shivers, the USGS NSDI liaison to South Dakota and North Dakota, was the first to correctly guess last month's hydrography quiz <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography42.pdf> as Illinois. Illinois doesn't have the most miles of streams bordering the state, but it does have the greatest percentage with 68%.

Others with the correct answer were (in order received): Richard Patton, Tom Shindler, Jennifer Sharpe, Liz O'Dea, Allen Karsh, and David Asbury. There were many people who played the quiz, but got the wrong answer. Other popular answers were: Kentucky – 63% rivers, Minnesota – 53% rivers, West Virginia, and Texas

This month's hydrography quiz can be found at <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography43.pdf>. Where is this medium-resolution NHD and what are the two major waterbodies? Bonus - Why does the top of the waterbody on the left look cut off? Send your guess to jdsimley@usgs.gov.

Upcoming NHD Geo Edit Tool Training

February 10-12, Montgomery, AL. Contact Elizabeth McCartney at emccartney@usgs.gov or Phillip Henderson, GIS Manager, ADECA Office of Water Resources, Phillip.Henderson@adeca.alabama.gov

March 10-12, Madison WI. Contact Elizabeth McCartney at emccartney@usgs.gov, Dick Vraga at dvraga@usgs.gov, Richard Winstead, US Forest Service, rwinstead@fs.fed.us, or Ann Schachte, WI DNR, Ann.Schachte@Wisconsin.gov

Conflation Training - February 24 - 26 Rolla, MO. Contact Carl Nelson at cwnelwson@usgs.gov, or Susan T Phelps, CFM, GIS Department Manager Watershed Concepts, AECOM Water susan.phelps@aecom.com

Upcoming NHD Applications Training

Feb. 18, 2009, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, contact Dick Vraga at rsvraga@usgs.gov.

April 27, 2009, Snowbird, Utah, BLM/USFS Geospatial '09, see <http://fsgeodata.fs.fed.us/conference/>
April, 2009, Michigan, contact Steve Aichele at saichele@usgs.gov

Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Thanks to Joel Skalet, Ariel Bates, Karen Hanson, Tommy Dewald, and Terry Higgins.

The NHD Newsletter is published monthly. Get on the mailing list by contacting jdsimley@usgs.gov.

You can view past NHD Newsletters at http://nhd.usgs.gov/newsletter_list.html

Jeff Simley, USGS, assumes full responsibility for the content of this newsletter.