

USGS National Hydrography Dataset Stewardship Conference
April 14-16, 2009
Lakewood, Colorado

Hydrography Stewardship Conference

A highly successful NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference was held in Denver, Colorado, April 14 – 16. Over 150 attendees representing local, state, federal, and private organizations from 46 states, plus representatives from Canada and Mexico participated. There were 70-plus presentations made covering a wide variety of issues and perspectives on the stewardship of the NHD and WBD. The USGS National Geospatial Programs Office chief, Mark DeMulder, kicked off the conference with an overview of the direction of mapping programs in the USGS. Many found the three separate panel discussions presenting state views on the NHD, plus a panel discussion on WBD stewardship, to be enlightening. These were preceded by three different state reports commissioned by the USGS on NHD issues. The panels illustrated a large number of similar and disparate situations faced by the states and gave an important appreciation for the wide variety of factors that must be addressed in hydrography stewardship. A series of reports also covered problems and progress made in standing up the stewardship program by the USGS. Workshops held before and after the conference provided detailed training on a number of NHD and WBD topics. The combination of NHD and WBD stewardship was well-received by the attendees and reinforced the future role of stewardship for the WBD program. A particularly powerful benefit of the conference was the extensive networking that took place between conference participants. The ability of the stewardship community to work together is an important element in the success of stewardship since many states encounter issues and ideas that have already been addressed by other states.

You can access over 70 powerpoint presentations from the conference by going to the NHD ftp site at:

ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/Stewardship_09/Conference_Presentations/

Stewardship Conference Caucus

An important part of the NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference was a caucus of the stewardship community that assembled issues and recommendations in stewardship for consideration by the USGS. A NHD and WBD caucus was held. The NHD notes are summarized as follows:

1. The USGS hydrography Point of Contact team is doing a wonderful job of training.
2. There are not enough resources to accomplish hydrography projects top ten list.
3. Need to develop hydrography workgroups to address special topics in hydrography.
4. Need to improve documentation and produce tutorials. Could reduce training time.
5. Need step-by-step setup and tutorial of editing environment.
6. Great working relationships with POCs and USGS Liaisons.
7. Responsiveness of POCs is great.
8. USGS support of conference attendance is appreciated.
9. Would be good to have a NOAA presence at conference (particularly Coastal Services).
10. Concern about cost of LiDAR, particularly cost of derived products.
11. Conference provided a great opportunity for sharing of information.
12. Looking for states that have had success in working with military.
13. Interest in stormwater, particularly requirements for permittees to include NHD.
14. Capture how each state is able to get resources, lessons learned, etc. With Wiki.
15. Great value in NHDPlus tools.
16. Some tools have been produced for specific states, but may be helpful to others

17. Role of WBD in USGS mapping programs recognized.
18. High-resolution NHDPlus is necessary. Need to look at stewards to do it.
19. Question cost-benefit of new updated quad maps.
20. USGS/EPA throws in a bunch of money to one single application, and it goes away
21. Need resources that we can use to develop applications on our own (web services)
22. Need USGS to provide data in web services. Reduces amount of work to be done locally.
23. USGS lacks strategic technology plan.
24. Need a light-weight markup review, web-enabled tool to feed the formal editing process.
25. Concern over lack of long-term funding for things like reach-indexing, design, etc.
26. Imagery for the nation would be great, but concern for impact on resources.
27. Precision is stressed over accuracy.
28. Some of the local densities are not able to be handled currently.
29. Big potential problems with linking to events related to multi-resolution data.
30. Need to focus on what works and is a business requirement, not just what can be done.
31. USGS/EPA does a great job of sharing information about funding opportunities.
32. We wouldn't be able to be here at all if not for the USGS coordination and support.
33. USGS needs an additional FTE for dedicated hydrology work.
34. Contributions by pooling agency funds for the benefit of the community.
35. Link to a states website (if they have a website) on the stewardship page.
36. Good to see what grants were approved and also links to the finished reports or projects.

The NHD caucus notes can be accessed directly at:

ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Stewardship/Stewardship_09/Conference_Presentations/06_Thursday_Afternoon/CaucusNHD2009_notes.doc.