

**Pend Oreille County
GIS Cap Grant Project**

September 2006 Progress Report

Agreement Number: 06HQAG0096

Project title: Pend Oreille County Regional Consortium Mapping

Interim Report: Sept. 30, 2006

Project start and end dates: 03-16-06 thru 03-15-07

Lead project organization: Pend Oreille County Public Works Dept.; 625 W. Fourth St., Newport, WA. 99156

Project Lead: Jim Marthaller, Planning Director, jmarthaller@pendorielle.org

USGS Mapping State Liaison: Sam Bartleson

Collaborating organizations: Spokane County, Ian Von Essen; ivonessen@spokanecounty.org

Data themes: n/a at this time

Project Summary:

Background

In 2006, Pend Oreille County, Washington was awarded funding through a USGS Cap grant. The aim of this grant is to work in cooperation with Spokane County Washington's GIS program resources to integrate and consolidate existing spatial data into a GIS database and make it available on the web via The National Map.

Project Accomplishments to Date:

- 1. Grant Project Kick-off Meeting.** During the summer a steering committee was identified and representatives from Spokane County, Pend Oreille County, local Tribes, Utilities, and agencies got together to hold a project kick-off meeting, identify goals and timelines.
- 2. GIS Surveys.** A software and data availability survey was created to assess needs and existing resources within the organizations potentially participating in or benefiting from the project. Over a dozen surveys were sent out in June and at least nine surveys were returned by August 18th, 2006.
- 3. GIS Survey Summary Report.** Results from the GIS surveys were entered into a database and summarized in a written report for the steering committee. Indications are that available data exists for all critical layers and a significant amount on data integration will be required to move toward a common base geometry for Pend Oreille County's GIS. A critical first step is the acquisition by

Pend Oreille County of high quality orthophotography to establish a base to which other layers will be conflated.

4. **Hired Graduate Student Intern.** An experienced graduate student from Eastern Washington University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning was brought on board in September to work out of Spokane County's facility on integrating PLSS linework to establish the control grid for Pend Oreille County.
5. **Acquired 2004 color orthophotography from DNR.** Worked with Pend Oreille County staff and Spokane County's GIS manager to identify and negotiate the purchase of needed tiles of 2004 orthophotography from Washington's DNR. Funding for this purchase was acquired from within Pend Oreille County's existing resources and this piece of missing data will serve to provide a base geometry for integrating the other existing datasets.
6. **Negotiated a gratis contribution of initial ArcGIS software from ESRI.** Spokane County's GIS manager worked with ESRI to negotiate a waiving of the initial software licensing fees for ArcView and ArcInfo software so that Pend Oreille County can have funds available to pay maintenance and support charges over time.
7. **Held project meetings and updates.** The initial kick-off meeting has been followed by 3 steering committee meetings held at Pend Oreille County to review progress, determine goals and steps, make decisions, and provide updates.
8. **Graduate intern has started conflating the PLSS grid to the orthophoto base.**
9. **Pend Oreille is hiring a GIS Specialist and Planner.** Pend Oreille County is prepared to advertise for a new county job just created which is titled GIS Planner and has included this cost into the annual budget. This will enable the county to perform their own maintenance and updating and upgrading as necessary to continue to improve and utilize the National Map as an everyday planning tool.