

Success Stories

Geospatial Information Making a Difference

CHALLENGE:

Coordinating California's Environmental Data

Managing and protecting California's abundant natural resources from the 1,100 mile coastline to the Sierra Nevada Mountains is vital to its economy and its desirability as a place to live and visit. Each day, government and private organizations generate huge volumes of data about the natural environment, but the volume of information and the diverse organizations involved make it difficult to locate the correct information quickly and easily.



CERES improves environmental analysis and planning by enabling integration of natural and cultural data from multiple contributors.

ACTION

The California Resources Agency (CRA), in partnership with the California Geographic Information Association, established the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) program (<http://www.ceres.ca.gov/>). CERES built an NSDI compliant metadata catalog, and, in partnership with NASA Ames and UC Davis, built a free web accessible data repository. CRA also leads the formation and support of the CA GIS Council (<http://gis.ca.gov/council/>) to help coordinate GIS development and sharing.

RESULTS

Through CERES, private and government organizations are collaborating and are saving time, money, property and lives through shared data development, access and storage. Applications include emergency response, natural resource conservation, environmental impact assessment and land use. Some examples:

Kern County saves \$30K/year in providing GIS to customers.

Trace Energy saved \$100K using CERES to locate a digital parcel map.

Kern County saved \$2 million using CERES to facilitate a joint aerial photography purchase.

Trace Ventures Exploration Inc. saved \$100K in preparing seismic sounding permits.



Do you have a story to share? Visit the FGDC website at www.fgdc.gov to learn more.