

USGS National Hydrography Dataset Newsletter
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by Jeff Simley, USGS

NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference

The fourth bi-annual NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana March 29-30, 2012. It will be held in conjunction with the American Water Resources Association's 2012 Spring Specialty Conference on Geographic Information Systems and Water Resources VI, held March 26-28 in New Orleans at the Sheraton, see <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Spring2012/index.html>. The AWRA conference will focus on applications of GIS in water resources, which involves the NHD and WBD, while the stewardship conference will focus on data stewardship and data maintenance issues. Holding the two conferences together will enable travelers who would normally attend both conferences do so in just one trip. More information on the conference is available from you USGS geospatial liaison. If you have question on the NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference, please contact Jeff Simley at jdsimley@usgs.gov.

Attending the NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference

The stewardship conference will be held all-day Thursday and Friday morning March 29-30, 2012. If you plan to attend the stewardship conference contact your USGS geospatial liaison. It may be possible to receive travel assistance. If you plan to attend, make hotel reservations as soon as possible. The weekend is the Men's Final Four NCAA Basketball Championship. Hotel rooms are very scarce and very expensive. However, if booking the hotel room through AWRA you can take advantage of 60 rooms set aside for the Stewardship Conference Thursday night at \$149.00. The Federal Government allowed lodging rate is \$135.00 per night. Travelers receiving travel assistance may be required to pay the difference. See <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Spring2012/travel.html>. Plan on departing New Orleans Friday afternoon.

Register for the NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference

For those attending the NHD/WBD Stewardship Conference on March 29-30 please register your name at the NHD website <http://nhd.usgs.gov>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on REGISTER NOW, or simply click on this link <http://nhd.usgs.gov/AWRA/>. There is no cost. It is important to compile a list of names of those attending to get a head count for logistics purposes.

NHD Update Process – Development Status by Paul Kimsey

The highly anticipated release of the NHD Update Process is right around the corner! Pre-Release Beta testing has been completed and issues reported have been resolved. A new build will be tested internally through March 2nd with a Final build expected to be released by the end of next week. The NHD community will be receiving an email to announce the official release accompanied by software release notes and release notes for NHD model 2.1. NHD Partners will receive information to help them transition and get started with using the new process. Follow-up Training information will be provided in the near future for new partners and for existing partners that just need to become familiar with the new process. The USGS is confident that the new NHD Update process will provide a streamlined workflow and comprehensive on-line help system that will vastly increase editing efficiency. The Beta process has been utilized in two state training sessions and was very well received with positive feedback.

Idaho Stewards Make Recommendations for the NHD

Idaho NHD users recently held a meeting where suggested improvements were made by the local substewards. The suggestions included:

- (1) LLID crosswalk – people working with fish data would like a crosswalk between lat/long identifier (whole stream route based on name) and NHD. Others have dealt with this issue and it will be useful to learn from those ideas.
- (2) Better naming on headwaters needed – many of the naming errors that have been found are where the headwaters are named incorrectly (the wrong branch was identified and named as the headwaters). This can be addressed with stewardship and the new GNIS structure should help
- (3) Many lake edits needed, especially with high mountain lakes. Can be addressed via stewardship and updated base data.
- (4) Need to have valley, gulch addressed.
- (5) Need to update ephemeral, perennial, intermittent stream classification where field data is available. Can be addressed with stewardship.
- (6) Some forests are using USFS CFF updates – not sure if the data they are submitting to the forest service as quad updates are being applied to the NHD. A forest service representative is looking into this issue.
- (7) Would like to be able to see alternate names in the NHD – with the GNIS id, we can relate to see the variants, but will variants be more fully supported in later releases of the NHD?
- (8) Would like an online forum for posting proposed changes that may affect stakeholders. Idaho may explore this via ArcGIS online.

Leveraging Harmonized Hydrographic Data: Canada-U.S. SPARROW by Michael Laitta

Responding to a persistent nutrient loading issue in the Red-Souris-Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Basins and Lake Winnipeg, the International Joint Commission of Canada and the US has collaborated with the National Research Council of Canada and the USGS to develop the first regionally based, bi-national water quality model in North America. The extension of the US SPARROW model will help governments to assess cross-border nutrient loading and total loads into Lake Winnipeg. Leveraging the successes of the U.S.-Canadian hydrographic harmonization and the harmonization of the NHD to the Canadian NHN, this bi-national modeling team used the harmonized stream network as the “backbone” of the model. The model objectives include the estimation of over-all 2001 loading and the nitrogen and phosphorus loading into Lake Winnipeg- an estimation that could not happen without a seamless network. The bi-national team will have a working model by mid-March 2012 and simulation scenarios beyond April of 2012.

Keven Roth Rejoins USGS Staff

Keven Roth has demonstrated that it is impossible to leave the NHD after her attempted retirement from the USGS five years ago ended in failure this week. The USGS was all too happy to hire her as a re-employed annuitant to research technical issues associated with the NHD. Keven worked under contract to the USGS for three years after retiring, and while not under contract volunteered many hours of her time, doing technical research in support of NHD policy development. She contributes a vast institutional knowledge of the NHD and is known for conducting very thorough research that helps ensure the integrity of the NHD. Keven Roth is cofounder of the NHD beginning her work on the program in 1993.

Ed Kelty 1934-2012

Ed Kelty who was instrumental in the management of the original NHD production program passed away on January 27, 2012. Ed retired from the U.S. Geological Survey at the age of 72 when the high resolution coverage was completed in 2007.

NHD Photo of the Month

This month's photo is looking down on Upper and Lower Black Lake in the Gore Range of Colorado. In the background is Green Mountain Reservoir on the Blue River, a tributary of the Colorado River. The photo was taken by Jeff Simley of the USGS from the slopes of Peak "O" in the Gore Range. To see the photo of the month go to ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Hydro/Images/GreenMtn_Black.JPG. Submit your photo for the NHD Photo of the Month by sending it to krisham@usgs.gov. This will allow the program to build a library of real-world photos linked to the NHD.

January Hydrography Quiz / New February Quiz

Neil Olson of the New Hampshire Geological Survey was the first to guess the January NHD Quiz as the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers. See <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography78.JPG>. Neil works for the New Hampshire Geological Survey, whose mission is to collect data and perform research on the land, mineral, and water resources of the state, and disseminate the findings to the public through maps, reports, and other publications. The surveys' activities include surficial geologic mapping, groundwater level monitoring, and fluvial erosion hazard mapping. Neil's role at NHGS is as the data steward for the NHD, where he works to improve the accuracy and completeness of the NHD in the state and enhance the utility and visibility of the NHD.

Others with the correct answer (in order received) were Steve Shivers, Chris Brown, Calvin Meyer, Claire DeVaughan, Janel Day, Travis Garcia, Evan Hammer, David Sinton, Joe Cain, Melissa Siders, Tom Falk, David Asbury, John Kosovich, Linda Davis, Tom Shindler, Barb Rosenbaum, Keith McFadden, Kitty Kolb, Roger Barlow, Jim McDonald, Mark Yandrick, Rich Stein, Dave Straub, and Matt Rehwald.

This month's hydrography quiz can be found at <ftp://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography79.pdf>. Name the giant lake. Keep in mind that the NHD contains integrated Canadian hydrography. Send your guess to jdsimley@usgs.gov.

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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.