

Idaho Height Modernization Forum

In Conjunction with the ISPLS 2009 Annual Conference

When: **Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Where: **Tamarack/Ponderosa Room of the Doubletree Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho**

7:30 Welcome/Opening Remarks - *Renee Shields and Curt Smith, National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Rayce Ruiz, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)*

An introduction to the discussions planned for the day, including NGS interests in partnering with states to improve elevation data, a look at the present state of vertical control surviving in Idaho, and IDT's plans for support of Height Modernization efforts in Idaho.

8:00 National Height Modernization Program – An Overview - *Renee Shields, NGS*

For the past several years, at the specific direction of Congress, NGS has been developing ways to cost effectively improve elevation across the country. This session outlines the history and evolution of the HMP, including the regional program now being put in place, built on partnerships between NGS and states.

9:00 Idaho's Geospatial Community Needs for Accurate Elevations – *Gail Ewart, Idaho Geospatial Information Officer*

Accurate height measurements are necessary to adequately support government decisions and actions across the state affecting Idaho citizens and businesses. Opportunities exist for leveraging related Framework efforts and investments.

9:30 Break with Exhibitors

10:00 Idaho Transportation Department Addresses the Idaho Height Modernization Program – *Rayce Ruiz, ITD*

Idaho has taken the first step to implement an Idaho Height Modernization Program (IHMP), submitting a grant proposal to partner with NGS to improve their elevation data. Support of the overall plan for Idaho's improved height system and the resulting benefits will be described in this session.

11:00 Washington, A Height Modernization Success Story – *Dave Steele, Washington Department of Natural Resources*

Washington was one of the earlier states to partner with NGS to develop a height modernization program in their state to improve their elevation data. Over the past several years Washington has realized some benefits as of result of this partnership. Several applications of these HMP efforts and resulting benefits will be described in this session.

12:00 Lunch (Provided with Registration)

1:30 Understanding the Elements of Height Modernization – *Curt Smith, NGS*

Describing the elements that comprise the different height systems, orthometric, ellipsoid, and geoid heights, and their determinations and relationships helps us understand the components of a successful height modernization program.

2:00 Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical-Datum: The GRAV-D Program - *Mark Eckl, NGS*

Information on gravity is a key component in the determination of accurate elevations. Improvement in the quality and quantity of gravity data through the GRAV-D program is critical for improving the accuracy of elevation data. This session will describe specific goals and expectations for GRAV-D, and how it benefits and complements other components of the HMP.

2:30 Where We Go From Here Open Discussion and Comments - *Renee Shields, NGS*

An opportunity for all forum participants to share their thoughts on the HMP in general, the regional approach outlined by NGS, and opportunities they see for participation in the HMP.