Metadata Creation Final Report

Award Number: 04HQAG0150
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Project activities included training sessions for Standing Rock Tribal, federal and state employees, and Sitting Bull College employees and students. Activities included:
- Several basic computer skills training sessions
- Several geospatial skills training sessions

Successes include several people working on Standing Rock Reservation knowing why and how to create metadata.

Strengths of the project were the novelty of it—most participants were unaware of what metadata meant and the importance of it. A second strength is that one of the tribal administrative staff feels more employees need to create metadata in their projects.

Weaknesses of the project were that although several people are able to create metadata, they feel there is no need for in their position.

Further challenges will be to actually create metadata and use it. This will demonstrate the validity of it.

Collaboration activities include working closely with North Dakota State University, where one of the consultants was a graduate student at the time. Also, the State of North Dakota's GIS Specialist visited Standing Rock at least one time during this project and a better working relationship was established. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service North Dakota State GIS Specialist was actively involved throughout the project and long term working relationships have been established.

It is the above networking, or organizational practices, that have developed to support metadata creation and maintenance for the future.

Measurable Project Results:
- Five people are now capable of creating metadata.
- Aside from examples used in training, no metadata files or datasets have been documented.

Describe Metadata Service:

- Metadata is not being served or posted; however there is an awareness and the ability to create it now that did not exist prior to the training.
- No metadata entries were created.
- I will continue to mention the importance of metadata creation and why everyone should be creating it with their documents. No further assistance is needed at this time.

Next steps:
- Continue the relationships and network that were created. Continue to impress the value of metadata.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program:
- The Cooperative Agreements Program is fantastic. This is an opportunity not to be missed. The program is user friendly, and so are the staff.
- The awareness of metadata has made a difference that there is more out there and Standing Rock is not isolated and does have valuable data to share.
- The assistance I received was more than sufficient and was very effective.
- I would recommend doing nothing differently.
- No factors are missing or need to be considered, other than the fact that the readiness and willingness to share data is missing, due to historical exploitation by other federal agencies.
- The time frame was adequate; an extension was granted easily; and there are no program management concerns.
- If I were to do this again, I would provide an incentive payment to ensure getting a few people well trained, rather than several people receiving a little training.