

Category 3

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program Expanding Use of the GIS Inventory System Interim Report

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Project title: Expanding Louisiana's Use of the GIS Inventory System

Interim report

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Executive Summary

The Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC) has added 181 statewide data layers as a direct result of FGDC CAP Grant funding for this project. In addition to the layers LAGIC has developed, it has encouraged local governments to add data as well. In 2011 and 2012, St James Parish (Louisiana's equivalent to a county) added or updated 29 parish wide data layers, in the GIS Inventory. We would like to see more updates by local government and realize that they may require some short training courses to familiarize them with the program. We have scheduled a ½ day workshops in conjunction with upcoming Louisiana GIS Council meetings in January. We will look for other opportunities to familiarize data creators with the system.

LAGIC participated in a GIS Inventory Project update with FGDC Staff (Doug Nebert and Brigitta Urban-Mathieux) on September 21, 2012. In addition we participated in a WebEx conference hosted by Bill Burgess, with other states and municipalities on September 26, 2012. We will present the results of the project to the Louisiana GIS Council at the December 21st GIS Council Meeting in Baton Rouge and at the Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop in Lafayette in April of 2013.

Project Narrative

GIS Inventory System Accounts

Among the LAGIC staff that have accounts on the GIS Inventory System are:

Craig Johnson, Director
Chris Pennington, Database Manager, and
Yanquing Xu, GIS Analyst

Other GIS Managers that have accounts on the GIS Inventory System include:

Robert Lear, GIS Manager, St James Parish, LA.
Charles Huggins, GIS Manager, Natchitoches Parish, LA.
Ken Gaines, Marshall Miller & Associates (Consultant)
Lynda Wayne, GeoMaxim (Consultant)

Results of FGDC CAP Grant Funding

There have been 191 new entries or updates covering Louisiana geospatial data since the Spring of 2012. 179 of those entries are a direct result of the funding provided by the FGDC Cap Grant for “Expanding Louisiana’s Use of the GIS Inventory System”. Those entries break down into three groups by type of data manager.

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC) has been responsible for 179 of the 191 new entries or updates. Local governments, including Natchitoches and St .James Parish are responsible for entering or updating 10 additional layers last spring. Furthermore, two consulting firms are responsible for one additional layer each. Although St James Parish did not receive direct funding for the development of their 10 data layers, they did receive training in the use of the system. Additional training for local governments is scheduled for the spring and should boost the number of new data layers in the system.

The types of data sets entered or updated into the GIS Inventory as a result of the award are statewide data sets newly entered and/or updated by LAGIC. In addition there are local government data sets either produced by local governments or by LAGIC for local governments. Many of the local data sets created by LAGIC were critical infrastructure data sets detailing the locations of educational institutions, health care facilities, community institutions, public safety and government buildings. Geospatial data from coastal parishes was collected from commercial sites including, banks, grocery stores and pharmacies. These data sets are critical to emergency response and recovery efforts in a disaster.

Summary of Project Activities

The primary project activities to date has been the entry of 191 new or updated data sets and the training of state agencies and local governments in the use of the GIS Inventory system. The main success has been to increase the visibility of the GIS Inventory System among state and local government agencies in Louisiana.

The challenge will be to expand the number of system users so that the GIS Inventory is the first place where people look to find critical state and local data sets. Expanding the number of data entries will lead to more data users. We intend to overcome the challenge of expanding the system by two methods:

- 1) Increasing the visibility of the system by providing presentations to state and regional meetings.
- 2) Increase the number of data sets by providing free training opportunities.

Next Steps

LAGIC is building address point data sets for local governments throughout the State of Louisiana as part of the Louisiana Broadband Initiative. We plan to include those data sets in the GIS inventory as well as additional critical infrastructure data.

LAGIC has Memorandums of Understanding with a number of parishes regarding address and critical infrastructure data. LAGIC also provides geospatial training throughout the state including ESRI certified workshops, and free or reduced rate training on the use of various software programs like Pictometry-on-Line (Oblique Imagery), LP360 (LIDAR Processing) and the use of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

LAGIC manages the state sponsored Louisiana GIS Council Website and Data Clearinghouse where the state geospatial community goes to find news and announcements on training, user groups, software improvements, new geospatial applications and information on state and regional conferences.

LAGIC has scheduled additional presentations to the Louisiana geospatial community, training and technical assistance on the GIS Inventory to state and local governments.