

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Metadata Training and Outreach Project
Final Project Summary

Agreement Number:USGS 03HQAG0178
Final Report: Bilingual Meta Data for New Mexico Counties

Organization: New Mexico State University
Project Leader: Dr. Robert Czerniak, Professor of Geography

Project Narrative

This USGS Cooperative Agreement Project, Bilingual Metadata for New Mexico Counties, was in operation from October, 2003 until April 2005. There was a no-cost project extension granted from September, 2004 to April, 2005. The four major accomplishments of the projects were: the preparation of a Spanish/English language metadata template, development of a training material for county mappers, training a group of county cadastral mappers in the use of metadata and the English and Spanish versions of the template, and distribution of the Spanish language template to New Mexico counties. In addition, NMSU also responded to questions, by phone and internet, about the template during the last six months of the project.

The strengths of the project included metadata training for county mappers and training the nine students who were involved in the project. A second strength was the ability of NMSU to respond to queries about the metadata template for the last six months of the grant. We continue to do this. The major weakness of the project was that we were only able to train eight county mappers (eight out of nine in the proposal that we indicated we would train).

As a result of the project, NMSU uses metadata on a regular basis in its project preparation and delivery. We encourage our county clients to do this and train all of them how to include metadata as part of their mapping efforts. Of course all the counties that received the Spanish/English metadata template were encouraged to use metadata. Because of a lack of time, we did not evaluate this portion of the project.

Metadata Training

County Mappers Trained: Manual Roybel, Sherry Serna, Don Rael, Paul Duran, Jody Hatch, Tonya Lowery, Cris Pohl, Denise Cones.

Students: Elyn Clarke, Jose Carranza, Christopher Buscaglia, Janelle Mongelli, Seth Escalante, Charles Saenz, Bette Parker, Jose Chacon, Marc Bourdon

All of the county mappers and students received an introduction to metadata. Four of the students had advanced knowledge of metadata because they prepared the training materials for classes or provided technical support for the template that was mailed to counties. Two students Antonio Carranza and Jose Chacon received USGS Train-the-

Trainer training in San Antonio and Denver. Mr. Caranza was involved in developing training materials. Both Mr. Caranza and Mr. Chacon were part of the training efforts.

A bonus from the USGS project was that we were able to disseminate the Spanish language template to counties along the U.S.-Mexico border (the mailing distribution was accomplished with NMSU funds). The counties were involved in our Joint Working Committee efforts with U.S. Department of Transportation. We also sent out invitations to all border counties to learn about GIS and transportation along the border. The material from the USGS metadata training was included in this US-Mexico GIS training session sessions.

We were able to reach eight New Mexico counties and six border counties with the metadata training. In addition about 50 U.S. Mexico border counties in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California received the bilingual metadata template.

Status of Metadata Service

NMSU undertakes 5-7 projects per year, each creating 10-15 maps each. All of the maps include metadata. Our US-Mexico Joint Working Committee project for the US Department of Transportation includes metadata in Spanish and English.

Next Steps

Our training of county mappers will continue, one county at a time, as we build digital cadastral data sets for New Mexico counties. Metadata will always be a standard component of our county GIS training.

We have no issues with our metadata training or provision of metadata templates to local government. As opportunities arise we will continue to offer metadata training and remind counties (and cities too) to include metadata as a part of their mapping programs. We will encourage counties to make their metadata bilingual. This will provide maximum access to information about data sets for New Mexico residents. It will also be especially important for U.S.-Mexico border counties that work with state and federal authorities in Mexico.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

The cooperative program was very supportive of our efforts to provide training. We were able to send two students to train-the-trainer workshops. These were valuable when we delivered training to counties. The program makes a difference in that it allowed us to try the idea of disseminating metadata templates to a largely underserved group of governments-county government along the US-Mexico border. The assistance we received, both financial and technical, was adequate to the tasks outlined in our proposal. I have no specific recommendations. If we were to do the project over, we would contact counties earlier in the process.