

FGDC / NSDI 2006 Cooperative Agreements Program

Category 3: Fifty States Initiative

*“Advancing the NSDI in Wyoming:
Strategy for Statewide Interagency Coordination
of Geospatial Information and Technology”*

Agreement Number: Interim Project Report

Organization: Office of the Chief Information Officer, State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, Wyoming, <http://cio.state.wy.us/>

Project Co-Leaders: Larry Biggio, Chief Information Officer, State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, WY, Ph: (307) 777-5840, Email lbiggio1@state.wy.us; Jeff Hamerlinck, Director, Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center, Ph: (307) 766-2736; Email: itasca@uwyo.edu

Collaborating Organizations*:

Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council (WGIAC): Established by executive order in 1994, WGIAC membership includes representatives from 25 state, local and federal agencies operating in Wyoming, <http://wgiac2.state.wy.us/html/index.asp>

Wyoming I-Team: Created in 2002 as an outgrowth of the Council, the team includes over 75 individual participants associated with 10 specialty areas, <http://gis.dot.state.wy.us/iteam/>

Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC): University research center responsible for much of the technical activities supporting NSDI in Wyoming, <http://www.wygisc.uwyo.edu>

Introduction

This project addresses the need to develop and implement new mechanisms for promoting and supporting interagency geospatial coordination in Wyoming, not only among state agencies but also between state government and local, federal, tribal, and private members of the Wyoming geospatial community. In 2004/2005, the Wyoming

* These were the collaborating agencies at the time the grant began. Since then, WGIAC has been replaced by the new two-tiered governance system consisting of the Oversight Panel and Technical Advisory Group (no web site yet; see narrative for details). The I-Team is in the process of being subsumed as a series of committees within the Technical Advisory Group.

Geographic Information Advisory Council developed a set of recommendations for improving statewide geospatial cooperation. Proposed actions included restructuring the council into a two-tiered organization comprised of a five-member Governor-appointed oversight committee and a 14-member Technical Advisory Group representing various constituent end-user groups. The plan also called for the establishment of a Geospatial Information Officer position, housed within the Office of the State CIO. Technical services would be provided through contract with the University of Wyoming's Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center. The overarching goal for this project is to leverage past and ongoing geospatial coordination efforts by: (1) refining the council's recommendations into a more formalized Strategic Plan; (2) implementing all non-fiscally constrained components of said strategic plan; and (3) developing a comprehensive Business Plan which articulates the case for both top-down and bottom-up investment in the long-term sustainability of a statewide geospatial coordination program in Wyoming.

Key Accomplishments to Date

To date, major accomplishments include:

- **Establishment of a new, two-tiered governance structure for statewide geospatial coordination.** This was accomplished through the issuance of Executive Order 2006-1 by Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal in April 2006 (see attachments). The order rescinded EO 1994-3, which had created the original Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council (WGIAC), and replaced it with a five-member, Governor-appointed Oversight Panel and a 14-member Technical Advisory Group. The Oversight Panel will primarily address policy issues related to geospatial data development and sharing, while the Technical Advisory Group will focus on issues related to standards, framework data and clearinghouse functionality. Initial membership for both groups has been finalized and the groups have met jointly in each of the last three months. The initial focus of these meetings has been on creation of bylaws and setting priorities for FY2007.

- **Hiring of consultant to assist with business plan development.** A major component of the project budget has been committed toward consultant services to assist with development of a statewide geospatial coordination business plan. Following a RFP and evaluation of submitted bids, Applied Geographics (Boston, MA) has been selected as the vendor to assist with this work. Major tasks will include:
 - Development of a business plan to support the need for a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) and a state funded technical services program. This will require gathering input from key GIS leaders and decision makers for the “benefits and justification” component of the plan.
 - Development of an education strategy to increase understanding of the need for GIS coordination and the accompanying business plan.

Applied Geographics will be working with a Wyoming-based subcontractor, Flitner Communications (Jackson, WY) to assist with local stakeholder input. In addition, CIO’s Office has also allocated a 50% of newly created telecommunications position to coordinate marketing efforts for the grant, including development of a series of press releases and establishment of a statewide geospatial newsletter.

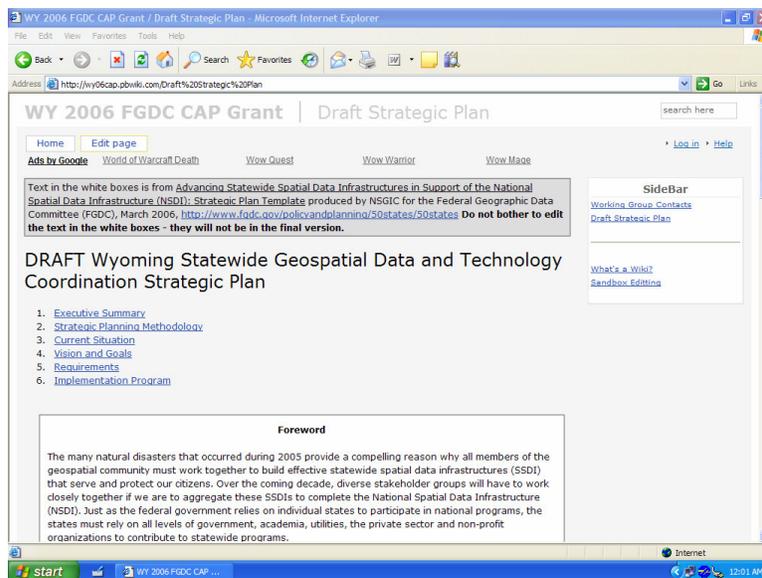


Figure 1. Screen capture of Wyoming Strategic Plan Update Wiki Site.

A draft of a strategic plan update, reformatted to new FGDC guidelines, is scheduled for completion by October 10, 2006, prior to the kick-off meeting with the consultants. This work is being carried out by the CAP grant project team using Wiki technology (see Figure 1). It is anticipated that the plan will be completed by October 31, 2006 and will be voted on by the oversight and technical advisory bodies in mid-November 2006.

Intermediate Impacts

One of the initial impacts of the grant and the subsequent issuance of a new executive order has been the revitalization of the geospatial community within the state. The newly formed Technical Advisory Group includes representation from state and federal government, municipalities, counties, academia, tribal government and the private sector. It has also lead to creation of a one new regional users group in the state and has great potential for the eventual establishment of an annual statewide geospatial user's conference.

Next Steps

Over the next five months, work will continue on both the strategic plan revisions and business plan development. An important goal is the completion of a series of educational tools for use with elected officials, agency heads and other key state and local decision makers.

Other Feedback

The Wyoming project has benefited greatly from the coordination provided by FGDC staff, especially the regularly scheduled teleconference events with other state projects and the events planned for the annual NSGIC meeting. The inclusion of a CAP grant kick-off meeting was very beneficial in terms of jump-starting our work as was the provision on the strategic and business plan templates. We recommend that kick-off meeting concept be something that FGDC re-instates for all CAP grant categories in the future.

With regard to timeline, the Wyoming team is confident that it can complete the scope of work in a one year's time. Our ability to achieve this, however, is due to the fact that we had two- to three-years lead up to the effort and that we were "poised" to hit the ground running. It is difficult to assess whether or not a one-year timeline would be feasible for project completion if that groundwork hadn't already been completed.

Attachments

Strategic and business plans are both currently under development. The Strategic plan is scheduled for completion by October 31, 2006 with Oversight Committee approval scheduled for mid-November. The business plan is slated for completion in early February 2007.

The following pages include a copy of Executive Order 2006-1, issued by Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal in April 2006. This order rescinded EO 1994-3 which had established the original Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council (WGIAC) and established a new two-tiered governance structure for statewide geospatial coordination in Wyoming.



Office of the Governor

**STATE OF WYOMING
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Executive Order
2006 – 1**

(Supercedes and Replaces Executive Order 1994-3)

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 1994-3 dated April 8, 1994, Governor Mike Sullivan created the Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council for the reasons therein set forth; and

WHEREAS, such Council was charged, among other things, with promoting statewide interests and requirements for mapping data, and serving, where possible, as a focal point for coordination between federal and state agencies for mapping programs and products, encouraging input from county, local and private parties; and

WHEREAS, the Council has exercised commendable leadership in the effort to improve coordination among the geographic information systems (GIS) community statewide; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming is facing many challenges, including increased development of energy resources, homeland security, and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming finds itself working with various levels of regional and local governments, and private industry on an ever growing scale; and

WHEREAS, geographic information systems (GIS) has proven to be an effective tool in policy development, decision-making, management, engineering and research in almost all state, local and federal government agencies and private industry; and

WHEREAS, government and industry have a long history of using GIS in a wide variety of projects; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government in Wyoming face funding issues; and

WHEREAS, coordination between government agencies, and government and private entities is critical to the well being of Wyoming's counties, cities, and the state; and

WHEREAS, geospatial data and technology use will greatly benefit from a statewide coordinated effort to streamline government use, expand agency cooperation, take advantage of grant opportunities and cooperative leveraged funds; and

WHEREAS, the use of GIS is advancing very rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous demand and growth in geospatial data and technology use has out grown current coordination efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Dave Freudenthal, pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Wyoming, hereby order the following:

1. The Council created in Executive Order 1994-3 is discontinued and shall be replaced by the Wyoming GIS Coordination Structure. The Structure shall consist of an Oversight Committee and a Technical Advisory Group.
2. The Oversight Committee shall have duties and membership as follows:
 - a. Duties: The Oversight Committee shall provide policy level direction and promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters related to geographic information. To that end it shall:
 - A. Promote cooperation among state, federal and local agencies, and the private sector in addressing geographic data and information needs and services in Wyoming;
 - B. Facilitate cost sharing and collaborative arrangements to develop and maintain high-priority GIS data bases and applications programs;
 - C. Promote coordination of programs, policies, technologies and resources to maximize opportunities and minimize duplication of effort, and to facilitate the documentation, distribution and exchange of geographic information;
 - D. Ensure the development of consistent policies, standards and guidelines for geographic information;
 - E. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to geographic information in Wyoming.
 - b. Membership: The Oversight Committee shall include five (5) individuals appointed by the Governor to represent the GIS community, one member of the Technical Advisory Council, and the Executive Branch Chief Information Officer in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity.
3. The Technical Advisory Group shall have duties and membership as follows:
 - a. Duties: The Technical Advisory Group will communicate GIS user needs and technical advice to the Oversight Committee. To that end, it shall
 - A. Represent the GIS user community;
 - B. Provide technical guidance to Oversight Committee;
 - C. Identify GIS issues and report to the Oversight Committee;

- D. Help develop data standards;
- E. Provide a direct communication link between the Coordination Structure and GIS users;
- F. Provide outreach;
- G. Research and recommend policy to Oversight Committee;
- H. Provide a representative to Oversight Committee;
- I. Review Proposed GIS Implementation Plans;

b. Membership: The TAG could have as many participants as willing to attend, but only 14 voting members. This would consist of two representatives from each of the following levels: Municipalities, Counties, Federal, State, Private Industry, Tribal, and Education entities. Members of the TAG would be chosen by popular vote from the above-mentioned representative groups.

4. The Wyoming Office of the Chief Information Officer will provide administrative support for the Wyoming GIS Coordination Structure. The Structure may seek additional technical support from other public or private sector entities as needed.

18 Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Wyoming, this day of April 2006.




Dave Freudenthal
Governor