

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: 06HQAG0095
Second Interim Project Report
April 15, 2007

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

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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

* 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 Since then, WGIAC has been replaced by the new two-tiered governance system consisting of the Oversight Panel and Technical Advisory Group (no web site yet; see narrative for details).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.

private members of the Wyoming geospatial community. In 2004/2005, the Wyoming 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

The following accomplishments were achieved in the first six months of the grant (March 16, 2006 through September 15, 2006) and documented in the first interim project report:

- **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 meeting 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) was selected as the vendor to assist with this work. Major tasks identified included:
 - 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.

Since September 2006, the following accomplishments have been achieved:

- **Reformatted Strategic Plan:** The CAP grant team successfully completed a revision to the 2004 Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council’s *Recommendations for Statewide GIS Coordination* document. This document had previously been updated by the Wyoming Office of the Chief Information Officer in 2006. It continues to be the most up-to-date strategic guidance document on GIS in the state and served as the basis for creation of the new GIS Business Plan development effort.
- **Draft Final Business Plan:** In mid-February 2007, Applied Geographics delivered the completed Version 1.0 of a GIS Business Plan for the State of Wyoming. Version 2.0 of the document was created after a review and modifications by the CAP grant team. The CAP grant team is currently working with Flitner Communications (Jackson, WY) to produce a revised, stand-alone executive summary for the plan. Both Version 2.0 of the plan and the new executive summary will be presented to a joint meeting of the GIS Oversight Committee and Technical Advisory Group on May 2, 2007 in Casper, WY.

- **Draft Final Education Strategy:** In mid-February 2007, Applied Geographics also delivered a draft final version of a Business Plan education strategy, developed in conjunction with Flitner Communications. The strategy will also be presented to the upcoming Oversight / Technical Advisory Group meeting prior to dissemination.

While much of the work on the documents described above was completed by mid-February 2007, the State of Wyoming requested and was granted a six-month no-cost time extension on the grant period, extending it to September 15, 2007. The reasons for the extension were to allow for Oversight Committee / Technical Advisory Group review of the products (and subsequent final editing by the CAP grant team), and to provide for the reallocation of remaining grant dollars for creation of educational materials identified in the business plan education strategy.

Next Steps

The next major milestone for the grant will be the presentation of the draft final business plan and business plan education strategy to the GIS Oversight Committee and Technical Advisory Group. Following this meeting and in the remaining time of the grant period, the CAP grant team will use the remaining grant money to create materials supporting the implementation of the business plan. The audiences for these materials will include elected officials, agency heads and other key state and local decision makers.

Final copies of the planning documents will be provided to the FGDC by the end of May 2007. Copies of all educational material created in association with the grant will be delivered by September 15, 2007.