Alaska's Geospatial Strategic and Business Plans are the result of a yearlong project jointly funded by the USGS and the Alaska DOT & PF. The project is part of the 50 States Initiative and is intended to support development of Alaska's Spatial Data Infrastructure. These plans are based on input from over 300 Alaskans collected through a transparent and participatory process.

Building a Strategic Foundation

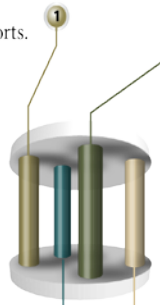
The Strategic Plan offers a long-term path for establishing and maintaining a collaborative geospatial framework that meets the needs of Alaskans. The Business Plan defines specific initiatives necessary to meet the strategic goals.

Strategic Goal #1:
Establish a sustainable participatory governance structure to effectively and efficiently coordinate and communicate geospatial efforts.

- Empower a representative body to coordinate and communicate geospatial efforts.
- Create, within state government, a full time position responsible for supporting statewide geospatial efforts.
- Write and execute a business plan that will support a sustainable statewide geospatial coordination effort.
- Establish working groups to provide guidance to stakeholders on technical initiatives and policy issues.

Strategic Goal #2:
Ensure statewide spatial data and technology are available to as many potential users as possible and are developed, managed, and coordinated according to best practices.

- Establish standards for framework geospatial data through a stakeholder driven process.
- Adapt or develop best practices for collaborative data collection, management, and distribution to fit Alaska's unique circumstances.
- Establish mechanisms for supporting collaborative data development, coordination, validation, and data dissemination.
- Provide a unified clearinghouse for access to geospatial data that leverages existing capabilities.
- Facilitate the completion and maintenance of statewide framework geospatial data.



Strategic Goal #3:
Expand and improve the use and awareness of geospatial technologies through increased collaborative educational opportunities and outreach.

- Coordinate and increase awareness of professional development and training opportunities to empower the use of geospatial technology in a more effective manner.
- Increase awareness of the applications and benefits of geospatial technology through formal outreach activities.
- Continually evaluate and promote the application of new best practices and technologies.

Strategic Goal #4:
Identify and secure sustainable funding sources to support ongoing statewide geospatial programs.

- Establish strategic geospatial initiatives and priorities that build and support strong business cases for obtaining funding.
- Secure a sustainable funding source to support the established statewide geospatial framework.
- Establish formal partnerships for funding of geospatial initiatives.

Benefits for Alaska

For every $1 invested in coordinated geospatial programs Alaska will see $10 in benefits. Having a robust and reliable spatial data infrastructure available for use by government and private sector will result in improved resource management decisions, planning for the maintenance and construction of infrastructure, disaster mitigation planning and post event response, and access to economic development opportunities for citizens. Annual benefits accrue to public and private entities and include time savings in acquiring data and more efficient service provision.

Benefit Description	Annual Benefit
Enabling GIS Applications With Statewide Data	$2,244,000
Elevation Benefits (USGS)	$19,287,357
Additional Tax Revenue	$397,959
Private Cost Savings	$993,590
Responding To Requests	$171,652
Time Acquiring Data	$534,762
Total Annual Benefits	**$23,629,320**

Required Sustainable Investments

To realize annual benefits in excess of $23.6 million will require investment in building and maintaining framework data and establishing a sustainable governance structure. Limited investment will be required from state general funds with the majority of investment required from state capital improvement program budgets and from outside sources including the Federal government.

	Investment		
Year	State General Funds (Operating)	State (Capital Improvement)	Other
Year 1	$231,250	$4,939,000	$12,958,500
Year 2	$247,950	$5,317,700	$13,529,800
Year 3	$312,339	$4,735,000	$12,902,750
Year 4	$310,191	$465,000	$1,322,750
Annual after Year 4	$318,317	$495,000	$1,309,750
Total (5 year)	**$1,420,047**	**$15,951,700**	**$42,023,550**

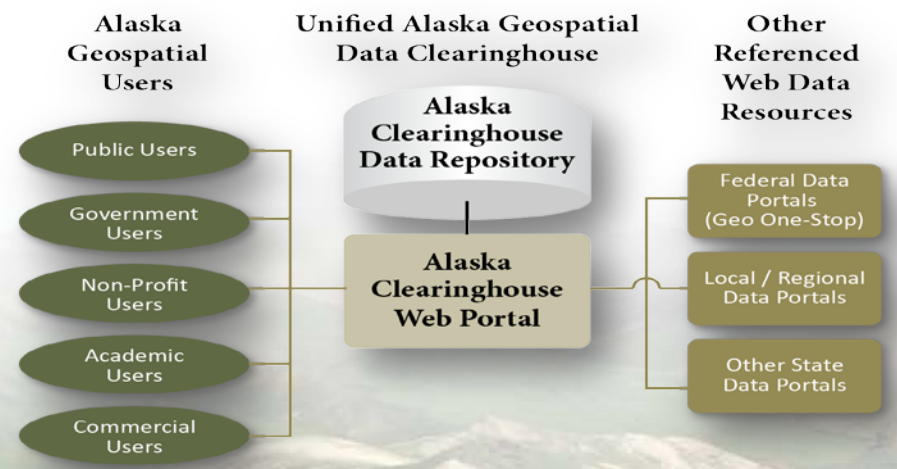
Participatory Governance Structure

A governance structure that facilitates involvement of all key stakeholders will be critical to sustainability. The Alaska Geospatial Council will consist of representatives from stakeholders across the state and will have the authority to make decisions on important statewide geospatial initiatives for the Alaska community. A Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) will lead these efforts, as a recognized champion tasked with achieving Alaska's geospatial initiatives. A series of Technical Working Groups selected from stakeholders will provide guidance on technical and policy issues.

Communication and Sharing

Under the guidance of the Alaska Geospatial Council, technical working groups will be established to recommend processes for setting standards, policies, and best practices for geospatial technology in the state.

Marketing and communications plans will be used to actively engage support from the community and share information while facilitating collaboration on geospatial initiatives. Activities will be dedicated to encouraging transparency and inclusive community participation from geospatial professionals to enhance involvement, communication, and collaboration.



Geospatial Foundation Data and Clearinghouse

Currently available geospatial data for Alaska is insufficient to meet current and future needs. Statewide elevation, orthoimagery, property ownership, administrative boundaries, transportation, and hydrography must be developed and maintained according to standards defined by the community. These data must then be made available to users through a unified geospatial data clearinghouse.

Dewberry Contact:
Shane Engel, GISP, PMP
sengel@dewberry.com
703.849.0618

Dewberry