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**Agreement Number:** G12AC20106

**Project title:** Expanding the GIS Inventory System in Iowa (EGIS Iowa) - Interim Report

**Organization:** Iowa Geographic Information Council, 291 Durham Center, Ames, Iowa 50011, <http://www.iowagic.org/>

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### **Executive Summary**

Expanding the GIS Inventory System in Iowa project is making good progress. Project staff have received training to administer gisinventory.net. Staff have begun reviewing Iowa users and records in the GIS Inventory System looking for outdated user information to update. Another initiative underway is the synchronization of records between NSGIC's GIS Inventory System and the Iowa Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. Our goal is to have records appear in both systems, with the intention of greater data discovery on both a state and nation level.

In the coming months, we look forward to providing educational and outreach opportunities to GIS users groups around the state, at conferences and users groups. One aim of education and outreach is to create greater awareness and usership of the GIS Inventory System and the Iowa Geospatial Data Clearinghouse among municipal, county, regional and state groups.

### **Project activities:**

1) *Iowa GIS Service Bureau (IGSB) staff will receive web-based training from NSGIC for administering [gisinventory.net](http://gisinventory.net). **COMPLETED - 09/26/2012***

2) *IGSB will provide educational/outreach opportunities to GIS users in Iowa about the GIS inventory system, its uses and benefits, and why/how they can get involved.*

**PLANNED** - Presentation at Iowa Geographic Information Council Conference - April 2013

Presentations to users groups - Spring 2013

Presentation at Iowa Counties Group - Spring 2013

3) *IGSB staff will review existing accounts and records on gisinventory.net and work to update or remove outdated or non-functioning records and accounts.*

**IN PROGRESS** - IGSB staff are updating the Iowa records on gisinventory.net by reviewing users and records. Thus far, we have updated 109 records. We estimate that another 60 records will need to be updated.

4) *IGSB staff will work to synchronize records on gisinventory.net and the Iowa Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (<http://www.iowagis.org/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>).*

IN PROGRESS - A) IGSB staff are working to manually add records from gisinventory.net to the Iowa Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (IGDC). Thus far approximately 55 gisinventory.net records have been added to the IGDC with plans to add several hundred records over the remainder of the grant period.

B) IGSB staff have been working with NSGIC representatives to set up the ability to harvest records from Iowa's clearinghouse to gisinventory.net. Testing for the harvest should begin soon. Iowa's clearinghouse will provide many records from agencies not yet participating in gisinventory.net.

5) *IGSB staff will work with Iowa County Information Technology (ICIT) group to create metadata records for the ICIT Data Repository (<https://www.iowagisdata.org/>), which is the main download site for local government GIS data in Iowa.*

FUTURE - Preliminary contact has been made with representatives of the ICIT Data Repository, very few complete metadata records current exist on the repository. This will be pursued in the coming months.

6) *Participation Goals for Users on gisinventory.net*

<u>Agency Type</u>	<u>Current Participation</u>	<u>Participation Goal</u>
Municipal Governments	2	15
County Government	27	40
Regional Groups/Government	1	5
State Agencies	3	7

Challenges

1) The biggest challenge will be to motivate people and agencies to participate in gisinventory.net. Many agencies are short on time and staff and do not want to participate in another activity.

- One suggestion that was made to overcome this challenge was to try an inventory blitz such as was done in Maryland. We may try this.

2) Adding the gisinventory.net records to Iowa's clearinghouse is very time consuming. This is because gisinventory.net autogenerates much of the metadata and because of this the titles aren't as clear as we would like them for our clearinghouse. We may need to revisit the process for adding these records and look for additional efficiencies.