

ALASKA

2012 NSDI CAP – Category 1:
Metadata Trainer & Outreach

Repurposed:

GEO-PORTAL & METADATA REGISTRY PLAN

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

FINAL REPORT - January 7, 2015
NSDI / USGS G12AC20127
Metadata Trainer & Outreach

Alaska Department of Transportation /
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Collaborating Organizations:

AK Dept. of Transportation – AK Fish & Game – AK Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development – AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation – AK National Guard – AK Dept. of Public Safety – AK Dept. of Military & Veteran’s Affairs – US Geological Survey – US Bureau of Land Management – University of Alaska – Geographic Information Network of Alaska – AK Dept. of Natural Resources – Kodiak Island Borough – Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Water & Waste Water Utility - Alaska Geospatial Council & 400+ others as survey participants. For contact information please refer to: <http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov/documents/GEO-PORTAL Effort Intro-Final NRM.pdf>

Executive Summary:

This project resulted in the development of an introductory, on-line, training tool for ISO metadata in support of the anticipated development of an ISO based metadata registry for geospatial datasets/products. The on-line metadata training tool can be found here: http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov/?content=technical_working_groups. Additional efforts resulted in substantial stakeholder outreach through an on-line survey to establish stakeholder driven requirements for an authoritative one-stop Geoportal and Metadata Registry. The Geoportal survey captured stakeholder needs and requirements in a tabulated manner and is published on-line. A Geospatial Town Hall meeting was also held in Anchorage to unveil and explain the survey results to stakeholders, which was well attended and stakeholder feedback was sought. Based upon these efforts a draft Geoportal & metadata registry plan was compiled for the State

of Alaska and presented on line for public input and comments. Responsible public comment was attached to the plan as an appendix to the plan.

The overarching goals of these efforts were to establish the guidelines for a State of Alaska sponsored one-stop Geoportal and Metadata registry. The information gathered through these efforts will be the guiding requirements in launching an RFP to acquire Metadata Registry and Geoportal services in first quarter 2015.

The overall outcome resulting from these efforts will be an authoritative one-stop Geoportal and Metadata registry based upon ISO metadata standards. It is widely accepted the development of this portal may be a phased effort based upon available funding and may take as many as five years to fully execute.

Project Narrative:

At the time of the grant proposal Alaska was a data poor state. Yet, over the past few years the primary framework datasets have experienced considerable growth. It was thought adopting ISO metadata standards would be timely in that newly acquired data could be ingested using ISO metadata alleviating the need to go back and transcribe CSDGM to ISO. In preparation for this a basic ISO metadata training tool was developed to assist the stakeholders in understanding the newer standard(s). The tool was developed by Dewberry under contract to the State of Alaska and is available on-line for anyone with internet access to utilize and can be found here: http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov/?content=technical_working_groups (see Geoportal, ISO Metadata TWG section of this page to locate the link).

Prior to the development of the learning tool the State of Alaska found ISO metadata had a tremendous learning curve associated with it. Furthermore, the State began to realize it had a much more substantial and timely need to address Geoportal and metadata registry needs. The State made a case to repurpose the grant and the repurposing would include a stakeholder driven requirements assessment for, and subsequently a plan to develop the metadata registry and Geoportal utilizing ISO metadata. Grant repurposing was accepted in July of 2013. In 2014 the University of Alaska announced it would no longer be able to host statewide geospatial data under existing terms and conditions so the grant activities were indeed timely.

The activities focusing on Geoportal and metadata registry development included four stakeholder outreach activities: 1) An on-line stakeholder survey; 2) A stakeholder town hall meeting; 3) 16 Executive level interviews, and 4) Public comment to the draft Metadata Registry & Geoportal Plan.

The on-line survey captured approximately 400 stakeholder opinions and can be found at the above noted link. A second complimentary survey was produced outside of the grant activities by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (GINA) and will be published to the above noted site as additional complimentary information in support of an anticipated Request For Proposals (RFP) from vendors interested in providing these types of services.

Survey questions were developed by the Metadata & Geoportal steering committee in conjunction with the contractor. The third party contractor then interpolated the survey results and shared the results of the survey during the town hall meeting where stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment. In addition 16 executive level interviews were conducted. All of the above activities were rolled up into a single comprehensive plan for a Geo-Portal and Metadata Registry.

Next Steps:

The “Plan” will be the basis of procuring said services through an independent contractor whereby the State will play a critical role in both its maintenance and sustainability. This effort is likely to begin by supplying basic Geoportal and metadata registry services and subsequently phased to add additional features and benefits downstream, funding permitting. As new datasets are procured they will be procured in ISO metadata formats and continued learning tools for stakeholder development will continue to be developed, over the horizon, to encourage stakeholders to adopt the new standard.

Older, existing – statewide – datasets will be converted to ISO standardized metadata as a first priority given funding. In a corresponding manner datasets that are not statewide datasets but are more project oriented will be converted to ISO metadata for geographic information and added to the Metadata registry if they reside outside the State’s Geoportal. Due to a recent downturn in the State’s budget revenues it is impossible, at this juncture, to identify meaningful milestones for this effort. The State may or may not seek additional guidance from the FGDC regarding the cataloging of ISO metadata oriented datasets.

CAP Grant Feedback:

It should be noted the State of Alaska was a beneficiary of the 2010 NSDI CAP-1 grant to develop its Geospatial Strategic and Business Plans. The current effort described above reflects activity as prescribed in the strategic plan. Having said this, the State of Alaska has benefited greatly from the NSDI grants in support of Alaska’s geospatial platform. Management of the grant activity has always been responsible, fair and empowering. Hopefully, as budget constraints ease additional grants will be available as the program has been highly beneficial to Alaska.

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