



## SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER

Protecting the beauty and biodiversity of Sonoma Valley

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**Agreement Number:** NSDI CAP G12AC20129

**Project title:** Metadata Training and Support for Conservation Practitioners

### Interim Report

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**Collaborating Organizations:** California Conservation Commons, North Bay Climate Adaption Initiative, California Landscape Conservation Cooperative, California Resources Agency CERES Program and Sonoma State University.

### Executive Summary

Sonoma Ecology Center is providing FGDC metadata training and support to North Bay Climate Adaption Initiative (NBCAI) and California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA-LCC) partners and sharing their data and metadata through the California Conservation Commons.

An online survey on metadata training needs and interests was begun in October 2012. The targeted audiences were GIS professionals in northern California and the climate change community in the San Francisco Bay area. However, numerous responses have been received from across the contiguous US. We are analyzing responses received for inputs on refining our metadata training offerings. One clear observation is the great interest in a series of 1-hour webinars as the preferred method for delivering training to a broad discipline and geographic base.

With the recent increased focus on the incorporation of climate research into conservation practice, and the rapidly changing and highly technical nature of climate change data products, it is critical that spatial data is shared effectively and is thoroughly documented. The NBCAI and CA-LCC partners are committed to sharing their climate and conservation data through the California Conservation Commons websites: the San Francisco Bay Area Conservation Commons (SF Commons, <http://sfcommons.org>) and the CA-LCC California Climate Commons (<http://climate.calcommons.org>). Our trainings will focus on FGDC metadata creation and data



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sharing through these websites to serve these communities, and the catalog records will be populated upward into the CERES and Data.gov catalogs.

### **Project Narrative**

Due to illness, staffing changes occurred to project personnel in December. Bryan Sesser has replaced Alex Young as project manager. We are now resuming where we stopped when we requested an extension in the late fall 2012.

**Project Step 1.** Publishing plans to deliver metadata training and asking for input on metadata needs and interests thru an online survey and an online forum.

In October 2012 we announced publishing plans at a monthly meeting of the local GIS Users' forum, hosted by the County of Sonoma GIS Department. Paper copies of the online survey were made available at that meeting, and we received a number of responses from attendees then. The online forum was available for access at that time.

We also announced plans for the online forum thru listservs to the San Francisco Bay Area climate change community.

By Dec 11, 2012, a total of 85 individuals had responded. A summary of these responses is included as **Attachment A**. The detailed responses are also included as **Attachment B**. This level of response is heartening. We haven't yet completed analysis of responses yet but we have formed some preliminary conclusions.

1. A series of short webinars are popular choice for training method.
2. There is limited interest in a single all day training session.

**Project Step 2.** Providing training workshops on metadata creation, data management and data sharing practices using the FGDC standards and the Conservation Commons.

We should complete analysis of metadata survey and online forum responses in February. We will then determine final mix of training offerings. As of now we will continue with plans for an all day training session focused on the Bay Area GIS professionals and climate change practitioners. Survey results also support our plans to host a 3 part series of webinars. We expect this format to be well attended by the geographically dispersed respondents to our survey. These will be scheduled in the spring and summer of 2013.

**Project Step 3.** Offering metadata creation and data sharing support and resources.

Key contributors of climate data have been identified and metadata support for them will begin in the spring of 2013.



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### **Training and outreach assistance:**

Our training plans encompass delivery of two different formats. The promotion methods will again be using the listservs for the local GIS Users Group to reach North Bay GIS professionals and listservs for Bay Area conservation GIS community and climate change practitioners. The training sessions will be scheduled in the spring and summer of 2013.

We will deliver an all day in-training-room session in Sonoma County. The targeted audience for this session will be North Bay GIS professionals and the SF Bay Area conservation GIS community and climate change practitioners.

We will also deliver a three-part webinar series that will be open to all interested participants. This format will likely be appealing to a number of the geographically dispersed respondents to our online survey.

### **Status of Metadata Service**

Metadata, in non-FGDC compliant form, is now being served, along with numerous other services, on the following websites. The California Climate Commons site (<http://climate.calcommons.org>) is preparing to host FGDC compliant metadata as it is created and becomes available.

- The two sites supporting the California Climate Commons (<http://climate.calcommons.org>) and (<http://sfcommons.org>).
- The North Bay Climate Adaption Initiative (<http://northbayclimate.org>).
- The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (<http://californialcc.org/>).

### **Next Steps:**

Our next immediate step is to close the online survey and complete analysis of responses. The findings from this analysis will be used to update our training curriculum and to help identify an open source metadata editing utility to be included in training sessions. This step should be completed by end of February 2013.

Concurrently with this analysis step will be active metadata creation assistance for key climate data creators. This activity will likely continue thru the remainder of the year.

In March 2013, we will finalize and make any revisions necessary to our training materials, originally developed in earlier NSDI funded projects. Also, additions to materials will be made as necessary for the selected open source metadata editing utility.



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### **Index of Attachments**

Attachment A. Separately included HTML file that contains survey response summary.

Attachment B. Separately included EXCEL file that contains survey response detail.