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Kass Green & Associates

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Dr. Jay Parrish
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Ms. Cynthia Salas
CenterPoint Energy

Mr. David Schell
Open Geospatial Consortium

Mr. Eugene Schiller
S.W. Florida Water Management District

Dr. Christopher Tucker
Yale House Ventures

Additional information about the NGAC is available at www.fgdc.gov/ngac.



New Subcommittee on Standards Announced

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) recently announced the creation of a new Subcommittee on Standards under the National Science and Technology Council. Standards have long been an important activity of the FGDC community and we are encouraged by the Administration's recognition that standards play a significant role in addressing national challenges and meeting the mission responsibilities of federal agencies and their partners. The announcement was issued on March 24, 2010 and is below. For details, go to: www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/24/providing-leadership-standards-address-national-challenges.

Providing Leadership on Standards to Address National Challenges

By Aneesh Chopra, U.S. Chief Technology Officer and Associate Director for Technology in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

In our technological world, technical standards are playing an increasingly important role as federal agencies tackle a range of pressing problems, such as developing a modern electrical grid and promoting the effective use of medical information to enhance patient care. It has long been government policy that federal agencies should look to voluntary consensus standards to meet these needs. With the rapid pace of technological change and the increasingly complex and interdependent nature of these technologies, the task of developing and adopting standards has

become very challenging; therefore, it is more important than ever that federal agencies work effectively with the private sector to ensure that meaningful standards can be in place to meet urgent national needs. The right starting point is to ensure that federal agencies work closely and effectively together to define their standards needs, define their approach to working with industry and standards organizations, and support their meaningful adoption by markets.

To this end, I am joining my colleagues from the Office of Management and Budget—Vivek Kundra, U.S. Chief Information Officer, and Cass Sunstein, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs—in establishing a Subcommittee on Standards under the National Science and Technology Council’s Committee on Technology. This Subcommittee will be co-chaired by Patrick Gallagher, Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Philip Weiser, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for International, Policy and Appellate Matters, Department of Justice. This interagency group will provide high-level leadership so federal agencies are strategically focused and actively engaged on critical standards-related issues. The improved coordination will, in turn, ensure that agencies can work in a responsive and timely fashion with the private sector so that effective standards are developed and put into practice to meet the Nation’s needs.

This Subcommittee will also work closely with the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP), which is also chaired by a representative from NIST. The Subcommittee on Standards will provide direction and guidance to the ICSP, and will rely on the ICSP to coordinate interagency implementation of standards policy, assess progress, and develop potential policy options or guidance with the goal of removing barriers to effective standards development or use.

The Obama Administration is committed to working in close partnership with industry, standards organizations, and the public to ensure that the technologies needed to address the urgent challenges facing our country are developed and made in the United States and are appropriately interoperable with related technologies. Whether it is to ensure the security of federal information technology systems, promote the development

of a “Smart Grid,” or develop an effective and interoperable health IT system, it is imperative that federal agencies work effectively, openly, and strategically with our private-sector partners to ensure that the innovation being harnessed to tackle a national problem is structured in a way that maximizes technical utility, economic growth, and job creation. Technical standards play a major role in this effort, and this Subcommittee is an important step in ensuring that federal agencies collaborate effectively with the private sector to make it happen.

National Geospatial Forums

The first of a series of online National Geospatial Forums was held on December 9, 2009. The National Geospatial Forum is an effort spearheaded by the FGDC, and hosted cooperatively with USDA, in order to bring together federal government geospatial executives to engage in discussion about the development of a national place-based policy that addresses economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, community health access, and safety and security. The Forum began with presentations on place-based policy by Ivan DeLoatch (Executive Director, FGDC) and Tony LaVoi (Chief, Integrated Information Services Division, NOAA Coastal Services Center), followed by a moderated panel discussion. Panelists included: Karen Siderelis (Geospatial Information Officer, Department of the Interior), William LeFurgy (Digital Initiatives Project Manager, Library of Congress), Jerry Johnston (Geospatial Information Officer, Environmental Protection Agency), and Tony LaVoi. Stephen Lowe (Geospatial Information Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture) served as the moderator for the discussion. Part of the moderated panel discussion included an opportunity for those participating virtually to call in with comments and questions on place-based policy, which allowed for a unique webcast interaction in real-time between panelists and the greater geospatial executive community. There are plans for a second National Geospatial Forum in the works, in which participation will be opened up to anyone interested. The topic for the second forum is anticipated to be the Geospatial Platform, and once again, the Forum will feature a moderated panel discussion with an opportunity for participants to interact virtually. More information is forthcoming; please check the FGDC

website soon (www.fgdc.gov) for details and how to register for the event.

NSDI CAP Activities

With twenty-six projects completed, 2009 was a good year for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The federal share for the awarded projects was close to \$1.3 million, and the in-kind match from the recipients was over \$1 million, bringing the total value of the awards to close to \$2.3 million. The highlights and accomplishments of these projects follow.

The metadata trainer and outreach assistance projects provided more than 30 metadata workshops, presentations, and academic curriculum consultations. The Internet was critical to training over 550 individuals with diverse backgrounds, experience, and knowledge from across the United States. New metadata training and outreach materials developed by Innovate! Inc., Sonoma Ecology Center, and Indiana University are online.

In the standards implementation assistance and outreach project, Coordinate Solutions and the Oklahoma Biological Survey successfully collaborated to update the vegetation classification for Oklahoma based on the National Vegetation Classification. They created educational materials that are available on the web and provided training.

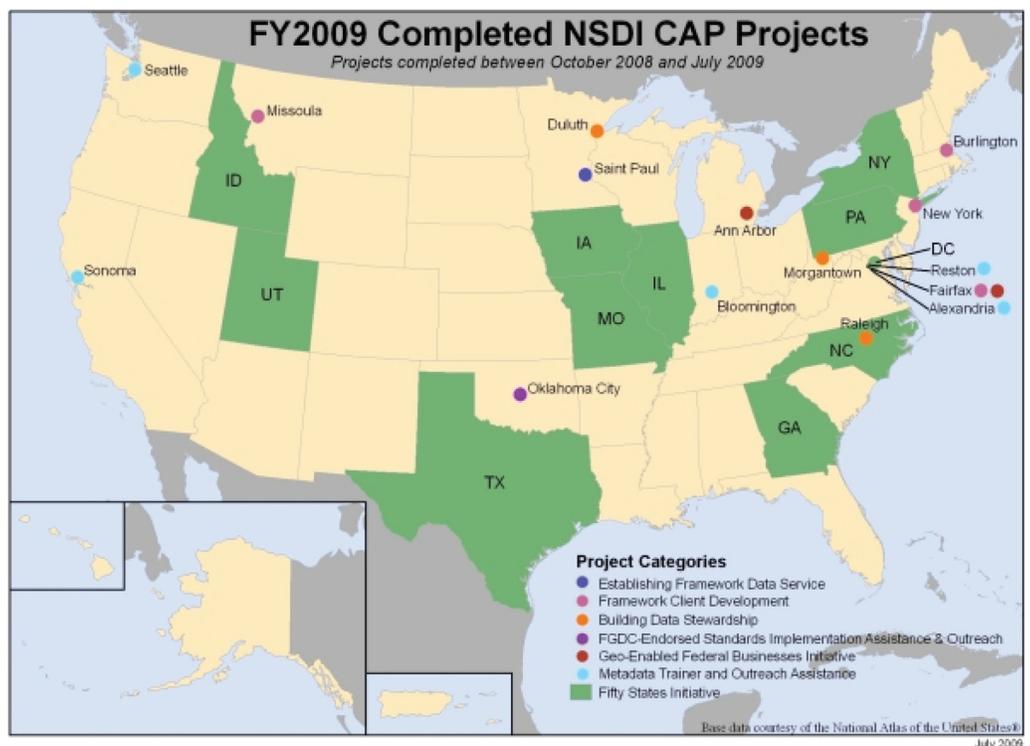
The framework data service project developed a Web Feature Service (WFS) through the University of Minnesota MapServer. This web mapping software has the ability to display results through a WFS client built upon the GeoMoose framework.

In the area of framework client development there are a couple of highlights. First, a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) was implemented to couple existing hydrography

tools for geospatial analysis. Second, the freely-available software client Gaii 3.2 was enhanced with incident response capabilities that enable this Open Geospatial Consortium SDI viewer to access ANSI Framework data services in Web Map Service and Web Feature Service formats.

Eleven Fifty States Initiative projects were completed. The states that completed strategic and business plans include Idaho, Illinois, Missouri, and Utah. Strategic plans were completed for the District of Columbia, Georgia, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. In addition North Carolina developed the business case for NC OneMap and Iowa completed a Strategic Return on Investment Business Plan for Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure.

Projects for data stewardship met with success. Locally produced, high resolution structure and transportation data for West Virginia was integrated and made available via the WV GIS Data Clearinghouse. This data serves as the foundation for the structure and road centerline themes in West Virginia. The Iron Range Communities of northeast Minnesota established a GIS collaborative that set up a long-term plan for maintenance of its mapping interface and developed data sets that include boundaries, imagery, transportation, zoning, utilities, parcels, and environmental data. Finally, North Carolina Center for Geographic



Map of 2009 NSDI CAP awards



Image created by <http://www.wordle.net>

Wordle graphic based on feedback from award recipients.

Information and Analysis (CGIA) and USGS successfully collaborated to transition the NC One-Map Viewer from the hosting site at the USGS to infrastructure in North Carolina hosted by CGIA which improves performance.

More information about these NSDI CAP projects and links to the final reports are available on the FGDC NSDI CAP Web site, www.fgdc.gov/grants.

2010 Cooperative Agreement Program Awards

The 2010 NSDI CAP awarded 26 proposals with funding for projects in seven categories. Please visit the 2010 NSDI CAP <www.fgdc.gov/grants/>



The NMDIS workshop participants.

web pages for more information about the awarded projects.

Category 1: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance

DC Metro Metadata Dissemination
Westat, Inc.

Hit the Ground Running with Metadata Training and Support for West Virginia
Marshall University

Metadata for OGC-based Geospatial Services
National Association of Regional Councils

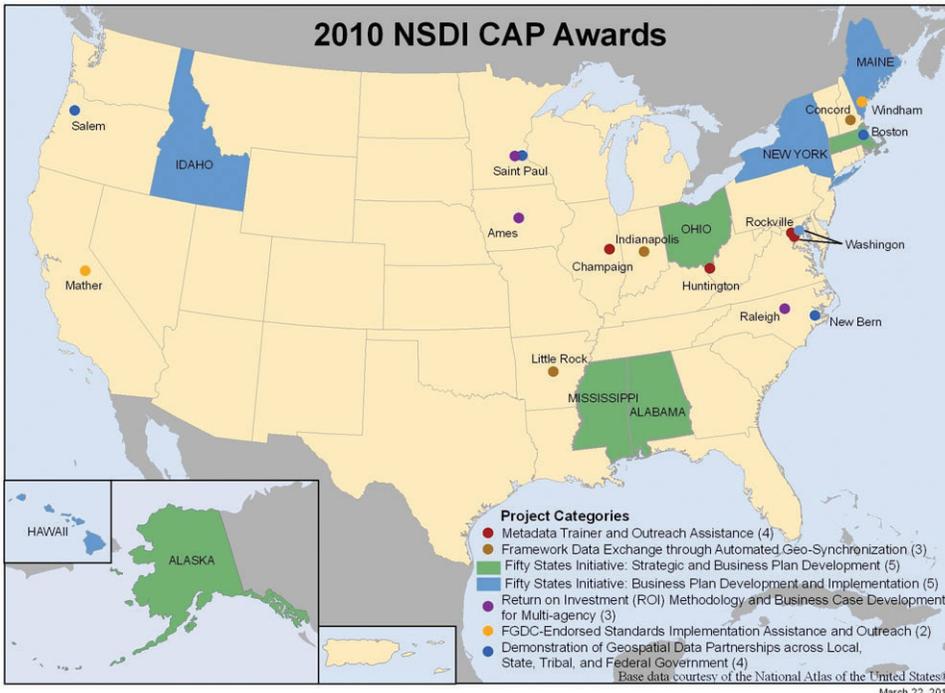
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Metadata Training and Outreach
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

Category 2: Framework Data Exchange through Automated Geo-Synchronization

Indiana High and Local-Resolution NHD Update Geo-Synchronization
Indiana Geographic Information Council, Inc.

Coordinating Local, State, and National Data Stores
Arkansas Geographic Information Office in partnership with The Carbon Project

New Hampshire NHD Geo-Synchronization
New Hampshire Geological Survey in partnership with CubeWerx USA



Map of 2010 NSDI CAP awards

Category 3: Fifty States Initiative Strategic and Business Plan Development

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Massachusetts
- Mississippi
- Ohio

Category 4: Fifty States Initiative: Business Plan Development and Implementation Projects

- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Maine
- New York

Category 5: Return on Investment (ROI) Methodology and Business Case Development for Multi-agency NSDI Projects

Measuring Public Value of Geospatial Commons: A MetroGIS Case Study
Metropolitan Council

Building a Business Case for Shared Geospatial Data and Services to Support Transportation Planning in North Carolina
North Carolina Office of the State Chief Information Officer

A Return on Investment Case Study of Iowa One Map
Iowa Geographic Information Council

Category 6: FGDC-Endorsed Standards Development and Implementation Assistance and Outreach

ASWM Outreach and Training for FGDC Wetland Mapping Standard
The Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc.

Enhancement of the Geospatial Data Model Adoption for Emergency Response
California Emergency Management Agency

Category 7: Demonstration of Geospatial Data Partnerships across Local, State, Tribal and Federal Government.

Minnesota Local Government Boundaries—An Initiative to Support *The National Map* and NSDI
Minnesota Geospatial Information Office

Taking It to the Next Level: NCStreetMap 2.0 Local to State Transformational Data Exchange
Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

Building and Maintaining a Map of Locations for Structures with Addresses
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs-MassGIS

Implementing Best Practices for Road Centerline Data Sharing in Oregon
State of Oregon

Planning for the 2011 NSDI CAP is under way and information will be posted on the FGDC Web site as soon as it is available. It is expected that the proposals for the next CAP can be submitted at the end of October 2010. For more information please visit www.fgdc.gov/grants or contact Gita Urban-Mathieux: burbanma@fgdc.gov or 703-648-5175.

Building Minnesota Structures Data Stewardship for *The National Map* and NSDI

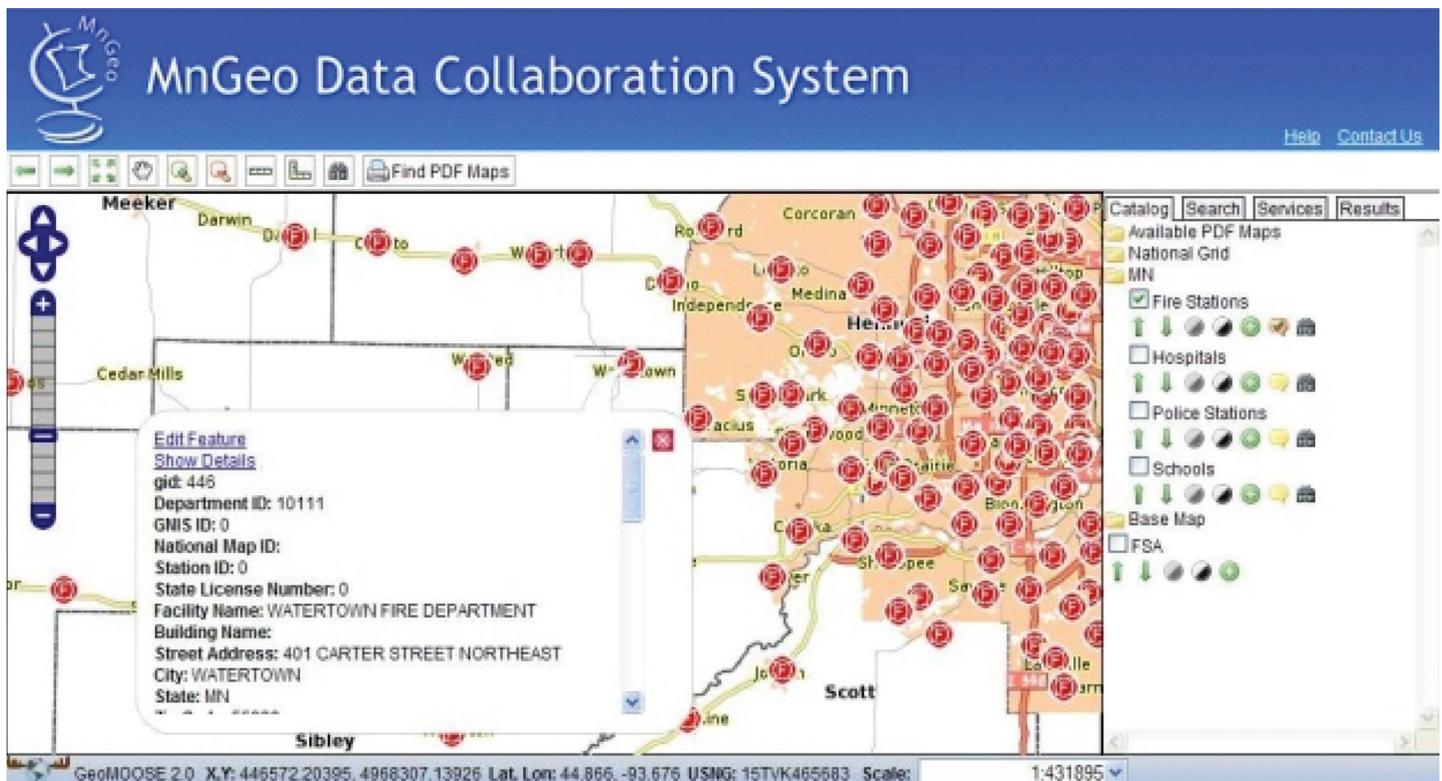
In 2008 the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (formerly the Land Management

Information Center) received an NSDI CAP, award to build a structures stewardship program designed to support *The National Map*, NSDI and the emergency response community. Titled the Minnesota Structures Collaborative, program objectives included the development of state and local government partnerships - in recognition that the best structures data will come from local sources - as well as the technical capacity required to support the collection, publication, and long term sustainable maintenance of four critical structures GIS layers: schools, hospitals, police stations and fire stations. The project team consisted of staff from the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) and volunteers from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information's Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC). The project delivered several noteworthy products including:

1. The development of a "Minnesota" data schema for each of the project data layers that incorporated HSIP Freedom attribution (hospitals, fire stations, police stations) when feasible.
2. The development of a web-based map interface that includes editing and geospatial data entry tools. The project team strongly believed that a "no-cost", easy-to-use, web-based tool was needed to promote and vet

data by local authorities. This prototype tool will allow local authorities to review, edit and add locations and attribute data. Current functionality includes:

- The ability to import and store data originating in standardized formats from other sources such as state business databases and federal systems.
- A building location-based query function that allows for United States National Grid (USNG) coordinates, latitude/longitude, building address, or exact building name.
- Location-based entry and editing of structures (points). The editing function is engaged by clicking on a building on a map, entering a building address, or exact building name, or picking a new point location for a new structure.
- An extensive online help tool to make the application as self-supporting as possible including a Flash tutorial which demonstrates the system's functionality.
- Support for FGDC and Minnesota state compliant metadata.
- WMS and WFS services to makes structures data available to other applications.



- The development of a library of standardized maps for the entire state of Minnesota based on the USNG. Maps include the location of structures (schools, hospitals, fire stations, police stations) collected for the CAP project. They are available for download via MnGeo's public ftp site:
<ftp://ftp.lmic.state.mn.us/pub/data/basemaps/usng/>.

All maps (2,000+) conform to the FGDC standard for the USNG (FGDC-STD-011-2001) and are fixed at a scale of 1:24,000 for a print size of 22 by 24 inches.

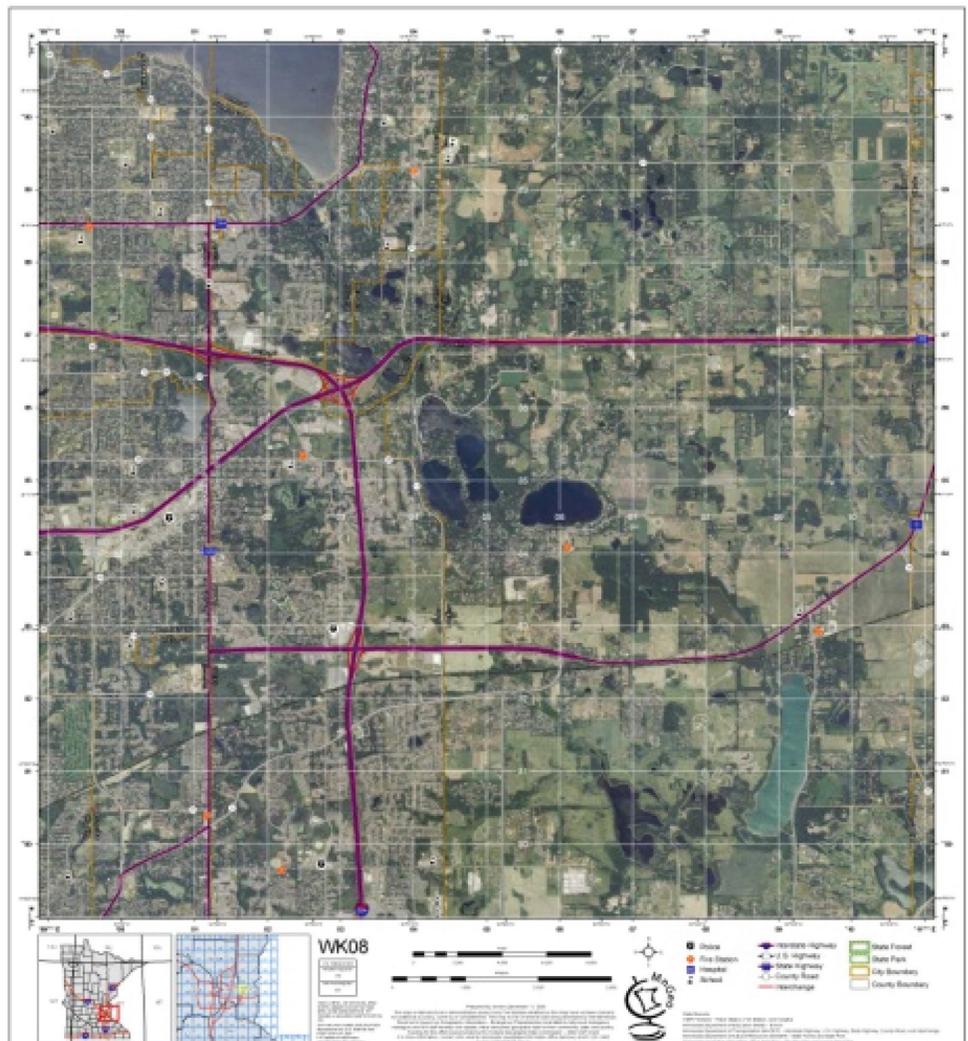
- Establishment of strategic relationships with state and local data contributors and stewards.

Without the NSDI CAP award Minnesota would not have undertaken this project. It allowed MnGeo and the EPC to focus on several key issues relative to *The National Map* and NSDI and create the infrastructure needed to support the creation and maintenance of structures data desired by emergency managers in our state. Although the CAP project has been completed, MnGeo and the EPC continue to test and update the Minnesota Structures Collaborative application, work to establish data authorities and custodians, identify and build operational processes between federal, state and local government, and promote integration of structures data.

For additional information please visit:
www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/emprep/structures/index.html or contact: John Hoshal, Supervisor - GIS Services, MnGeo, john.hoshal@state.mn.us, or Steve Swazee, Co chair, MnGeo Emergency Preparedness Committee, sdswazee@shared-geo.org, 888-877-7GEO (436).

South Carolina GIS State Outreach

Initiated through their 2008 NSDI CAP award, South Carolina has been working on a mission to increase cooperation and collaboration in GIS between state and local government organizations. The project began with multiple outreach sessions held throughout the state focused on small groups of GIS professionals not affiliated with state agencies. These unbiased sessions were conducted by Applied Geographics (AppGeo). AppGeo provided the unbiased approach necessary to move things forward at an accelerated rate. One of the key items learned through the outreach sessions which required attention was communication. Both state and local government groups had incorrect perceptions of the other that needed to be addressed. Because of this new awareness, greater efforts were made to share with participants how GIS information is used to improve the quality of life for citizens across the state through better decision making. This has resulted in greater involvement in both



data sharing and in joint projects that can assist the GIS community through improving data quality, and the development of mutually beneficial data layers.

The communications efforts involved a two pronged approach. The first included development of products aimed at educating GIS personnel on how to speak to decision makers at multiple levels of government. This allows for the ready conveyance of GIS's importance via multiple methods including documents on what key information must be included in presentations and takes into account the fact that what may be important at the county level is different from what is important at the legislative level. Further preparatory materials were developed to help the GIS professional craft an "elevator" or "hallway" speech that they could readily recite to get key points across if they only had a few moments with the individual. The second prong of the communications efforts included development of other materials designed specifically to hand to decision makers to help them understand the importance of both investment in GIS and participation in data sharing programs. These brochure-like educational flyers do not use technology jargon but rather general terms that are not GIS-industry specific. They act as vehicles to provide a clear, concise and consistent message across the state on the value of GIS.

While the CAP award provided only small amount of money relative to the overall cost of GIS operations, its impact was profound. Thanks to the NSDI CAP, communication has continually improved and through it, a greater sense of an overall GIS community and ultimately a strong advancement in GIS data sharing between state

and local government. Efforts are currently being made to help position relationships such that this will ultimately cascade to greater data sharing with the federal level as well. The work and the resulting positive impacts would not have been possible without the assistance the award provided.

For more information, please contact Dr. Tim De Troye, GISP (detroyet@gis.sc.gov). Additional materials associated with the project can be viewed here: www.fgdc.gov/grants/2008CAP/projects/08HQAG0010 and gis.sc.gov/projects_outreach.html.

FGDC Standards Activity

Four standards are currently progressing through the FGDC standards process. The standards and their current status are as follows:

1. Federal Buildings and Facilities Geospatial Data Content Standard—the General Services Administration is developing a working draft in consultation with its partners.
2. Maintenance and Review of the National Wetland Classification Standard—the FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee is developing a working draft with its partners.
3. United States Thoroughfare, Landmark, and Postal Address Data Standard (Draft)—comments received during public review are being reviewed and adjudicated.
4. Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS)—a committee draft is pending release for public review.

Usability of FGDC standards is enhanced by robust participation from its stakeholders in standards development. The FGDC facilitates the development of geospatial data standards to support the implementation of the NSDI, in consultation with state, local, and tribal governments, the private sector and academic community, and, to the extent feasible, the international community. If you are interested in participating in FGDC standards activities, such as those described above, please contact the FGDC Secretariat.

For more information contact: Julie Binder Maitra, jmaitra@usgs.gov, (703) 648-4627.



An outreach session in South Carolina

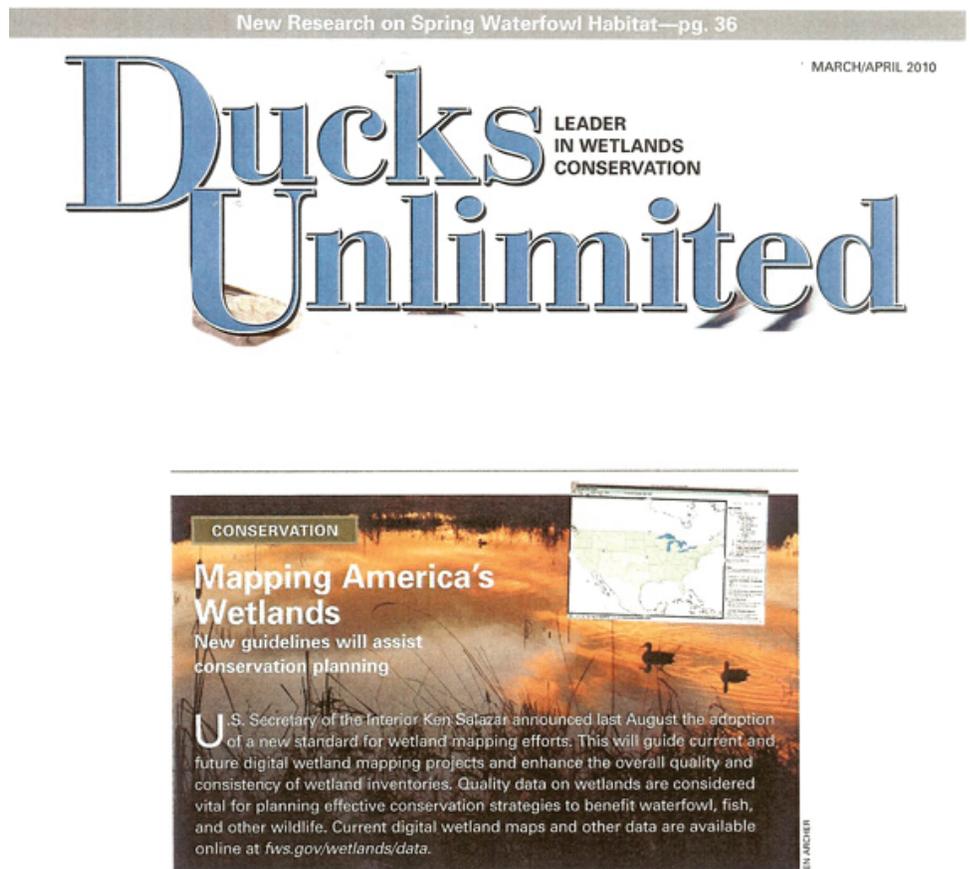
Ducks Unlimited Promotes Wetlands Mapping Standard

New visibility for FGDC standards

Ducks Unlimited (DU), in their March/April 2010 magazine, featured an insert entitled “Mapping America’s Wetlands, New guidelines will assist conservation planning.” This insert, featuring the FGDC-approved Wetlands Mapping Standard, was included in the magazine to spread the word to members concerned about wetlands. Development of the new standard was supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)’s National Wetlands Inventory, through an inter-agency working group under the Wetlands Subcommittee, to update and improve an FWS standard. The new standard will enable cooperators to map and contribute consistent modernized and refined wetlands data to the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

DU has been updating National Wetlands Inventory maps in Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan, as part of the national effort to provide the vital quality wetlands data for planning to benefit waterfowl and other wildlife. Wetlands data are also used by federal, state, tribal, and local agencies and the public for clean water and climate change modeling and planning; land-management; energy, infrastructure, and urban/suburban development planning; and many, many more uses to meet landowner, business, and conservation needs.

For additional information contact: Jo Ann Mills, JoAnn_Mills@fws.gov, 703 358-2430 or Bill Wilen, Bill_Wilen@fws.gov, 703 358-2278



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2010 Upcoming Conferences

July 12-16	ESRI International User Conference	San Diego, CA
July 16-20	NACO Annual Conference and Exposition	Reno, NV
Aug. 16-18	URISA/NENA Addressing Conference 2010	Charlotte, NC
Sep. 15-17	GIS in the Rockies 2010, 23rd Annual Conference	Loveland, CO
Sep. 28-Oct. 1	GIS-Pro 2010, 48th Annual Conference	Orlando, FL
Oct. 17-20	ICMA 2010, 96th Annual Conference	San Jose, CA

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