

GEM NEWS

For the Idaho
GeoSpatial
Community

Spring/Summer 2012



Northern Rockies Remissioning Survey

Northern Rockies URISA Board Members

You may have noticed a link in the email you received with this edition of the Gem News for the Northern Rockies Chapter of URISA. We sincerely hope you choose to follow that link and fill out the survey we've created.

This survey is about you. It's about finding out what you would like Northern Rockies to be for you. Want us to continue hosting bi-annual conferences? Let us know! Feel that Northern Rockies should be more involved in K-12 education? Say so by taking this survey.

Once we've collected the results, Northern Rockies will evaluate how to incorporate them into our mission statement. Northern Rockies is committed to staying current and relevant to your professional development. We look forward to hearing your answers and moving forward to becoming an organization of great value to the GIS professionals in the state of Idaho.



Click on the Take Survey Here button to take the survey!

Intermountain GIS Conference 2012

Kindra Serr



The 2012 Intermountain GIS Conference was held in Kalispell, Montana. Sponsored by the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP), this year's conference featured a variety of workshops, presentations and demonstrations highlighting the use and progress of GIS in our region.

Some presentations included demonstrations of web enabled enterprise utilities for city engineering departments, updates on collaborative efforts in wildland urban interface mapping and geopositioning, the use of mobile applications in wildfire management, and much more.

The conference was a great opportunity to network with other GIS professionals and to get new ideas about how to use up and coming GIS technologies to make day to day business process more efficient. I'm looking forward to 2012 in Boise!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Event: GIS-Pro 2012

Date: Sept. 30- Oct. 4, 2012 in Portland, OR
Contact:
<http://www.urisa.org/conferences/aboutgis-pro>

Event: World GIS Day

Date: November 14, 2012
Contact: Your local GIS Users' Group
<http://www.gisday.com>

Event: Intermountain GIS Conference

Date: March 10-13, 2013 in Boise, ID
Contact: Danielle Favreau
(confchair@intermountaingis.org)

GEM NEWS

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Public Safety Technical Working Group

Bill Reynolds (BillReynolds@co.nezperce.id.us)

The Public Safety TWG had a meeting Feb 16, 2012. There was discussion concerning structures, critical infrastructure and emergency service zones. Issues that came from the meeting: assessment of statewide use of the Structures Data Exchange Standard, yearly review of Emergency Service Zones Standard, and need for a statewide steward for Critical Infrastructure and the other standards. We plan on having future meetings to discuss usage and standardization of the Structures layer – concerning Access Points, Landmarks, Common Places, and Address Points, development of a statewide structures layer, and procedures to update the Idaho APA codes.

With the development of NENA Next Generation 911 standards we realize the need to maintain the Public Safety standards along with coordination with the Transportation standards.

Hydrography Technical Working Group

Genna Ashley (Genna.Ashley@idwr.idaho.gov)

The Hydrography TWG met on May 4 to discuss the following topics:

- New National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) data models and tools as well as new Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) tools.
- 'Harmonization' with Canadian Data, including changes to WBD and NHD
- Recent enhancements to the NHD including upcoming projects, network connectivity assessments, and water diversion update process.
- A demo of available NHD tools.
- Discussion on NHD stewardship and new tools.

More information about the NHD in Idaho can be found at <http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/GeographicInfo/NHD/default.htm>

Geodetic Control Technical Working Group

Keith Weber(webekeit@isu.edu)

We have been very busy since our last GC TWG meeting.

1. We have developed an MOA that will be used to establish a sort of "partnership" between ISU's GIS Center and organizations wishing to be involved with the development of the state-wide RTN. That has been sent out to interested organizations. Based on the current economy, this is likely the only way we will be able to raise sufficient funding to initiate the RTN.
2. We have completed a Request for Information and several software vendors have already expressed interest.
3. Rodney Burch of Dioptra Geomatics has graciously stepped forward and volunteered to be the MCPD data steward for Idaho for the first 6 months of this project.
4. Donna Pitzer, Rodney, and Keith have been busy working with the Montana state library trying to make sure the MCPD website/service is fully functional, which should be very soon!

Idaho Geospatial Council Executive Committee (IGC-EC) Changes

Several IGC-EC committee positions expired on March 31, 2012. Several new committee members were selected. They are as follows:

Federal Reps: Jerry Korol & Nathan Price

Local Rep: Bonnie Moore

Tribal Rep: Jeff Cronce

Utility Rep: Brian Liberty

Private Sector Rep: Frank Roberts

Open Rep: Charlla Adams

For a complete list of IGC-EC Committee members, visit <http://itrmc.idaho.gov/committees.html#igc>

GEM NEWS

LinkIDAHO maps broadband internet access

Paul Reyes (Paul.Reyes@cio.idaho.gov)

The State of Idaho is working with LinkIDAHO to map the availability of broadband internet access in the state—particularly, as it relates to important Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) such as Fire Departments, Schools, Police Departments, etc. The goal behind this initiative is to establish a baseline map to analyze the technology gaps that exist in our state.

The Idaho Geospatial Office is spearheading the data collection portion of this program and invites Network Administrators or IT Coordinators at each institution to fill out a brief survey about broadband upload/download speeds, the technology of transmission and the provider at your institution. If you have participated in the survey previously and do not have changes to report, no further action is required. If your facility has not provided information to date, you have changes to report, or have any questions regarding this initiative, please contact The Idaho Map Coordinator, Paul Reyes, to obtain the URL link and access code to the online survey.

Geospatial Office Projects:

The office continues to coordinate and develop applications for various state agencies.

A sampling of the Applications we have recently completed are:

Idaho Trails (Parks. and Rec)

<http://www.trails.idaho.gov/>

Dept. of Agriculture Quagga Inspection Program

<http://gis.idaho.gov/agr/quagga/>

Communication Towers using Cold Fusion and Google mashup (Tax)

<http://apps.gis.idaho.gov/tax/Google/Towers/Towers.cfm>

Public Employees Retirement System and demonstration site

<http://gis.idaho.gov/adm/persi/>

Book Review: *GIS for Decision Support and Public Policy Making*

Dan Narsavage(dnarsavage@adaweb.net)

GIS for Decision Support and Public Policy Making, by Christopher Thomas and Nancy Humenik-Sappington. ESRI Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-58948-231-9. 189 pp.

This book's goal is to extol the virtues of cartography and spatial analysis in supporting decision making and maximizing return on investment for public officials. The editors focused on keeping it nontechnical, appealing not to analysts and cartographers but rather to those doing the decision making.

With its intended audience having little or no savvy with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the book is a compilation of short, nontechnical, easily digestible case studies. Each case study illustrates an instance where GIS software was used to support endeavors commonly undertaken by elected officials and appointed department heads--communicating with constituents, compiling empirical information to support decision making, increasing efficiency, and the like. The table of contents includes a "Return on Investment Matrix" designed to summarize the benefits of GIS that each chapter demonstrates, easing the task of technical people who want to focus the attention of managers and elected officials on particular uses of GIS.

By and large the book does its job--it will provide some good tools to those making the case to supervisors for growing their GIS. Though much technical detail would be inappropriate, I fear that in some cases the editors and authors may have oversimplified and allowed readers to forget that GIS analyses must be carried out with a critical eye. My sense is that most *ACSM Bulletin* readers are well aware of the pitfalls on the spatial side of GIS, however it is also important to point out to decision makers that there are equal dangers in using suspect tabular information in analyses without adequate accounting for uncertainty. When taking this book to an elected official as part of a case for creating or growing a GIS, it is vitally important that one ensures that GISes are not pushbutton affairs and that someone who understands what's going on inside the black box is at the helm.

Public records compilation and decision support is a bread-and-butter mission for GIS and a vitally important market for ESRI. Thomas and Humenik-Sappington did an admirable job of demonstrating the former without the book reading like a commercial for the latter. I've given my boss, an elected official, a GIS book or two in the past. I plan to keep this one on my own bookshelf so that I can point him to a specific case study herein when I need to sell a particular idea.

GEM NEWS

Volunteer for the 2013 Intermountain GIS Conference

Can you believe it! The 2013 Intermountain GIS Conference is just under a year away!

Conference planning committees are forming and there is much to be done. Many hands make light work so contact Danielle Favreau (confchair@intermountaingis.org, 208-287-4938) and help make the 2013 conference the best yet!

(And don't forget, being a conference committee member is worth 6 points toward GISP Renewal Contribution to the Profession Points!)

North Idaho Regional Resource Center (NIDRRC) Approved

The NIDRRC has been approved and has already slated several projects to work on.

The NIDRRC covers the ten most northern counties in Idaho and will use existing resources and expertise to serve GIS professional in its region.

If you are interested in participating in the NIDRRC, contact Dave Williamson at davew@postfallsidaho.org.

GIS-Pro 2012

National URISA's 50th annual conference for GIS professionals will be held in Portland, Oregon, September 30 to October 4, 2012. It will be co-hosted by the Northwest GIS Users' Group.

Featured keynote speakers include Michael Goodchild from the University of California, Santa Barbara, John Sanderson from Microsoft, and Jack Dangermond from ESRI.

Registration information and a tentative conference schedule can be found at <http://www.urisa.org/gispro2012%20>.

Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP)

Here is what's new with MAGIP:

- A new Google Groups List Serve is now live.
- MAGIP just held elections for new board members. Results will be announced soon.
- Their Technical Committee announced a new draft MSDI Best Practice proposal document.

Keep up with MAGIP at <http://magip.org>

Northwest GIS User Group (NWUG)

NW GIS Users Group, as mentioned earlier, is partnering with URISA to host the GIS-Pro in 2012.

NWUG is excited about the crossing of cultures of management and technology, bringing attendees the best of both worlds.

If you have at any time attended a Northwest GIS Users' Conference, you are still considered a member of that group and can be eligible for member registration at the GIS-Pro 2012.

President's Corner -Dennis Hill

Another quarter has passed, **WOW** how time flies, already Kindra is asking for another P's corner article.

Since the last newsletter we have had:

1. The Intermountain GIS Users Conference was held in Kalispell, MT and had a good turnout of approx. 200 GIS'ers. It was good to see our Montana cohorts and otherwise hobnob. More particularly there seems to be renewed interest in better communications between NRURISA, NW GIS Users Group, and MAGIP. We had a breakfast meeting with representatives from the aforementioned and basically decided to try to have representatives from each of the group's report to the others on activities, news, etc...(cont. on next page)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (cont.)

It seems the pendulum has started to move back the other direction, with better communications, as during the conversation it seems the others are asking some of the same questions we are (see our survey). Not saying we ever had bad communications, but perhaps better, chuckle. Also discussed was the combining NW with the National URISA conference in Portland this fall. Nathalie Smith (our ESRI Regional Manager) wants us all to be aware that if we have EVER attended a NW meeting, then were entitled to the reduced rate for registration, a big bonus! This is an excellent opportunity to attend a National URISA Conference and it's in our back yard.

2. We have put together some questions together in a survey monkey and are sending it out with this newsletter. We are trying to better identify what you would like to see NRURISA focus on. Our mission statement is a bit broad and although we would love to be everything to everyone it's a bit daunting. If we focus on conferences every two years that is great. That is what came out our last conference here in Pocatello last year, but then again those that voiced that opinion made the decision to come to the conference. Should we try to come up with a youth mentoring program? How about training? The list goes on. Please respond to the survey.
3. We're working on the 2013 conference to be held in Boise next year March 11 -13th in conjunction with the Idaho Land Surveyors. Danielle Favreau is chairing the conference and if you would like to help with the conference I am sure that she is more than willing to chat with you. If you have anything you would like to see at your conference let me or Danielle know.
4. The webpage has been updated and we have a new webmaster. We have been trying to get along with volunteer webmasters since we got our webpage, but this has been a trial for the volunteers since the inception. We appreciate them IMMENSELY, but as things change we have become very dependent on the webpage to disseminate information about NRURISA and the Intermountain GIS Conference. We now have a stable environment for the webpage and Eric Smith is doing great things with it, check it out ☺

So for now that about wraps up my update and I hope everyone has a fantastic summer. Look for more good things to come.

Dennis

Northern Rockies URISA Contacts:

President:

Dennis Hill

president@intermountaingis.org

Vice President:

Kindra Serr

vicepresident@intermountaingis.org

Secretary:

Dan Narsavage

secretary@intermountaingis.org

Treasurer:

Shawn Stubbers

treasurer@intermountaingis.org

Board Members At Large:

Ed DeYoung

board@intermountaingis.org

Laurie Ames

board@intermountaingis.org

Kathy VonKienast

board@intermountaingis.org

WEBSITES FROM THIS EDITION

NORTHERN ROCKIES URISA:

www.intermountaingis.org

GIS-Pro 2012

<http://www.urisa.org/gispro2012%20>

World GIS Day

<http://gisday.com>

IGC Executive Committee

<http://itrmc.idaho.gov/committees.html#igc>

Idaho NHD

<http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/GeographicInfo/NHD/default.thm>

MAGIP

<http://magip.org>



PO Box 13
Lewiston, ID 83501

