

THE SUMMIT

News From and For The Washington GIS Community

WAURISA

The Washington State Chapter of
URISA – The Association for GIS Professionals



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ISSUE 24

KING COUNTY DEVELOPS 'MY COMMUTE' ROAD ALERT MAP VIEWER

By Tamara Davis, Michael Jenkins, & Patrick Jankanish

Not long ago, the public could view information about closures and other events for roads in unincorporated King County only as a text-based table on the King County Road Services Division website (see p. 3). Citizens often had difficulty understanding the alert descriptions, especially the locations and extents of the alert events. The most frequent public request for improvements to the website was to map the alerts.

Road Services determined that to satisfy the public need for better access to road alert information two applications were needed: a public-facing, interactive web map for the display of road alerts, and a map-based editor that would give Road Services staff the ability to perform data creation and updates, plus real-time data posting for road alert events from internal work sites as well as off-site locations. Since the Road Services Division did not have GIS developer resources of their own at that time, they turned to the KCGIS Center for help.

Application Development

The new road alert mapping project, which involved a close project-long collaboration between Road Services and KCGIS Center staff, dovetailed with the maturation of Esri's ArcGIS Server web mapping technology which had recently been acquired by King County GIS. The road alert internal data editor and the public-facing map viewer, which was eventually rechristened "My Commute," would become the first King County ArcGIS Server applications.

Roads Services staff manage road alert data in an ArcSDE feature class (a standard type of database-stored map layer). The data are stored as lines rather than points in order to show the full spatial extent of affected roadways. It is important that when a new line is created to represent an alert it snaps to the corresponding road line segments. To achieve this with the editor application, we created it using Esri's "WebADF" API (application programming interface) in the Windows ".NET" programming environment because, at that time, of the several ArcGIS Server APIs that Esri offered, WebADF was the only one that supported SDE feature editing and snapping.

See: My Commute Map Application, Page 2

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear GIS friends and colleagues -

I want to thank all of you for electing me president. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as president and I am excited to work with the talented board members and volunteers that we have in our organization. We are revitalizing our committees and each one is off to a great start. It's not too late to join in. Email me at president@waurisa.org to be included in board meeting announcements or to find out when the next committee is meeting. The more I learn about our group, the more impressed I am that such a quality group is entirely run by volunteers who are truly and passionately dedicated to the tasks. We would love to have you help us. In my statement on the election ballot, I pledged to encourage more volunteer involvement and I intend to keep that pledge.

I am riding a wave of excitement after a wonderful and successful Washington GIS Conference in May and "virtually attending" the ESRI User Conference via Twitter. I know that must sound funny, but you really could feel the excitement from everyone tweeting about their new ideas, visions, and projects that week of the conference. Hundreds of tweets a day flew by the week of the conference and the tweets still continue to flow with the #ESRIUC tag. They have helpful links to summaries, PowerPoint files, script samples, and GIS ideas. I encourage you to give it a look.

A highlight of the 2011 Washington GIS Conference was Jack Dangermond's keynote which included his vision for the future of GIS and the GIS community. Jack outlined his future vision of how GIS will be impacted by the new technology and collaboration of cloud computing and leveraged on-line services. He demonstrated how GIS is at the forefront of utilizing incredible collaboration and communication tools that leverage the future technology. We GIS professionals, as usual, will have our work cut out for us keeping up with all the changes and innovation happening in our field.

See: President's Column, Page 4



MY COMMUTE MAP APPLICATION

Continued from page 1

The editor application is used by a limited number of people. But the map viewer application is what provides access to the road alerts for the public at large. Like the editor, the viewer is a .NET application, but for it we used the Esri JavaScript API which provides high performance and ease of use in web browsers as well as a robust selection of map control and display widgets and effects through its included "Dojo" JavaScript library.

Impacts of the implementation

While My Commute made it easier for the public to visualize road alerts, it presented a new problem. All state- and city-managed roads, which are outside of King County's purview, appeared to be open regardless of their actual condition. For those who noted the lack of road alert information from other jurisdictions, a typical plea was, "Something needs to be done to get ONE source of road closure information for all of King County in ONE place."

The problem was lack of integration between the agencies that manage roads. Drivers see one interconnected road network, while transportation agencies see overlapping but distinctly separate jurisdictions. So King County Road Services returned to the KCGIS Center to request an enhancement to the map viewer—the addition of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) data.

WSDOT agreed to let us access their own live-data web service which provides a list of statewide road alerts. But their alerts are published in a different format than ours. Theirs are stored as points not lines, and the locations are defined in latitude/longitude coordinates whereas King County spatial data is stored in a State Plane coordinate system.

See: My Commute Map Application, Page 3

MY COMMUTE PROJECT SUMMARY

Business Sector

County government; public road system management, public information

Client

King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division

Location

King County, Washington

Date

2008–present

Purpose

- Provide easy-to-use public access to information about road-use restrictions and road closures
- Develop a map-based application for creating and editing this information

Services Required

- GIS programming, including map viewer application development and website integration
- Custom cartography

Technologies Employed

- .NET and JavaScript programming
- ArcGIS Server

Key Deliverables

- Data editing application for agency staff use
- Web-based interactive map viewer
- Custom countywide base maps

Go to My Commute

- gismaps.kingcounty.gov/rc_viewer



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MY COMMUTE MAP APPLICATION

Continued from page 2

In order to add WSDOT road alerts to the map viewer we created a proxy page in .NET that consumes the WSDOT web service, filters out the alerts that are not in the King County extent and vicinity, and then translates the points into the -KCGIS map projection and coordinate system using the ArcGIS Server geometry service. The points are then assigned graphic symbology similar to the King County alerts and added to the map viewer as a layer that users can turn on and off.

“Something needs to be done to get ONE source of road closure information for all of King County in ONE place.”

A well-rounded map viewer

Another major component of the road alert viewer speaks directly to the My Commute theme: a traffic cameras map layer. Roads Services maintains a GIS point file of the locations of traffic cameras that are owned and operated by King County, WSDOT, and several other agencies. These points also store the Internet addresses (URLs) for the traffic camera images which are recorded at regular intervals. We added this point layer to the My Commute viewer and wrote JavaScript code that opens a pop-up window when a user clicks on a traffic camera symbol. The pop-up displays the most recent camera image and it automatically updates the image if left open.

See: My Commute Map Application, Page 4

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Region	Spotlight	Location	Area/Community	Description	Road Status	Effective Dates	Dist.
Northeast	254th Ave NE at Sikes Carnation Lake			Bridge repair, one lane closure	Restricted	Oct 15 2010 - 11:30PM	2
Northeast	West Snoqualmie Valley Rd NE at #10500		Duvall	Damaged road One lane restriction, temporary traffic lights	Restricted	Apr 11 2011 7:00AM	2
Southeast	SE 400th St at 250th Enunclaw Ave SE		Enunclaw	Culvert installation	Restricted	Apr 22 2011 7:00AM	4
Southeast	SE 400th St at 270th Enunclaw Ave SE		Enunclaw	Culvert installation	Restricted	Apr 22 2011 7:00AM	4
Southeast	SE 424th St at 20th Enunclaw Ave SE		Enunclaw	Bridge Replacement	Restricted	Apr 22 2011 7:00AM	4
Southeast	Near Rd SE (north end) 2007 intersection of SE 207 St SE David Phelan Rd from 20511 Fall City		Fall City	Damaged road	Restricted	Jan 7 2009 3:10PM	2
Southeast	SE 300th St at 200th Hotart Pk SE		Hotart	Culvert Replacement	Restricted	Apr 22 2011 1:55PM	4
Southeast	SE 15th St at 15th Issaquah Creek Bridge		Issaquah	Load restriction on bridge	Restricted	Jan 7 2009 3:00PM	4
Northeast	NE Union Hill Rd between 150th Ave NE to 500th east of 190th Ave NE		Redmond	Weeks of June 20, expect intermittent lane restrictions/closures between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. as part of two-year construction project to improve traffic flow and safety on Novelly Hill Road.	Restricted	Mar 28 2011 7:00AM	1
Northeast	NE Novelly Hill Rd at 190th Ave NE		Redmond	Weeks of June 20, closed for culvert installation	Restricted	Apr 20 2011 7:00AM	1
Northeast	NE Novelly Hill Rd at 190th Ave NE		Redmond	Weeks of June 20, expect intermittent lane restrictions/closures between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. as part of two-year construction project to improve traffic flow and safety on Novelly Hill Road.	Restricted	Mar 28 2011 7:00AM	1
Northeast	NE 50th St from St 202 to Saker Way NE		Sammamish	Water over roadway	Closed	Jul 18 2010 11:00AM	2
Northeast	NE 5th Causeway Hwy between Miller Diver Rd and 5th St NE		Snoqualmie	Road washed out	Closed	Jan 14 2009 8:00AM	2
South	Rainier Ave S from S 125th St to S 130th St		South Park	Damaged sidewalk	Restricted	Dec 12 2010 9:15PM	3
South	South Park Bridge (150 Ave S) across Duwamish Waterway		Tukwila	Safety concern	Restricted	Apr 30 2011 7:00PM	3
Vashon	SR 14th St in the "2500 Block"		Vashon	Culvert Replacement, one way traffic.	Restricted	Jun 13 2011 7:00AM	3

My Commute

Travel tools and resources for the greater Puget Sound area

- Travel alerts
- King County [view details](#)
- WSDOT [view details](#)*
- Traffic cameras [view details](#)

7:00 AM ALERT
King County Road Alert
Released: Jun 23 2011 6:33AM

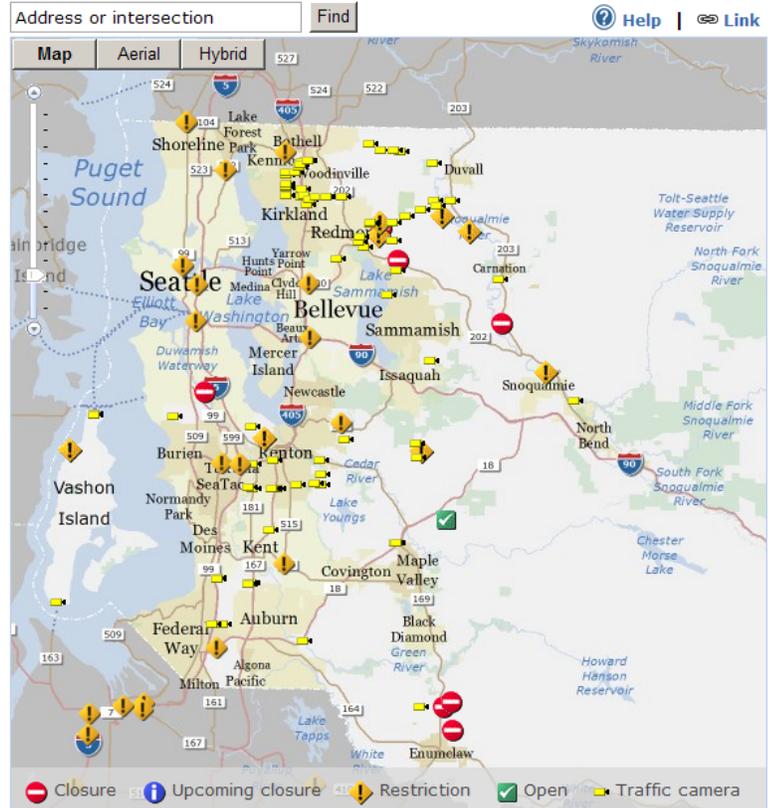
UPDATE: Three road projects start in Enumclaw area week of June 20 ...more

[View the spotlight](#) [Subscribe](#) | [View](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#)

- More traffic cameras**
- All King County cameras
 - Bellevue (city cameras)*
 - Seattle (city cameras)*
 - Seattle*
 - ...more at WSDOT*

- More alerts**
- Flood alerts
 - RPIN alerts*
 - Transit alerts

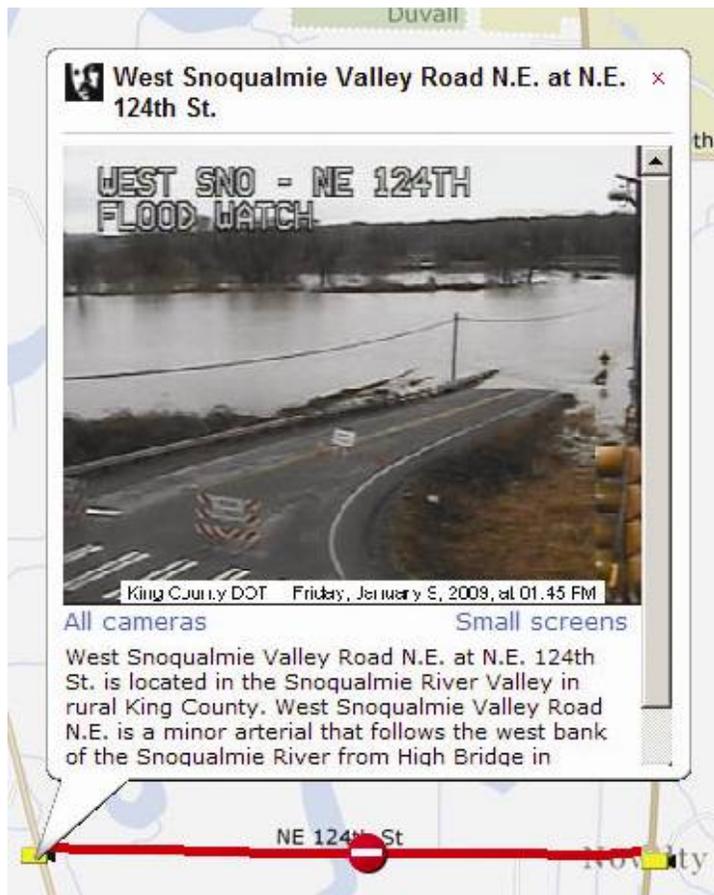
- More resources**
- Roads' Commuter Cafe
 - Buses - Metro Transit
 - Bicycling Guidemap
 - KCMetrobus tweets
 - KCNews tweets



The King County My Commute Application Replaces Text Based Tables With A User Friendly Web Mapping Application

MY COMMUTE MAP APPLICATION

Continued from page 2



Sample Flood Incident Image With Text Accessed From My Commute Map Viewer

Ongoing development

Esri has now incorporated editing and snapping capabilities in their JavaScript API, and they have announced that the -WebADF will be retired. We will rewrite the road alert editor for the JavaScript API.

With the success and visibility of My Commute, many other cities have expressed an interest in sharing road alert information which, like the WSDOT data, can be mashed up in a single map viewer.

To Learn More

Contact KCGIS Center Client Services Manager, Dennis Higgins: dennis.higgins@kingcounty.gov / 206-263-4523.

About the Authors

Tamara Davis, is the King County DOT GIS Manager
 Michael Jenkins is a King County GIS Center Programmer
 Patrick Jankanish is the King County GIS Center's Senior Cartographer



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 1

I am confident that WAURISA will be able to assist you in that challenge by providing relevant educational opportunities, a conference highlighting your regional colleagues' work, and a community of professionals with similar goals and aspirations. We have begun work both on upcoming fall workshops and next year's conference. I'm happy to announce the **2012 Washington GIS conference will be May 7 – 9 in Tacoma**. Please mark your calendars to save the dates.

A few board members will be able to attend GIS-Pro, the International URISA conference to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana this October. Part of the conference includes a Chapter Roll Call and a leadership meeting, providing two opportunities for each chapter to bring forth issues for discussion and needs. If you have any ideas please be sure to send them to me and I will make sure to get them to the board members that will be attending. And we want to wish our own Greg Babinski of King County good luck on his upcoming term as URISA president that will begin at the International URISA conference.

I look forward to hearing from you!

-Ann Stark, President.



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WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIS PROGRAM UPDATE

By Diane Petersen

The GIS work in Waterville has taken us in many directions. The 4th grade continues to host the Adopt-a-Farmer project where local farmers are partnered with students to record sightings of short horned lizards in farm fields. 4th graders have collected this data for many years. Three years ago the entire elementary began a project called 'Literate About Biodiversity' in which all grades collect data on a certain common species group. We have student Biodiversity Data Managers who keep this data up to date in excel and on ArcView. The work is tied to the NatureMapping program (see *The Summit*, Winter 2007, Issue 10, p. 2). D. Petersen and Karen Dvornich have written a guide to taking kids outdoors. Information on this and all the Waterville projects can be found on the Naturemapping website <http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/projects/waterville/index.html>.

Last year the 3rd and 4th graders were introduced to ArcGIS Explorer Online and then they used it to map classroom content. Additionally, Justin Grillo, who teaches 3rd grade, will be teaching a high school technology class next year offering GIS and other technologies for students to use in projects for their other classes.

Two high school students, Zak Kruger and Mitch Clements (presenter at ESRI Users Conference in San Diego 4 years ago) are working with the school district and Douglas County to update district maps for attendance and school board position purposes.

Diane Petersen, 4th grade teacher, continues to take groups of students to various locations to do presentations about the work. These projects provide many intriguing, exciting and challenging opportunities for a large number of students at Waterville.

Petersen and Grillo will be attending the GIS Boot Camp for Washington state schools. OSPI (Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) has recently partnered with ESRI to make ArcView software available to all Washington schools and this is the beginning of the training that will need to be provided.

Diane Petersen (dpetersen@waterville.wednet.edu)
4th grade
Waterville Elementary School



Waterville Elementary School Students at the 2011 Washington GIS Conference

HOW YOU CAN INTRODUCE STUDENTS (AND TEACHERS) TO GIS

By Diane Petersen

As an ArcView user, you may be looking for ways to volunteer your time and expertise in a school or classroom. This article is written to suggest some ways that you might successfully accomplish that.

First, you should be clear about what you want to accomplish. I hope your goal is to help students and teachers use maps in a more meaningful and interesting way. Is promotion of geography your goal? Another goal might be to share with children and teachers an interesting way of showing data in a "picture form" which students and teachers can use to ask and answer questions that involve several disciplines and interrelated sets of data. Great goal! Do the students in your area have data collection projects and need a way of displaying their data? You have the way!

Second, you need to understand your audience. Teachers, in general, are overworked and have lots of district and state demands put on them as far as curriculum and standards go. They are already wondering how they will get everything done. So, you want to remember, GO SLOWLY and START SMALL. I asked teachers in our school why they did not use GIS and they replied, "Why should I take the time?"

Now, think about the teachers or schools you know. Will you work with your child's teacher? Will you work with a teacher who is a friend of yours? What is the connection that you have? Whichever teacher you are thinking about, get to know them. Volunteer in their room. Meet for a chat. Find out what they already teach. Find out what their personal interests are. Think about a small way that mapping could fit into what they already do.

Examples: if they study spiders, could you come in during science and help the kids write down where they found their spiders?

See: Introduce Students & Teachers to GIS, Page 6

Editor's Note:

A contingent of students and teachers from the Waterville Elementary School attended the 2011 Washington GIS Conference in Lynnwood.

Waterville Fourth Grade Teacher Diane Petersen provided these updates on the Waterville GIS program and her ideas on how you can volunteer in your local school.

INTRODUCE STUDENTS & TEACHERS TO GIS

Continued from page 5

If they study westward movement, could you help a small group of students (or your own son or daughter) make a map with ArcGIS Explorer that would document the settling of the west?

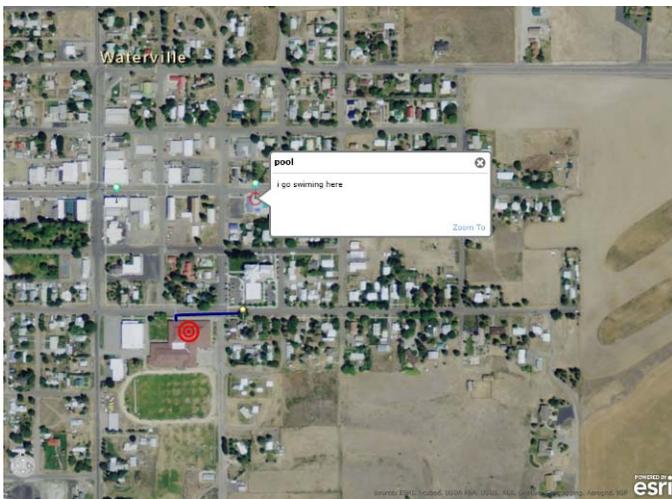
If the class is reading biographies, could you help just one student put the events of an historical person's life on a map with pictures and labels? You get the idea: try to make what they are already doing richer with the added dimension of mapping. Now, make an example at home. Next time you talk to the teacher, show them the example. Maybe you will have your foot in the door now. However, the research and our experience shows that you often have to ask many more times than once - Don't give up.

I have included a few screen shots of work from our 3rd and 4th grade students who all made ArcGIS Explorer presentations last year. Their topics were Life Cycle of the Salmon and Lewis and Clark Exploration.



The dams on the Columbia River are important to the Salmon Life Cycle. This shows one slide using a different base map with picture and text added. Justin Grillo, Waterville, 3rd grade teacher.

See: Introduce Students & Teachers to GIS, Page 7



A beginning presentation for 4th graders using ArcGIS Explorer Online was to find a map of their town and put 5 pins in their favorite places in town. Then they added a label and explanation of why it was a favorite spot. This kind of project is good for beginners because the content is not a challenge. It just allows them to learn the GIS program.



Screenshot from 3rd grade project showing Life Cycle of Salmon using ArcGIS Explorer Online. Students added pictures, text and lines to the topo base map. Justin Grillo, Waterville.



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INTRODUCE STUDENTS & TEACHERS TO GIS

Continued from page 6

Oh, and to answer the question "Why should I take the time?" let me share a few ideas and answers:

Ask: "Why do you have kids use PowerPoint? Or make posters? Or make paper maps? GIS is another, even more powerful, tool."

Explain: In a phrase, I tell folks "GIS provides the chance to contextualize and integrate content from diverse areas, while building solid 21st century skills that set kids up for college and career, no matter their field." (Charlie Fitzpatrick)

Inform: For "Why should we do this?", see this page:

<http://edcommunity.esri.com/aboutGIS/careers.cfm>

You might also want to point folks to the videos on this YouTube page:

<http://esriurl.com/gisinschools1>

Go to the heart: "Kids are excited about technology and good at it! Don't be afraid."

Persuade: "Let me work with one student or a small group to see what we can do."

A higher level example can be found at <http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/projects/waterville/index.html> where you can find the Leapin'Lizards video showing ArcView being used by 4th graders.

Thanks for wanting to help a teacher or a school. You can see that it will take a commitment of time and patience, but the results will be rewarding. If you can find that one teacher or student who is excited about what you have to offer, pat yourself on the back! Job well done.

Diane Petersen (dpetersen@waterville.wednet.edu)
4th grade
Waterville Elementary School



4th grade students in Waterville Elementary plotted the travels of Lewis and Clark and included pictures and text about the new animals and plants they found.

WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LEWIS AND CLARK ARCGIS PROJECT

Login to ArcGIS Explorer Online

Slide 1

- ◆ Choose a base map that shows the rivers, mountains, etc
- ◆ Zoom so that you can see the entire US
- ◆ On that map use a tool to make a colored line to show the Mississippi River from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico
- ◆ Add a TITLE: *Lewis and Clark Explore the West 1803-1805*
- ◆ Take a picture of this slide

Slide 2

- ◆ Use the same map with the Mississippi River on it.
- ◆ Delete the title.
- ◆ Put a symbol on St. Louis, Missouri
 - Label it *St. Louis, Missouri*
 - Write: *This is the place where Lewis and Clark started their expedition.*
 - Now add sentences that give information about the people who were on the expedition.
 - Import a picture of the Mississippi River.
- ◆ Put a symbol on Bismarck, North Dakota.
- ◆ Label it *Fort Mandan*
- ◆ Import a picture of Fort Mandan.
- ◆ Write: *This is where Lewis and Clark spent their first winter.*
- ◆ Take a picture of the slide.

Slide 3

- ◆ Outline the Louisiana Purchase
- ◆ Color it in with a see through color
- ◆ Label the slide *Louisiana Purchase 1803*
- ◆ In a pop up box, write some sentences explaining what you learned about the Louisiana Purchase.
- ◆ Take a picture of the slide

Part 4

- ◆ Use the line tool to show the Missouri River beginning at St. Louis and continuing to the headwaters in the Rocky Mountains.
- ◆ Title the slide *Missouri River.*
- ◆ Capture the slide
- ◆ Now put 5 symbols spaced along the river.
- ◆ Pop up for symbol 1
 - Insert a photo of one animal or plant new to science that Lewis and Clark discovered.
 - Label the pop-up with the name of the plant or animal.
 - Write a sentence about the plant or animal in the pop-up.
 - Capture the slide.
- ◆ Repeat for each of the 5 symbols.

Part 5

- ◆ Put a pin in the Rocky Mountains somewhere between the end of the Missouri River and the Clearwater River.
 - Title the slide *Camp Fortunate.*
 - Capture the slide
- ◆ Use the line tool to show the Clearwater River to the Snake River and to the Columbia River.
- ◆ Put a pin on each river and label the rivers.
 - Title it *Headed for the Pacific Ocean.*
 - Capture the slide.
- ◆ Put a pin at *Fort Clatsop.* Label it and insert a picture.
 - Title the slide *The Second Winter*
 - Write these sentences: *After a long winter, they left Ft. Clatsop on March 23, 1806 and headed back to St. Louis. They arrived back in St. Louis on August 12, 1806.*
 - Capture the slide.

WATCH YOUR FANTASTIC SLIDE SHOW.



June 20, 2011

Governor Chris Gregoire

Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

SUBJECT: The Washington State Geographic Information Systems Strategic Plan and Business Plan

Dear Governor Gregoire:

In 2010 the Washington State Information Services Board – Geographic Information Technology Committee (ISB-GIT) approved the state's new Geographic Information Systems Strategic Plan and the companion Geographic Information Systems Business Plan. These documents lay out a future vision for progressive geographic information system (GIS) technology in Washington State, along with an action plan to achieve that vision.

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (www.urisa.org), by vote of its Board of Directors, supports the full funding and implementation of the recommendations outlined in these plans. URISA is a 501(c)(3) professional organization with almost 2,000 members worldwide that provides broad support, encouragement and recognition for government, academic, and private development and dissemination of accurate and complete spatial data, relevant software, and geospatial products.

Washington's Strategic Plan vision is to "...utilize geospatial technology to facilitate decision-making to benefit Washington State citizens." The companion Business Plan identifies five strategic goals: 1) establish access mechanisms for geospatial data, 2) staff a GIS program office and recruit a Geographic Information Officer (GIO), 3) strengthen coordination across the state GIS community, 4) develop statewide data standards and service guidelines, and 5) increase awareness of the benefits of geospatial technology.

The plans were the outcome of four regional listening sessions, an online survey, and various focus groups. The Geographic Information Technology Committee solicited input from a broad cross-section of respondents. These included state, federal, city, county, regional agencies; tribal, academic, and private sector representatives; and other interested parties from across Washington. It is likely that this is the most comprehensive statewide analysis of Washington's GIS-related needs ever undertaken, reviewed, and published.

These plans support development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI); reorganize and enhance the state's GIS infrastructure, organization, capacity, and capability; and deliver direct benefits to local agencies, the private sector, and the general public. There is a growing body of evidence that investment in geospatial technology and dissemination of data and applications by government agencies deliver significant return on investment (ROI).

Despite the state's challenging financial environment, we believe adoption of the state's GIS Strategic Plan and implementation of the Business Plan represent a judicious, modest investment of taxpayer dollars that will yield substantial benefits to the state's citizens, businesses, and government entities in an increasingly global economy and society. Washington can become a leader in the use of GIS, with national significance for other states.

We urge you to fund and implement the Washington State GIS Strategic Plan and Business Plan.

Sincerely,

Wendy Nelson
Executive Director

Cy Smith
President

Greg Babinski
President-Elect

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Editor's Note: The Board of Directors of URISA – The Association for GIS Professionals, reinforced support for the State of Washington's new GIS Strategic Plan and Business Plan by sending the letter shown above to Gov. Gregoire. URISA and the Washington and Oregon chapters of URISA urge you to contact the Governor and your state legislators and let them know your opinion about implementing these critical GIS plans.

BILL HUXHOLD AND BARRY WELLAR TO BE INDUCTED INTO URISA'S GIS HALL OF FAME

August 31, 2011 (Des Plaines, IL)

The **Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)** established the GIS Hall of Fame in 2005 to recognize and honor the most esteemed leaders of the geospatial community. To be considered for the GIS Hall of Fame, an individual's or an organization's record of contribution to the advancement of the industry demonstrates creative thinking and actions, vision and innovation, inspiring leadership, perseverance, and community mindedness. In addition, nominees must serve as a role model for those who follow. URISA Hall of Fame Laureates are individuals or organizations whose pioneering work has moved the geospatial industry in a better, stronger direction. The first class of inductees included Edgar Horwood, Ian McHarg, Roger Tomlinson, Jack Dangermond, Nancy Tosta, and the Harvard Lab. Gary Hunter was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006 and both Don Cooke and Michael Goodchild joined him the following year, in 2007. Will Craig and Carl Reed were honored in 2009 and C. Dana Tomlin followed last year.

William Huxhold and **Barry Wellar** will join this esteemed group during URISA's 49th Annual Conference in Indianapolis in November.



Bill Huxhold (Hux) is a triple threat in GIS. He has been an innovative leader in government, academia, and the GIS profession. Few others have shown this versatility and certainly not at his high level of achievement.

He led the City of Milwaukee's effort to establish one of the nation's first GIS as Project Director of the City's Policy Development Information System (1975-87). His genius was writing specifications that required an interface between the City's operational databases with computer-aided mapping software to create a GIS. Other cities had computer-aided mapping, but no direct connection to their operational data. He believed in a pyramid of good decisions based on data from the operations of local government. He argued that good management decisions are based on a synthesis of operational data and good policy decisions are based on a synthesis of management data; GIS is critical at each level in the three-layered pyramid. Milwaukee received an Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) award for Huxhold's Municipal Automated Geographic Information System in 1981, the first year that award was given. His early work was copied by cities across the nation and the concepts continue to be respected and copied.

Huxhold's contributions to the GIS profession have been outstanding, too. He has served as president of two professional organizations: URISA (Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, 1984-85) and UCGIS (University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, 2000). He developed model job classifications that informed URISA's 1st Salary Survey and helped give coherence to the field. Most notably, he led the effort to certify GIS professionals, now institutionalized as the GIS Certification Institute, now certifying nearly 5,000 GIS Professionals across 50 states and 25 countries. He argued that this was the missing piece in making GIS a recognized profession; we had the specialized training, common language, and even culture and lore, but lacked licensing or certification. The GIS Certification Institute is supported by the Association of American Geographers (AAG), the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), the University Consortium of Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), and the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA).



Few individuals are more deserving of this honor than **Dr. Barry Wellar**. His nearly 50 years of active and sustained work in the geographic information system (GIS) and related fields are filled with accomplishments and contributions to the industry and the community of GIS technology users. His roles as a researcher, teacher, GIS practitioner and manager, and consultant have focused on practical applications of GIS and other information technologies to problems and challenges faced by public agencies and private sector companies. His areas of expertise span a wide range of technical, organizational, methodological, and discipline-specific areas for applying GIS and IT. He is an expert in many GIS application areas with a particular focus on urban planning, transportation, sustainable land development, and public sector policy, with more than 350 documents and presentations on GIS and IT among his published works. And, as demonstrated at the 2009 and 2010 URISA conferences, his applied research on GIS and Interdependent infrastructures, and GIS and standard of care practices, shows that he continues to play a leading role as an important innovator in the GIS field.

See: URISA GIS Hall of Fame, Page 11

GISCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE GISP CERTIFICATION PROCESS

At its face to face Board of Directors meeting on May 23, 2011, the GISCI Board of Directors continued consideration of the proposal submitted by the GISCI Core Competency Workgroup and the public response collected during February concerning that proposal. In March of 2011, the Board adopted a resolution recognizing the role that the current portfolio based process has played in recognizing the professional attainment of those certified. The Board made the following resolution during the May meeting:

GISCI is committed to the advancement of the GIS profession for the benefit of society and individual practitioners.

GISCI's Board of Directors believes that portfolio-based certification augmented by a competency-based examination has the potential to further advance the profession in that direction.

In response to the Core Competency Working Group's GISP Update proposal, we resolve, therefore, to embark on a methodical, multi-stage process to carefully explore, develop, and implement an examination.

GISCI will only add an examination requirement if an exam can be made accessible and fair to GIS practitioners regardless of their specializations or backgrounds.

Our next steps will include establishing an Examination Development Committee as recommended by the Working Group.

We acknowledge that members of the GIS community hold differing opinions about an exam and we believe that this course of action will provide information that will help address those concerns.

The "GISCI Certification Update" proposal is available for public review at <http://www.gisci.org>. The public comments will be available for review through the end of June.

For more information about GISCI and GISP certification, visit <http://www.gisci.org>.



WAURISA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

At the 2011 Washington GIS Conference the following individuals were elected to positions on the WAURISA Board of Directors:

- President: Ann Stark
- Vice President: Heather Glock
- Secretary: Amanda Taub
- Board Member (2 year term): Neal Berry
- Board Member (2 year term): Joe Brentin
- Board Member (2 year term): Dana Trethewy
- Board Member (1 year term): Donna Wendt
- Board Member (1 year term): Suzanne Shull

Angela Johnson's term as Past-President ended, being replaced by Don Burdick. Other Board terms that ended include:

- Treasurer: Karl Johansen
- Vice President: Greg Babinski
- Board Member: Whitney Bowerman

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TOM NOLAN AWARDED 2011 SUMMIT AWARD



Ian Von Essen (2010 Summit Award winner) and Jack Dangermond present 2011 Summit Award to Tom Nolan

The Summit Award began in 2003 to honor the GIS movers and shakers in Washington State. Criteria for the award focus on four areas: longevity of experience, quality of experience, consistency of volunteerism, and degree of mentorship effort.



URISA GIS HALL OF FAME

Continued from page 9

Dr. Wellar's professional milestones and accomplishments are too numerous to mention in full, but a few highlights are identified below:

- Bachelor's degrees (1964, 1965 (Hon.) in Economics, Commerce, and Geography from Queen's University
- Master of Science (1967) and PhD (1969) in Geography from Northwestern University
- Academic teaching and research positions at University of Kansas and University of Ottawa
- Senior Research Officer, Director, and Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, Government of Canada
- Numerous special project and consulting assignments to state, provincial, and federal government agencies in Canada, the USA, and foreign governments, as well as to international organizations (e.g., OECD, UNDP, CAP)
- Qualified as an expert witness for civil actions involving pedestrians' safety, and transportation and planning issues
- Formation and position as Principal of Wellar Consulting, Inc. (2005), and President, Information Research Board (2010)

His work in the GIS field has been complemented by his active involvement and leadership in professional associations and the contribution of enormous amounts of time and energy that has supported and improved those organizations, supported the work of its members, and made significant positive impacts on the way in which GIS and other information technology tools and practices are applied to important decision-making issues and situations. Some milestones of his professional association activities and leadership roles are summarized as follows:

- Continuous membership in URISA since 1967, including participation in annual conferences, special programs and workshops, and numerous committee assignments
- URISA Board Member, 1972-76
- URISA President, 1977-78
- Membership, active participation, and leadership roles in the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), American Planning Association (APA), Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), Regional Science Association (RSA), and Data for Development International Association
- Full membership in Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP)
- Distinguished Research Fellow, Transport Action Canada
- Policy and Research Advisor, Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (Ontario)
- Distinguished Geomatics Scientist, Lab for Applied Geomatics and Geographic Information Systems Science, University of Ottawa
- Multiple awards from these and other organizations for service and leadership, including URISA's Leadership and Service Award (1979) and Horwood Outstanding Service Award (1985)

Along with Dr. Wellar's long history of work in the field and his research and professional accomplishments, his role as a teacher and advisor to students should be considered a primary reason for his Hall of Fame induction.



During his academic career of 35 years he has taught hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom have become very accomplished in their fields and cite Dr. Wellar's instruction and support as instrumental in their education and professional advancement. He has served as a graduate advisor to many students and in numerous committee and leadership roles to advance the quality of academic programs and their value to students.

Mentioning just three activities to outline the scope of his many accomplishments, he partnered with Bob Aangeenbrug at Kansas in 1969-1972 to create some of the first-ever GIS courses, he later joined with Dan Parr in making URISA's Introduction to GIS one of the most popular (and most duplicated) GIS workshops offered by any organization, and he recently created a GIS Day Poster Competition program and promotion to recognize faculty and students who make outstanding contributions to the design of GIS-based posters as means to communicate research project results.

Those who know or who have worked with Barry are aware that his style is that of a dedicated scientist: direct, sometimes challenging, but always respectful of differing views, and focused on achieving results. His record speaks for itself in demonstrating how he has used his personal and professional skills for success in delivering benefits to those people, groups, and communities for which he has served. His interests go beyond the professional sphere as exhibited, in part, by his passion for hockey—not just as a fan but as a player. His personal and professional ethics are superb. He is a devoted husband and father and is active in charitable and community activities that enhance the quality of life for his fellow citizens.

Barry Wellar's record in the field of geographic information systems is one of passion, inspiration, commitment, and outstanding achievement. Welcome to the GIS Hall of Fame, Dr. Wellar.

For more information about URISA's GIS Hall of Fame, visit http://www.urisa.org/hall_of_fame or contact URISA at 847/824-6300.

NEW PUGET SOUND LIDAR CONSORTIUM EMAIL LIST

You are invited to join the newly launched Puget Sound LIDAR Consortium Email List. The purpose of this email list is to improve general communication from the Consortium and also amongst participants and anyone interested in LIDAR. We will be using this list to let you know about the release of new datasets, changes and additions to the PSLC website and any other events related to the consortium. We also envision the list as a channel of communication for LIDAR related issues in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. We encourage you to use this email list to post inquiries regarding data availability for datasets not covered by the consortium's acquisitions.

This email list may also serve as a tool to establish better connections between potential data acquisition partners. Therefore we encourage you to post your upcoming data acquisition projects and/or interest in partnering for specific projects. You may also post data availability of your completed projects. As a reminder I will mention that the consortium is able to distribute your data to the public through the PSLC website. There is no cost associated for this service. Contact me if you need more information.

This list may also function as a forum for LiDAR data usage questions. We have been answering such questions in house, but realize that other users have further knowledge to share with the rest of us. All of the email posts on this list are archived, so individuals can, at any time, search and find previous answers to questions posted.

To join the email list go to the link below and subscribe. Most of you will subscribe as a "person outside the UW", so please enter your email address carefully in order to receive further information and a password that the system will assign to you. Once subscribed you will be able to send email messages to the list as well as receive them in your inbox.

https://mailman2.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/pslc_mailinglist

You can also email me and I can sign you up on my end. If you need assistance with signing up or have question please contact me, Diana Martinez at dmartinez@psrc.org or (206) 971-3052. Feel free to forward this invite to others.

We hope that this email list will help the LiDAR User Community stay connected and engaged with the various LIDAR efforts in our region.

Thank you,

Diana Martinez on behalf of The Puget Sound LiDAR Consortium

<http://pugetsoundlidar.ess.washington.edu/>

Diana Martinez
 Puget Sound Regional Council
 1011 Western Ave, Suite 500
 Seattle, WA 98104
 206.971.3052
dmartinez@psrc.org



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Coalition of Geospatial Organizations

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

July 27, 2011

Re:RE: IB Docket 11-109 and IB Docket File No. SATMOD2010111800239

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I am writing to you on behalf of The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO), a coalition of 15 national professional societies, trade associations, and membership organizations in the geospatial field, representing more than 35,000 individual producers and users of geospatial data and technology. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the recently completed final report of the Technical Working Group regarding the potential harmful interference to GPS users from LightSquared's terrestrial transmissions.

The stakeholder groups, listed below, that make up COGO speak with one voice wherever possible on geospatial data and policy issues. COGO only takes public policy positions with a unanimous vote of its member organizations. In this regard, COGO seeks to express its urgent and critical concern regarding the issues under consideration by the Commission in the referenced proceeding.

When the FCC on January 26, 2011 granted a conditional waiver to LightSquared to operate a high power ground-based broadband service in the space radio frequency band next to GPS operations, it solicited public comment. COGO commented to the FCC on this matter on June 15, 2011.

http://www.cogo.pro/uploads/Revised_LSL2-299049_Letter_v3.pdf

The final report of the Technical Working Group shows significant harmful interference to a broad range of GPS applications, including: mapping, geographic information systems (GIS) and surveying, as well as other engineering, resource, law enforcement, consumer, navigation, emergency response, aviation, and scientific applications – all of which negatively impact the geospatial community.

If GPS is not fully available, in a clear, consistent and unencumbered manner, the impact to COGO member organizations will be extremely significant and costly. The current, accurate geospatial information the public and businesses expect to be readily available would become extremely and unnecessarily expensive to collect and the time it would take to collect such data through non-GPS means would make much data obsolete by the time it becomes available to users.

The Technical Working Group's team on High Precision Networks and Timing found there would be harmful interference with high precision GPS receivers – particularly those used in aviation and geospatial activities. As a community that not only conducts surveys using GPS, but also flies satellites and aircraft to collect imagery and other airborne and spaceborne sensing equipment, COGO member organizations would be significantly impacted by this interference. The LightSquared original rollout configuration plan would have caused harmful interference to these receivers beyond 2 km from each tower. In the LightSquared recommendation to use the lower 10 MHz channel, harmful interference is observed at 1.2 km from each tower, with complete loss of high accuracy positioning within one-half mile of any tower. When considering typical cell tower spacing, a mobile GPS user operating in an urban area covered by LightSquared terrestrial

Page -2-

operations would potentially be within a quarter- to a half-mile from a tower. This means that harmful interference could be expected to blanket large areas of the U.S., including under the lower 10 MHz-only proposed terrestrial broadband operations.

Adding to the cost of data collection through utilization of alternative technologies, methodologies and procedures to avoid LightSquared interference with GPS is not a viable option for the geospatial community. Given the hundreds of millions of dollars in GPS-enabled or dependent equipment, receivers and devices that have already been purchased, approving a LightSquared application that would result in all such existing equipment, receivers and devices needing to be retrofitted would be an unreasonable, expensive and impractical consequence for the geospatial community.

COGO respectfully urges that the FCC deny any LightSquared application, unless and until accepted and unequivocal engineering tests are submitted that demonstrate such proposed system can operate with no interference with high precision GPS. Any FCC approval of a LightSquared application must ensure sustainment of the national GPS utility and proven positioning and navigation information, as well as continuing innovation that benefits the Nation and that delivers the operational performance on which our COGO organizations and their members depend.

Respectfully submitted,



Geney Terry, GISP, MGIS
2011 COGO Chair

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM)
 American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
 Association of American Geographers (AAG)
 Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS)
 Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute (GISCI)
 International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
 Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
 National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
 United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)
 University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)
 Urban Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)





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Whistler, BC**

Presentation Topics

- ♦ Landbase Acquisition, Maintenance and Management Panel Discussion
- ♦ Environmental Impacts of the 2010 Olympic Games
- ♦ Asset Management and Collection
- ♦ Solutions for Gas Distribution Integrity Management and coping with new regulations
- ♦ Why Geospatial Technologies are Important in the Smart Grid Era
- ♦ Smart Metering: More than just conservation and energy efficiency!
- ♦ Risk assessment methodologies for sewer systems using advanced asset management
- ♦ Alternative "Green" Energy Sources

Agenda

Sunday October 2

Geocaching Icebreaker
Hunt for treasure throughout the scenic Whistler Village while getting to know your fellow conference attendees and GITA Board Members!

Monday October 3

- Breakfast
- Presentations
- Lunch Break
- Presentations
- Vendor Social

Tuesday October 4

- Breakfast
- Presentations
- Lunch Break
- Vendor User Group Meetings

Cartography Isn't Dead Poster Competition

Do you have an interesting map or project to highlight? Submit a poster to our poster competition!

Competition Rules

- ♦ Open to Students and Professionals
- ♦ Project must be related to any geospatial science: GIS, remote sensing, modeling, spatial statistics etc.
- ♦ Poster size must be greater than 11 x 17 inches and less than 42 x 48 inches
- ♦ Posters will be judged by your peers at the conference
- ♦ To be eligible for **FREE PRINTING** by Resolution Reprographics submit entries by September 16, 2011 to gita.pnw@gmail.com

[Register Now!](#)

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Support Geography Education

The following resolution developed by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) proposes the advancement of geography education with three major recommendations. This resolution has been endorsed by sixteen major national groups and dozens of state geographic alliances and smaller organizations. We strongly urge adoption of the key goals of this resolution.

AAG Resolution Supporting K-12 Geography Education

WHEREAS, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as "No Child Left Behind," for the first time in almost a decade;

WHEREAS, geography is one of ten "core academic subjects" identified in the ESEA for which specific funding allocations and implementing programs are proposed to further its teaching at the K-12 level;

WHEREAS, geography education is central to preparing students to be informed citizens of the United States and economically competitive in a rapidly globalizing world;

WHEREAS, geotechnologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GPS, photogrammetry, surveying, mapping, and remote sensing, have been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, with job opportunities growing and diversifying rapidly, creating substantial workforce growth as these technologies prove their value in ever more areas;

WHEREAS, employers in all sectors, including private companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have indicated that there is a pressing need for more students graduating today with the geographic science and geospatial skills needed to support a rapidly growing field;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS:

Urges the Obama Administration to include geography and geospatial education in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and ESEA Blueprint for Reform proposals;

Urges Congress to include authorizations and appropriations for geography education consistent with other core academic subjects for K-12, as part of a reauthorized ESEA; and

Urges Congress to enhance geography teacher training by passing legislation such as the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act.

This resolution has been endorsed or adopted by:

Governor Rick Scott, State of Florida: Rick Scott was elected to his first term as the 45th Governor of the State of Florida on November 2, 2010. He brings an impressive record as an entrepreneur to his service as Governor and campaigned on creating jobs and turning Florida's economy around. Governor Scott is the founder of two health care providers in the Sunshine State and he holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

Governor Paul LePage, State of Maine: Governor LePage was elected to his first term as the State of Maine's chief executive on November 2, 2010. He previously served as Mayor of Waterville from 2003-2011 and also has extensive business experience. Governor LePage holds a BS in Business Administration (Finance and Accounting) from Husson College and an MBA from the University of Maine.

Governor Lincoln Chafee, State of Rhode Island: Lincoln Chafee took office as the 74th Governor of the State of Rhode Island in January 2011. He previously served the people of the Ocean State in the U.S. Senate from 1999-2007. Governor Chafee is the only Independent currently serving as governor of a U.S. state and he first held elective office in Warwick, RI, serving as a city councilor and as mayor. He holds a BA from Brown University.

Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, USN, Ret.: Vice Admiral Murrett is a former director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. His impressive career as a naval officer also includes service as Director of Naval Intelligence and as Vice Director of Intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among many key assignments.

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM): The ACSM's members include more than 5,000 surveyors, cartographers, geodesists, and other spatial data information-related professionals from private industry, government, and academia.

American Geographical Society (AGS): AGS members include professional geographers and others who support the need for geography.

American Geological Institute (AGI): The AGI is a federation of close to 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. The Institute plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education and strives to increase awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resilience to natural hazards, and the health of the environment.

American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS): ASPRS's membership of over 7,000 is made up of professionals in photogrammetry, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and supporting technologies.

Association of American Geographers (AAG): The AAG is a scientific, research, and educational organization comprised of more than 10,000 members from colleges and universities, the private sector, NGOs, and federal, state, and local government agencies.

Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS): CaGIS members design, implement, and use cartography, geographical information systems, and related geospatial technologies.

Council of Geospatial Organizations (COGO): COGO is a coalition of twelve national geographic technology organizations.

Esri, Inc.: Esri is a software development and services company providing Geographic Information System (GIS) software and geodatabase management applications. Esri products have one-third of the global market share and it is estimated that about seventy percent of current GIS users make use of Esri products. The company has 10 regional offices and 2,500 employees in the U.S. and its revenues are close to \$800 million annually.

Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute (GISCI): GISCI has certified over 4,000 Geographic Information Systems Professionals (GISPs), and its board is comprised of representatives from five leading geography and GIS organizations.

Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA): GITA represents major public and private utilities and telecommunications companies, who use geospatial technologies to help operate, maintain, and protect the public infrastructure.

International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO): The IAAO's 8,000 members include government assessment officials and others interested in the administration of property taxes.

Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS): MAPPS is a national association of firms in the surveying, spatial data, and geographic information systems field in the United States.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE): Founded in 1958, NASBE is a non-profit association that represents state and territorial boards of education. The association's principal objectives are to strengthen state leadership in education policymaking; promote excellence in the education of all students; advocate equality of access to educational opportunity; and assure responsible lay governance of public education.

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE): NCGE is a national organization of teachers and state officials committed to enhancing the status and quality of geography teaching and learning at all levels – from kindergarten through university.

National Geographic Society (NGS): The National Geographic Society is one of the largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions in the world and has been inspiring people to care about the planet since 1888.

National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC): NSGIC members include senior state geographic information system coordinators and managers from nearly every U.S. state and territory.

United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF): USGIF serves to allow members in national and homeland security agencies to work with colleagues in the private sector toward a mutual goal of protecting the United States through the use of geospatial intelligence.

University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS): UCGIS represents 70 universities and other organizations involved in GIS research and education.

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA): URISA is a non-profit professional and educational association, with over 1,600 members from all parts of the spatial data community, which promotes the effective management of urban and regional systems.



November 1-4, 2011
Indianapolis, Indiana

A message from Cy Smith, URISA President -

A career in GIS isn't like most careers. Early in the careers of most GIS professionals, they realize that GIS connects everything and that they have the potential to use GIS to solve nearly all the world's problems.

Then they realize the potential of GIS can only be achieved if they can get people to work together. Getting people to work together, using GIS to solve the world's problems is what URISA is all about and why we have the annual GIS-Pro conference. GIS-Pro is where it all comes together.



Four things you will gain at GIS-Pro 2011:

1. Opportunities to **solve problems** with the help of peers from all over North America and many other countries.
2. In-depth **education and knowledge** about the issues, tools, and solutions you deal with.
3. **Professional growth**, as you help shape regional, national and international approaches to issues that affect you and your organization.
4. Participation in developing URISA's **advocacy agenda** that is used on behalf of the geospatial community.

Cy Smith, Oregon State GIO
DAS/EISPD Geospatial Enterprise Office
President, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
Secretary, Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)
Past President, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

GIS-Pro 2011 Highlights:

Social Media Integration - URISA's Vanguard Cabinet of young professionals will lead a session on social media in the workplace. You'll learn how to effectively and safely incorporate social media into your business activities.

Open Street Map Lab - There will be an interactive lab to teach you how to incorporate your own map symbology and create your own tile set in Open Street Map.

GIS Return on Investment - URISA has partnered with the Federal Geographic Data Committee and the University of Washington Benefit Cost Center to develop a standardized methodology to measure GIS return on investment. Measuring ROI is how to make the case for GIS in your organization.

Geospatial Management Competency Model - URISA has been tasked by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to develop the final tier of the Geospatial Technology Competency Model. This tier will establish the competencies needed for GIS managers. Most organizations use the DOL models to establish position descriptions and hiring requirements. You can help define these competencies.

Geospatially Enabling Decision-making - The Kansas Legislature is integrating geospatial data and location into the process of making laws. You'll gain ideas about how to geospatially enable your own state or provincial legislatures, county commissions, municipal councils, tribal councils, or any deliberative body.

One Government and Data Sharing - The Executive Director of the Singapore Land Authority will tell you in the Opening Keynote how they use a 'one government' approach to motivate agencies to work together and how they've developed a policy framework to successfully guide data sharing. They won an Exemplary Systems in Government Award from URISA last year and have been invited to present their approach at conferences around the world.

Executive Support for GIS - Executives from a variety of national and international corporations that use GIS to solve their own problems will tell you why they decided to use GIS, and how they convinced their organizations to invest in geospatial data and technology. In this Thought Leaders Panel Discussion, you'll get to ask questions to help make their knowledge pertinent to your own organization.

There's a lot more happening at GIS-Pro 2011.

[You need to be there.](#)



The Association For **GIS** Professionals

Have you seen the new URISA Website? See: www.URISA.ORG





The Association For **GIS** Professionals

April 8, 2011

Katharyne Mitchell, Chair
Department of Geography
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Dear Professor Mitchell:

On behalf of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), congratulations to the University of Washington's Department of Geography on its 75th anniversary.

The history of URISA is intertwined with the history of UW Geography. URISA founder, Professor Edgar M. Horwood, from the UW Department of Civil Engineering, collaborated with Phil Muehrcke from the Department of Geography in development of the University of Washington's pioneering computer mapping program.

This collaborative multi-disciplinary work helped to nourish Horwood's interest in the application of computer technology to broad regional information systems for academic, government, industrial, and private citizen use. His work and academic interests led to annual meetings of academics and data users with similar interests, and eventually to the founding of URISA in its present form.

URISA will be celebrating its 50th annual conference in 2012. For two-thirds of its existence, faculty and graduates of the UW Department of Geography have had a significant impact on the success of URISA in promoting urban and regional information system-related technology and applications, and educating users worldwide.

As the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of UW Geography gather on May 3, 2011 to celebrate this milestone, we wish you continued success and we look forward to the accomplishments and contributions yet to come.

Sincerely,

Wendy Nelson, Executive Director

Cy Smith, President

URISA Board Members

www.URISA.org

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Editor's Note: This Year the University of Washington Geography Department celebrated its 75th anniversary. On May, 3, 2011 at the Department's anniversary celebration, Greg Babinski presented this letter of congratulations to Geography Chair Katharyne Mitchell in recognition of the connection between URISA and UW Geography.

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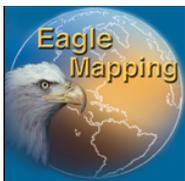
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THE SUMMIT - EDITORIAL

URISA, CHAPTERS, YOU, AND THE STRENGTH OF THE GIS COMMUNITY

If you are reading this you are very likely a member of the broad community of GIS users. But what does that mean, 'GIS Community'? Like any community, the term implies a group of people or organizations that have common interests. We live in local communities that share common geography. The political entity where we live is organized to facilitate our safety, freedom, prosperity, and personal aspirations.

But our careers and businesses progress in an environment defined by different characteristics. GIS users, professionals, educators, and businesses represent a community defined by geographic theory, GIS related technology, and spatial data. Do we need an organization to facilitate the safety, freedom, prosperity, and aspirations of the GIS community?

We can of course, go it alone. But most of us know that to be successful we need support every step of our careers. From study groups in school to list serves (like the CPS-GUG in the Puget Sound area) to GIS user groups, we look for advice and recommendations often.

As our profession matures, challenges and threats to the freedom and prosperity of the GIS industry are increasing. Just look through this issue of *The Summit*. You will see that there are issues related to organizing and funding GIS within state government, possible changes to GIS certification, threats to radio spectrum that could harm GPS, and funding for basic K-12 geographic education. It is difficult for us as individuals to research each of these issues and make our individual voices heard.

But like other professions and industries, GIS users and professionals can band together in an effective community. URISA and its state chapters (like WAURISA) are ideally positioned to meet this need. URISA is working to strengthen the link between you – the individual GIS user – and the actions, programs, and advocacy that it develops.

Right now URISA is soliciting input from all chapters on the issues that affect us on the ground in our careers. These will be shared at the GIS-Pro 2011 Conference in Indianapolis during the URISA Chapter Roll-Call, where top issues will be defined in a collaborative process. URISA is already acting on the Advocacy Agenda developed in 2010. In addition to its own programs, URISA advocates for members and chapters by participating as a founding member of COGO and GISCI.

For the GIS community to prosper, a strong effective URISA is very important. URISA will only be strong with the support and cooperation of active members and successful chapters. You can help ensure that URISA and WAURISA are strong and successful by becoming active in both. Play your part to ensure the health and prosperity of our community.

The Summit is published by WAURISA. To encourage the discussion of issues and ideas of importance to the Washington GIS community we welcome letters to the editor or opinion essays. Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 100 words and essays should be limited to 500 words.

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For subscriptions, content, comments, or suggestions, email:

Summit@WAURISA.org

PUBLIC MAPS IN WASHINGTON

The Northwest Herbal Fair was held in Mount Vernon August 19-21. This hand drawn map oriented attendees to the Fair site.



Lisa Castle Photo

Do you know of a public map display in Washington? Send it to *The Summit* and we'll include it in a future issue.

-Editor

THE SUMMIT – LITERARY CORNER

King Lear

"Give me the map there.

Know that we have divided

In three our kingdom: and 'tis our fast intent

To shake all cares and business from our age;

Conferring them on younger strengths, while we

Unburthen'd crawl toward death."

- - William Shakespeare

GIS USER GROUPS IN WASHINGTON

ACSM – Washington State Section

<http://www.wss-acsm.org/>

ASPRS Puget Sound Region

<http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/>

Cascadia Users of Geospatial Open Source

<http://groups.google.com/group/cugos/>

Contact Karsten Venneman at: karsten@terragis.net

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

<http://waurisa.org/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=24>

Contact Nora Gierloff at: ngierloff@ci.tukwila.wa.us

Central Washington GIS User Group

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

For information contact Amanda Taub at:

ataub_gis@yahoo.com

King County GIS User Group

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx>

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group

http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/gis/nwgis_mtgs.htm

Southeast Washington/Northwest Oregon GIS User Group

For more information, contact Chris Owen:

cowen@ci.walla-walla.wa.us

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

<http://wagic.wa.gov/>

Join Listserv at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/wagic.html>

Washington Hazus Users Group

<http://www.usehazus.com/wahug>

Contact Cathy Walker at: c.walker@mil.wa.gov

To have your GIS related group or event listed in future issues of *The Summit*, notify the editor at:

SummitGISNews@URISA.org.

To be added to *The Summit* mailing list, contact:

Summit@WAURISA.org

Back issues of *The Summit* are available at:

<http://waurisa.org/thesummit/>

Interested in volunteering your time to help WAURISA?

Contact Don Burdick or any Board member listed to the right.



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