

September 25, 2000

To: GIS Executive Council  
From: Michael Smith, Maine DEP GIS Unit  
Christopher Kroot, Maine DEP GIS Unit

RE: Reauthorization of a subcommittee to study needs for remotely sensed data

We propose to convene a subcommittee, consisting of technical representatives from various state agencies, to investigate the needs of these and other agencies for remotely sensed data, to attempt to prioritize those needs, and to report our findings to the GIS Executive Council and the Maine Office of GIS. Remotely sensed data is defined as any data that are gathered using some sort of remote mechanism, and typically include satellite imagery and aerial photography. The goal of this subcommittee will be to provide guidelines for future acquisition of remotely sensed data. Currently, there are no guidelines, and thus many agencies must operate on their own to acquire these data. If the subcommittee finds that agencies share needs for similar data, then it will likely be in the state's interest to combine these purchases and make the data available to a wider audience.

We propose to convene this subcommittee for no more than four meetings, and to draft a report within 8 weeks of the subcommittee's first meeting. The report will specify in detail the needs of the combined agencies regarding remotely sensed data and how these needs can be met.