

Remote Sensing Subcommittee Status Report

January 9 2001

Presented to the GIS Executive Council

Purpose: The remote sensing subcommittee was created to clarify multi-agency needs for remotely-sensed data and services, to prioritize those needs, and to prepare an implementation plan for satisfying those needs. We held our first meeting Dec. 7 2000, and have met biweekly since then. It is likely we will have a final report available by March 2001.

Progress: To date we have met three times - 12/7/2000, 12/21/2000, and 1/4/2001. Our next meeting is 2/1/2001. Our initial goals were to:

Goals

1. Conduct a multi-agency user needs analysis
2. Compile and summarize the results from above analysis
3. Identify common priorities across agencies for remotely sensed data and services from this analysis
4. Create an implementation plan detailing if or how these needs can currently be met
5. Create a final report summarizing all of the above

We have already completed goals 1-3 and are in the initial stages of goal 4. The user needs analysis was formulated at the first meeting and undertaken between 12/7/2000 and 12/21/2000. From the user needs analysis, we identified the following common priorities (goal 3) on 12/21/2000 and 1/4/2001:

Priorities

1. Very high resolution imagery (1m or better) for feature identification/extraction, georeferenced to at least accuracy of USGS 1:24000 maps. Specifically, 5-year interval DOQs for entire state, annual for identified areas (to track development changes), assuming annual coverage areas are small and are shared by multiple agencies. Digital index/catalog of aerial photos acquired by state agencies or other organizations we have access to.
2. Land use / land cover product more detailed and more current than Gap Analysis and NLCD (MRLC) with 15-20 forest categories, delineate agricultural areas, detailed wetlands (resolution), urban density classifications, impervious surface delineation, blueberry barrens, intertidal classification.
3. High resolution (10m or better) elevation and bathymetry data, such as DEMs.

4. Develop mechanism for multiple agencies (but not necessarily all represented in RS committee) to collaborate on other remote sensing needs.

For goal 4, we have drafted the following implementation plan relative to priority #1 above (this is not final or complete yet):

Implementation of Priority # 1 - high resolution imagery

1. Current DOQs - we already have 448 of these. Ellen and Hugh will find out about acquiring money for the initial 84 new DOQs (western Mts.) - \$2500. We will have to find money for the remaining southern quads as well (\$15,000). Starting the processing of northern woods would cost the state roughly \$60,000, funding we would also need to find.
2. Recurring DOQs - state agencies will provide by the next iteration (5-7 years) funding to provide another statewide imagery base, comparable to DOQs. The current cost of this would be roughly \$570,000. It is not required that these images actually be NAPP-based DOQs, it could include any data source that provides at least the resolution and precision of current DOQs. Alternatively, OGIS or state agencies could request for regular appropriations for this, or to have some regularly planned expenditure and financial source for this imagery. Also, we need to have recurring user needs analysis for remotely sensed data to justify these products.
3. Statewide image catalog - state agencies will create a single layer with geographic reference to aerial photos available to state agencies, with standard metadata. OR - as an interim product, a tabular list, or database with this information.

Our next meeting is 2/1/2001, where we will continue drafting the implementation plans for the four identified priorities, a task I anticipate requires two more meetings. Upon completion of that, we will compile a final report which I anticipate requires one more meeting. I estimate our completion of all of this by March 15, 2001.

Future: It was never the intent of this committee to be a standing committee, but rather to identify these goals and put into action a plan of obtaining them. Once that report is completed, it will no longer be necessary for the committee to continue, however the members may to decide to meet occasionally to update the plan if necessary and to monitor the progress of these goals (probably on the order of every 6 months).