



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
P.O. BOX 25287
DENVER, COLORADO 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 17, 1991

N16(472)

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Attention: Regional GIS Coordinators

From: Chief, Geographic Information Systems Division, WASO-Denver

Subject: GISD Staff Support to Regions

The purpose of this memorandum is to highlight the services that Geographic Information Systems Division (GISD) staff can provide during the transition period from direct WASO support to parks to direct Regional support to parks. This memorandum identifies some of the more common services. We will consider other requests not mentioned here on an ad hoc basis. All Regional requests for these services should be coordinated through the Regional GIS Coordinators. Also note, immediately below, the two additional program activities that significantly impact Regions and parks relative to successfully accomplishing the transition to direct Regional GIS support of parks.

The Natural Resources Directorate has recently completed a survey of the Regions to identify FTE and funding needs required for the full implementation of a GIS Program at each Region. FTEs have been requested for FY 92 to begin to fill the identified needs. In the future, a Servicewide budget initiative will likely be prepared to obtain the remaining required FTEs. During FY 92, GISD anticipates funding Regional and park GIS projects in the amount of \$400,000. These candidate projects have already been prioritized and submitted by the Regions and GISD will examine these requests in relation to the FTE survey mentioned above. A meeting of the Regional GIS Coordinators will be scheduled this winter to present the proposals for GISD review and final selection for funding. This meeting will also discuss the implementation of GIS across the Service.

BACKGROUND

As described in Dr. Hester's memorandum of June 6, 1991 (Subject: Role and Function of the Geographic Information Systems Division), during FY 1991 the Geographic Information Systems Division (GISD) of the National Park Service began to effect a new strategy for implementation of GIS across the Service. It was recognized that GISD could no longer directly service the burgeoning GIS needs of the NPS, and a course was charted for GIS implementation that relied on a partnership with the Regions to provide direct program support for the parks. This strategy parallels typical NPS organization/operations with WASO programs having complementary Regional programs that directly serve the parks.

However, GISD recognized that due to the highly technical/specialized nature of the GIS program, the shift from direct WASO technical support and data base development to parks to direct Regional support to parks cannot be accomplished immediately using existing Regional facilities and staff. The urgent need for Regions to establish Regional Technical Support Centers to support mushrooming park GIS needs has been clearly identified. This memorandum identifies the services which GISD will continue to provide to the field during the transition period.

We are not exactly certain about the duration of the transition to completely and effectively accomplish this major shift of technical support to the parks from WASO to the Regions. However, GISD is anticipating that FY 92 will see the accomplishment of the major portion of the required transition. GISD has targeted the end of FY 92 to accomplish this transition so that by October 1, 1992, GISD will no longer be needed to provide direct support to the parks on routine GIS activities.

In summary, the Geographic Information Systems Division (WASO) will continue to be the Service's office for policy formulation, program development and implementation, and technical expertise for GIS and remote sensing technologies. However, GISD is moving toward direct support only to Regional offices, Technical Support Centers and NPS Program Offices with parks getting direct support from the Regions.

The following is a description of most transition services provided by GISD and available to Regions and parks during FY 92. Regional requests for any of these services should be coordinated through the Regional GIS Coordinators.

DATA AND APPLICATIONS SERVICES:

- A. Provide assistance in using existing governmental digitizing contracts.**
- B. Provide information on the availability of existing digital data (e.g. DEM, DLG, NWI, etc.) on a quad sheet basis.**
- C. Provide assistance in identifying sources of data and understanding the quality and limitations of various types of data.**
- D. Provide assistance in ordering existing data in appropriate formats.**
- E. Provide assistance in using the USGS A-16 process for mapping services.**
- F. Provide instruction on procedures for linking existing and new DBMS attribute data bases to GRASS GIS data bases.**
- G. Provide assistance in the use of GRASS 4.0 (and older versions) and ELAS for data base construction and applications.**

H. Identify and certify support centers for doing remote sensing projects. Perform technical oversight of the work and QA/QC reviews of the final products. Additionally, GISD will perform certain requested remote sensing activities as a part of its techniques and procedures development responsibility.

I. Provide access to and assistance in using GISD's stereo zoom-transfer scope and produce plots using GISD's large format electrostatic color plotter.

J. Copy digital data from one media/format to desired media/format when Region or park needs this service.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE SERVICES:

A. Help identify appropriate software and hardware to meet specific needs.

B. Provide software, technical advice, and documentation on transferring data into GRASS from ARC/INFO, DLG, and SAGIS.

C. Provide recommendations and details for hardware and software procurement.

D. Assist Regions in the installation of hardware and software including a special training session for FY 92 installations.

E. Assist Regions in the distribution, installation, and support of GRASS 4.0 and updates.

PROGRAM SERVICES:

A. Assist in developing additional partnerships for funding and performing data base development and applications.

B. Provide assistance for staffing GIS positions through the distribution of a generic position description for a GIS Specialist and use of a data base of candidates.

C. Provide information on GIS training opportunities and host two major GIS users conferences in FY 92 (NPS GIS 91 and 1992 Annual GRASS Users Conference).

D. Assist in establishing Regional Technical Support Centers.

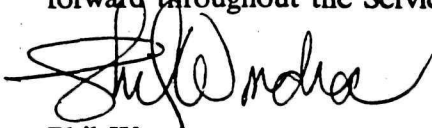
E. Provide an opportunity for internships at GISD for Regional and park staff.

F. Provide review and evaluation for existing GIS operations.

G. Provide assistance in the development of GIS Plans and review of Resource Management Plans.

H. Coordinate GIS-compatible data development by WASO program offices.

We recognize that this transition constitutes a major change in the way GIS and remote sensing activities will be carried out by the Service. We are going to do everything in our power to make it as painless as possible. We solicit your help in this endeavor, which should help move GIS forward throughout the Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Wondra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phil" and last name "Wondra" clearly distinguishable.

Phil Wondra

cc

ADNR - WASO 470
AQD - WASO 475 Denver
WRD - WASO 479 Fort Collins
WVD - WASO 490