

gis notes

The second Servicewide GIS Users' Conference (GIS91) was held Nov. 18-22 in Lakewood, Colo., bringing together for the first time in three years all NPS users of GIS, CAD, and automated mapping technologies. Attending were 194 Service people, representing 120 NPS units and all 10 Regions.

Jan van Wagtendonk of Yosemite NP opened the conference with a perceptive perspective on 20 years of GIS in the NPS. A poster session gave participants a chance to present their respective applications, illustrated by 54 posters from 44 NPS units. Posters included analysis of endangered species habitat, siting of park housing, use of global positioning systems, management of exotic species, monitoring of endangered species, analysis of Civil War battlegrounds, management of grazing, tracking of mining, analysis of aircraft-overflight noise, and analysis of visitation statistics, among many others.

Attendees voted Joshua Tree's poster on tortoise monitoring as Most Innovative; Yosemite won Best Looking; Colonial, Most Multi-disciplinary; and Colonial, Santa Monica Mountains, and Yosemite finished in a three-way tie for Best Use in Decision-making.

Plenary sessions featured presentations from the Information and Telecommunications and Geographic Information Systems Divisions, the Regional GIS coordinators, and 12 NPS program offices. Topics included Servicewide ADP standards; the status of hardware, software, and data in the Servicewide GIS program; GIS training; telecommunications; data issues (collection, standards, management, quality); the reorientation of the GIS Division; the status and direction of the Regional GIS programs; the current and intended use of GIS technology and sharing of GIS data by NPS program offices, and funding and staffing of GIS projects throughout the Service.

Ten technical workshops focused on Global Positioning Systems, Data Sources, Cave GIS, Position Description and Classification, Map Preparation, Electric Power, Hardware, Text Data in GRASS, Future Directions in GRASS, and Networking.

The conference provided a welcome and useful opportunity for GIS users from around the Service to share experiences and ideas, to hear about institutional and programmatic directions for the Servicewide program, and to learn about technical issues. In the three years since the last such gathering (at Luray, Va., 1988), the interest in, and use of, GIS technology has grown enormously and attendees voiced a common feeling that the conference was a valuable and timely event.

GIS93 has been set for Nov. 15-19, 1993, in Denver. See y'all there.

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In a rare conjunction of events, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), and Resource Technology 92 (RT92) will hold a joint congress and convention in Washington, DC, Aug. 3-7, marking the first time in 40 years that the ISPRS will meet in the United States.

Theme of the Congress is "Mapping and Monitoring Global Change," and between 7000 and 9000 surveyors, technicians, photogrammetrists, remote sensing and GIS specialists, educators, scientists, and

engineers from more than 80 countries are expected to attend, hear, and present papers in some 30 topic areas.

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