

Intermountain News

ASPRS Intermountain Region

Summer/Fall 2005

ASPRS Technical Meeting: Boise, Idaho Nov.3

The Boise Center Aerospace Laboratory at Idaho State University is hosting a cooperative technical meeting for the ASPRS Intermountain Region and the Northern Rockies URISA chapter. This full day event will take place on November 3, 2005, at the Idaho Water Center in Downtown Boise. The agenda will include technical talks by geotechnologies professionals from across the region, networking opportunities, and a tour of the Idaho Water Center.

At the end of the meeting, short sessions are allotted to conduct ASPRS and URISA member business. Following these sessions, there will be an informal gathering at the RAM Brewhouse on Broadway (walking distance from the IWC). We look forward to seeing you in November!

Registration includes lunch, presentations, and refreshments, and is free for ASPRS or NR URISA Members. Non-members will be charged a registration fee of \$10 to cover costs. To register, visit the meeting website: <http://geology.isu.edu/BCAL/events.htm> Please register by October 28.

There will be approximately ten presentations on the agenda, including: Bill Kramber, Idaho Department of Water Resources (“Applications of Landsat Based

Evapotranspiration Data at IDWR”); Tom Zajkowski, USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Application Center (“Remote Sensing Technology for Wildland Fire Managers”); Charlie Finley, Idaho State University (“Remote Sensing and Ground-based Methods for Assessing Rangeland Burn Severity and Fire-induced Water Repellency”); Chris Garrard, Utah State University (“A Web Archive of Satellite Imagery for the Intermountain Region”); Jennifer Rooker Jensen, University of Idaho (“Practical Application of Lidar Data for Inventory and Mapping of Mixed-Conifer Forest Stands in Northern Idaho”); Jason Carr, CH2M Hill (“CH2M HILL Integrates GIS and Remote Sensing into Business Groups”)

The Idaho Water Center is located at 322 E Front Street, on the corner of E Front and S Broadway. Parking is available at the Water Center for \$1.50 per hour. Downtown Boise has several options for quality lodging. If you need lodging recommendations or further information, please contact Jacob Mundt at mundjaco@isu.edu.

This event will be the first technical meeting the ASPRS Intermountain Region has sponsored in Idaho for a long time. The region executive committee is grateful to Jacob Mundt for taking the initiative to organize such a worthwhile meeting.



Idaho Water Center

Meeting Agenda

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Talks and demonstrations
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:20 am Talks and demonstrations
- 12:00 pm Lunch (Provided by Villano's Specialty Market)
- 1:00 pm Talks and demonstrations
- 2:30 pm Tour and flume demonstration
- 3:30 pm Wrap up, ASPRS member business
- 4:00 pm Social Event (At the Ram Brewhouse)

Region Activities

Second Alta Workshop

The second workshop of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers working on producing GIS and GPS lessons for the State Core Curriculum for these grades was held this July 15 - 18. There 8 teachers and trainers attending the workshop. These were some teachers that participated in the first workshop, held last July, plus a few newcomers.

Teachers GPSed many landmarks for the Town of Alta, entered them into ArcView, which they had been working with in their classrooms all during the year, attributing the data, and then hot linking it to pictures they took of the landmarks. There were students that presented some of the projects they had worked on over the last year.

People from UGIC and ASPRS were there as mentors to the teachers during the workshop. They volunteer their time to help the teachers with any real technical questions they might have.

During the next school year, there will be lesson developed by these teachers that will be submitted to the Board of Education to be included as Core Curriculum for the 4th through 6th grades.

SWUG Conference

The Intermountain Region went to the ESRI Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference in Park City September



Lloyd Blackburn manning the booth at SWUG

24-28 with a membership booth. Hundreds of GIS professionals from a five state region dropped by to chat, pick up copies of PE&RS and other ASPRS literature, and learn about upcoming events such as the Pecora Conference and the 2006 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Call for Nominations



Elections for new officers for the Intermountain Region will take place in early December and new officers will be installed at the beginning of 2006. Details will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Cindy Clark will be stepping down as President, Clay Conway as Vice

President, and Rich Warnick as Secretary / Treasurer and newsletter editor / webmaster. Lloyd Blackburn has another year left to serve in his three-year term as National Director.

Clay Conway, who will be running for president, is the only candidate on the slate at this point. All members of the region are encouraged to consider these elections and to consider stepping forward to offer their services or to make nominations. It would be great to have at least two full slates of candidates. We need candidates for the offices of president, vice president, and secretary / treasurer. We are also considering the formation of chapters in our far-flung region, with heads of these chapters serving as ex officio members of the Executive Committee for the Region. We would like to have newsletters at least every two months in the future and thus are seeking a newsletter editor – any volunteers/suggestions? We also need a webmaster for the regional website; again, any volunteers/suggestions? These jobs are appointed, not elected – please volunteer or help us find someone.

To be placed on the slate for elections or to volunteer as newsletter editor or webmaster, please forward pertinent information to:

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Get Involved with GIS Day

On Thursday, November 17, the State of Utah's Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) along with Intermountain Region of ASPRS, UGIC, the Utah Coalition for GIS Education in K-12, Salt Lake Community College, and the Geography Alliance will sponsor the 8th State of Utah GIS Day. It will be held at the Larry H. Miller Campus of Salt Lake Community College, 9750 South 300 West in Sandy.

The event will be attended by over 400 students from four school districts, accompanied by teachers, administrators, and Utah State Office of Education specialists. Also attending will be members of local 4-H clubs. Presenters will include professionals from government agencies and educators, as well as students from Hillsdale Elementary and Escalante Elementary. This GIS Day event is open to the public, part of a worldwide effort to spread GIS awareness and knowledge. For more information, contact Cindy Clark.

Annual Conference Planning

Planning is well underway for the ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference to be held in Reno, Nevada, May 1-5 at the Reno Hilton Hotel. This conference will be jointly hosted by the Northern California Region and the Intermountain Region.

The theme of the conference is "Prospecting for Geospatial Information Integration," focusing on new capabilities and technologies. The conference organizers will present an exciting program of interest to professionals in all aspects of remote sensing, geographic information systems, land and natural resources management, environmental management, photogrammetry, lidar and IFSAR, mapping, charting, and geodesy. Special sessions will be devoted to career development. Participants will learn about the latest instruments, analysis techniques and sources for geospatial data and how their use and applica-



tions can integrate geospatial information. Interact with industry colleagues, see products from 100+ vendors and get hands-on knowledge of new hardware and software applications.

The next planning meeting will be on November 13 in Reno. Volunteers are still needed. If you wish to get involved in hosting this exciting conference, contact Alan Mikuni: amikuni@usgs.gov.

Intermountain Region Digital Image Archive (IRDIAC)

Prof. R. Douglas Ramsey and his Utah State University team have made it easier than ever to obtain imagery of the region where we live and work.

The Intermountain Region Digital Image Archive Center (IRDIAC) is a new geospatial clearinghouse established to assist with the development of tools and decision support systems for natural resource management using remote sensing. The archive also stores, processes, and disseminates, through the Internet, remotely sensed information to state and federal collaborators and the public within the Intermountain Region. Information delivery is focused on the integration with natural resource monitoring programs and decision support systems to aid managers, scientists, and policy makers identify landscape change, determine causative factors, and develop management strategies.

IRDIAC focuses on five of the 12 NASA national priority application areas, namely Agricultural Efficiency, Carbon Management, Ecological Forecasting, Invasive Species (such as cheat grass and dyer's woad), and Water Management (including wetland ecosystems).

The URL for IRDIAC is <http://earth.gis.usu.edu/>. Here is some of what you can find there:

(1) Image search and free download of Landsat ETM+ scenes (Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico) and Aster images (most of Utah and Nevada, and parts of 7 other states).

(2) Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project (SWReGAP) datasets. SWReGAP was initiated in 1999 as a multi-institutional cooperative effort to map and

assess biodiversity for a five-state region (AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT) comprising approximately 560,000 square miles in the southwestern U.S. A seamless landcover map for the region was completed in September 2004. There are also datasets available for surface geology and landforms.

(3) State of Utah and individual county Landsat mosaics in MrSID format.

(4) Software tools including StatMod Zone, an award-winning ArcView extension that helps users create logistic regression and CART models.

(5) A web-based Critical Lands Mapping Tool. Model wildlife habitat, slope, lakes, streams, wetlands, and agriculture. Download model results in TIFF and PNG format.



Landsat scenes available from IRDIAC

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