NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Derek Nelson)

   Meeting Participants:
   1. (presenter) Matt Robinson, NPS, GIS Specialist ,Appalachian NST, Harpers Ferry, WV
   2. (presenter) Peter Bonsall, NPS, National Trails System, WASO, Washington, DC
   3. (moderator) Derek Nelson, NPS, GIS Specialist, 9 National Historic Trails and Route 66, Santa Fe, NM
   4. (note taker) Matt Jagunic, NPS, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Captain John Smith NHT, Annapolis, MD
   5. Aaron Seifert, Arizona Trail Association, GIS Director, Flaggstaff, AZ
   6. Charlynne Smith, North Carolina State University, Overmountain Victory NHT, Raleigh, NC
   7. Chris Barrett, USFS, GIS Specialist, Nez Perce NHT, Flagstaff, AZ
   8. Coreen Donnelly, NPS Landscape Architect, National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, NM
   9. David Fothergill, USFS Region 1 (Northern), Forest Landscape Architect/Pacific Northwest NST, North Fork of the Flathead, Hay Creek, Townsend, MT
   10. Don Owen, Partnership for the National Trail System, Washington, DC
   11. Gary Werner, Partnership for the National Trail System, Washington, DC
   12. Gita Urban-Mathieux, USGS, National Geospatial Program, Reston, VA
   13. Guthrie Alexander, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Golden, CO
   14. Heidi Hartman, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL
   15. Jim Kuiper, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL
   16. Kerry Shakarjian, Continental Divide Trail Coalition GIS Program Manager (NPS/FS affiliate)
   17. Konnie Westcott, Argonne National Labratories, Lemont, IL
   18. Logan Shank, BLM Nevada State office, Sprint Team Contractor, Reno, NV
   19. Mary Greenwood, USFS Region 2 (Rocky Mountain), Recreation Planner, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Kemmerer, WY
   20. Roland Duhame, Environmental Contractor with Data Center at University of Rhode Island, Washington-Rochambeaux Revolutionary Route NHT, Kingston, RI
   21. Rowdy Nelson, (no affiliation given) GIS Specialist, Laramie, WY
   22. Sarah Rivera, NPS National Trails ITM, Salt Lake City, UT
   23. Stafford Hazelett, Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), Portland, OR
   24. Tiffany Stram, Ice Age Trail Alliance, GIS Specialist, Cross Plains, WI

2. **Announcements & Info. from Audience**
   a. Network Announcements
      i. Moderator update
      ii. Open invitation for folks to volunteer to join co-administrator role
   b. National Trail Announcements
      i. National Outdoor Recreation Conference, May 1-4, 2017. Scottsdale, Arizona
      ii. American Trails International Trails Symposium, May 7-10, 2017. Dayton, Ohio
      iii. Lewis and Clark NHT GIS Analysis of Land Cover, Ecosystems, and Conservation Status published in Volume 37 (1), 2017 issue of *Natural Areas Journal*

3. **Discussion Topic**

   Facilitator – Peter Bonsall, NPS and Matt Robinson, NPS
   Developing a comprehensive National Trails System GIS data layer and web map

In September, a concerted effort was made to aggregate a National Trails System GIS layer for use in Argon National Laboratory's energy corridor assessment tool. As a result, all of the National Trails System data is now aggregated in one location. The next step is to discuss how we can come to a consensus and make a public GIS layer, especially in light of the National Trails System Act 50th Anniversary. Topics for discussion may include 1) Strategy for implementation; 2) FTDS attributes; 3) Hosting the data; and 4) How to address sensitivity issues.

What do discussion topic presenters want to get out of this call?
- 1 person to be official data steward for each national trail
- Commitment to periodic update of data (every 6 months), reminder call bi-annually
- Determine which trail data can be available to share with public
- Follow data standards, file size and metadata to relieve sensitivity issues (boundaries, etc). North Country and Appalachian Trail has some good CYA notes

How is this different from 2016 call?
- Several NPS trails are moving forward with this (all scenic trails (9) except NE, not sure how many Historic Trails (8)
- Diiferent from previous presentation: Standards piece (file size, documentation, etc.)
- Continued discussion on data attribute standards
- Data attributes do NOT need to be fully figured out before we pursue with this effort
- No longer a "data set", referred to now as a "multi-data model" – each person responsible for data continues to maintain their data in a similar format so that a single web map could be created.

Presentation Notes:
- See presentation outline
- Need for National Trails Collection

Questions/Discussion:
Comment from Jim Kuiper: As a consumer of trail data (publisher?), we often need to use data for a large region (such as Western USA). Need for a federally designated trail being distinguished from connecting trails or regional trails. Would this solution provide that differentiation? Very interested in the progress and this format would be very helpful to Argonne.

Q: Roland Duhaime: Good topic to be discussing as many trails are using ArcGIS online. Having guides to designate as the "official" trail is very helpful. In the past I have shared data only to have an administrator move the information. What is the best way to keep information to avoid confusion with turnover relative to which user posts the data?
A: Excellent point, is a limitation currently. There is the ability to assign accounts to organizations rather than an individual (referred to as "headless accounts") but has been difficult. Could be purused as an option.

Comment from Don Owen: It is fantastic that this idea has continued to move forward. Has been goal of Partnership for National Trails for a long time.

Q: Gary Werner: PNTS has started website for National Trails 50th Anniversary (called Trails 50). Could this ArcGIS online site be able to be linked?
A: Yes, the website link could be embedded once it was live.

Comment from Gary Werner: Would prefer a 6 month data update rather than once per year.
Discussion on comment: The Congressionally-designated Historic Trail routes don't change that much over the years, can't speak to recreation trails. AZ Trail Association has updates every few months, re-routes, changes into trail surfaces/widths. Perhaps the easiest way would be to have everyone post individually and update changes as needed (which was proposed by group).

Q: Tiffany Stram: If the data are downloadable, is there concern about a private company using the data for profit or is this not a concern? Is this specified in the use constraints?

A: Not specified in use constraints. Restrictions can be documented in metadata. If federally funded, the information is public domain. Don't have to give it out to public without request, but have obligation to provide information. Potentially, a private company could use this information. But they already have access to non-official information and can't keep people from doing as it is not trademarked or copywritten. Data for this exercise would be limited to trail centerline only, not detailed information on recreation opportunites or other data.

Comment from Gita Urban-Mathieux – USGS has made data publicly available, which was used by private folks for profit in past.

Comment from Aaron Siefert – AZ has used the private folks using data as a way to promote the trails. Various apps and other folks have appreciated the "official" AZ trail route and publish data in one location for everyone to grab. Would rather have correct information out to public than to worry about incorrect data being used or promoted.

Q: Gita Urban- Mathieux: Will data be available to non federal agencies?
A: Yes, anyone with a free ArcGIS online account can access this information. Which is one of the most compelling reasons that we'd like to see this pursued.

Next Steps:
Take spreadsheet that Peter Bonsall has generated and identify trail data stewards for each National Trail so that they are made aware of this effort. Updates are needed before distribution.

If you are trail contact, please email Peter Bonsall

Peter Bonsall peter_bonsall@nps.gov
Matt Robinson matt_robinson@nps.gov

Post-call Discussion:

Comment from Derek Nelson – All 9 trails managed by National Trails Intermountain Region have been approved for uploading to ArcGIS online using agreed upon data standards.
Discussion on Comment: Could you share how these 9 NHT's shared this information so other trails can follow suit? Could there be a scheduled decision point to go live with this?

Aaron Siefert offers use of AZ trail data, 15 or 16 trail currently have data uploaded. Critical mass is imminent, next step would be to build out this shared group and updating with trail data stewards from spreadsheet.

Comment: Consider utilizing National Trail System Map and Guide color standards for symbology for trail alignment. (from Peter – we have that color scheme to use if the group decides this works)

Comment: Derek has a "headless account" and would offer to host the web map, but wants to defer to Matt R and Peter. Matt R wants to talk with Paul Vorhees before pursuing.

4. **Future Meeting Dates & Topics**

a. **March 21, 2017 – TBD (Formal Presentation)**
b. **April 18, 2017 – TBD (Group Discussion)**
c. **May 16, 2017 – TBD (Formal Presentation)**

We always welcome suggestions for additional topics for discussion or presentations. Please contact Ryan Cooper or Derek Nelson with your suggestions!

NTS GIS Network Email List: ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov
NTS GIS Network SharePoint: https://portal.doi.net/nps/DNT/NTS%20GIS%20Network/default.aspx

NTS GIS Network Mission:
We established the NTS GIS Network as a way to connect the diverse array of National Trails System staff and partners who use GIS systems and products in their work. One of our goals is to facilitate the sharing of information and tools that help us do our jobs more efficiently and innovatively. Because the national trails system is managed as a collaboration of agencies and partner organizations, the NTS GIS Network is open to anyone.

From Chat Box:

from Stafford Hazelett to Everyone:
Stafford Hazelett, member Oregon-California Trails Association, located in Portland, Oregon, area, researching and documenting National Historic Trails in Oregon, California, and Nevada, so far
from Stafford Hazelett (privately):
Should we talk about returning the Trimble GPS? I still have it.
from Kerry Shakarjian to Everyone:
Kerry Shakarjian - Continental Divide NST GIS manager/Continental Divide Trail Coalition/NPS/FS
from Matt Jagunic, NPS, Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT to Everyone:
Matt Jagunic, NPS, Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, Annapolis, MD
from Tiffany Stram to Everyone:
Tiffany Stram, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Cross Plains, WI
from Peter Bonsall to Everyone:
Peter Bonsall - NPS, National Trails System, WASO
from Konnie Wescott to Everyone:
Konnie Wescott, Argonne National Laboratory
from Sarah Rivera to Everyone:
Sarah Rivera, NPS, National Trails Intermountain Region, Salt Lake City, UT
from Gita Urban-Mathieux to Everyone:
Gita Urban-Mathieux - USGS-National Geospatial Program, Reston, VA
from Chris Barrett - Forest Service to Everyone:
Chris Barrett, USFS, Flagstaff AZ, Nez Perce National Historic Trail- GIS
from David Fothergill to Everyone:
David Fothergill - Forest Service, PNNST and NPNHT
from Logan Shank (Geospatial Sprint - NVSO) to Everyone:
Logan Shank - Geospatial Sprint Team Contractor - BLM - NVSO
from Roland Duhaime to Everyone:
Roland Duhaime, Washington Rochambeau NHT and Northeast Region
from Aaron Seifert, GISP to Everyone:
I joined late so I am wondering if the website has been published with all the NTS in one location/ArcGIS online
from Roland Duhaime to Everyone:
HI Aaaron, I saw an offline Excel spreadsheet that pointed to the layers, as part of this WebEx
from Roland Duhaime to Everyone:
However, I don't believe they had it online.
from Tiffany Stram to Everyone:
If the data are downloadable, is there concern about a private company using the data for profit or is this not a concern? Is this specified in the use constraints?
from Tiffany Stram to Everyone:

Thanks - good answers!

from Stafford Hazelett to Everyone:

I am looking forward to extending this discussion. And a very big Thank You to Matt and best wishes on the new job. Stafford

from Peter Bonsall to Everyone:

peter_bonsall@nps.gov

from Don Owen (privately):

Good luck, Matt J!

to Don Owen (privately):

Thanks Don!

from Aaron Seifert, GISP to Everyone:

Aaron Seifert GIS Director for Arizona Trail Association - ANST aaron@aztrail.org published on ArcGIS online as public feature service

from Charlynne Smith to Everyone:

Thanks Peter & Matt, great presentation of the process!

from Roland Duhaime to Everyone:

I agree, thanks Peter and Matt.