NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

   Meeting Participants:

   1. (presenter) Lisa Johnson, PAD-US Coordinator, Boise State University, Boise, ID
   2. (moderator) Peter Bonsall, NPS, National Trails System, WASO, Washington, DC
   3. (note taker) Ryan Cooper, NPS, Geographer, Lewis and Clark NHT, Omaha, NE
   4. Dan Wiley, NPS, Chief of Resources Stewardship, Lewis and Clark NHT, Omaha, NE
   5. Linda Helm, NPS, Environmental Protection Specialist, Lewis and Clark NHT, Omaha, NE
   6. Lindsey Kiesz, USFS Region 6 (Pacific Northwest), Pacific Northwest NST, Wenatchee, WA
   7. Megan Wargo, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Director of Land Protection, San Mateo, CA
   8. Stafford Hazelett, Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), Portland, OR
   9. Stu Gregory, USFS Region 4 (Intermountain), RIDB Program Manager, Salt Lake City, UT
   10. Tiffany Stram, Ice Age Trail Alliance, GIS Specialist, Cross Plains, WI

2. **Announcements & Information from Audience**

   a. National Outdoor Recreation Conference, May 1-4, 2017. Scottsdale, Arizona
   b. American Trails International Trails Symposium, May 7-10, 2017. Dayton, Ohio
   c. NTS GIS Network on the PNTS Website: http://pnts.org/new/national-trails-system-gis-network/

3. **Discussion Topic**

   Presenter – Lisa Johnson, PAD-US Coordinator, Boise State University

   America's Public Parks and Protected Areas: Introducing the Improved Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US)

   America's tremendous asset base of protected areas is critical for conservation planning, natural resource management, outdoor recreation, public health and more. These include national parks and forests, wildlife sanctuaries, state beaches and parks, county open space, city parks, land trust preserves, conservation easements, marine protected areas and more. Altogether, over 3 billion acres (with overlapping designations) are managed by thousands of public agencies and non-profit organizations that serve current and future generations. A complete and current database of these places is a critical tool to achieve organizational missions across jurisdictions. The 2016 PAD-US update (1.4), published by USGS, includes the best available geospatial representation of federal, state and other protected areas with descriptors like owner / manager name, designation type, unit name and other information useful for various applications. Join us to learn about America's official inventory of protected areas, applications, relationships to National Trails data, our strategy to complete the inventory by 2020, viewers, tools and opportunities to engage.

   Notes:
   PAD-US includes natural, recreational, historic, and cultural areas. Public land and non-profit
   Includes small sites to huge sites; recreation areas to habitat; 3 billion acres with 120,000 units (defined as unique areas by name).
   Published by USGS; includes ownership, management, and overlapping designations (e.g. wilderness areas)

   Official layer of protected lands; currently about 50% of the local government parks and lands are included.
   Owner vs. Manager: owner is the holder of the title; manager runs operations.

   Applications – PAD-US is currently used on the USGS National Map, Google Maps, updated to Federal Lands Layers, Census.
   - Species Conservation – USGS Core Science Systems – GAP "keeping common species common."
   - Habitat Conservation – NAWPA Committee nawpacommittee.org
   - Wildfire Decisions – land management data is crucial; name and designation type. Trusted data source
   - DOI Emergency Response – situational awareness; incident reports to Secretary. Best source of aggregated information
   - Recreation.gov – Recreation one stop for trip planning; compliment RIDB
   - Park Rx – mental/physical benefits to parks and health. Trust for Public Lands ParkServe. Goal for 2018 – all urban parks included in PAD-US.
   - Even more applications in the future.

   How PAD-US is built: states, Federal Agencies, NGOs.
   State Steward Network – each state designates 1 or 2 agencies; also includes universities and NGOs. Many states effective, others need improvement.

   Federal Lands Working Group – 14 land managing agencies and stakeholders support aggregation of federal land ownership and management designations into PAD-US. Sharing best practices. More information: gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus

Get Data – download, kmz, web mapping services

What's next for PAD-US? – complete inventory in next 3 years. "Every park, everywhere."
www.protectedlands.net/vision
- Finish local/regional parks
- Improve federal/tribal data – no tribal parks are included at present
- Support states
- Make system efficient
- More outreach/user support

Support – data stewards need support PAD-US, encourage use, and help fill gaps in information, share examples and help increase awareness.

ProtectedLands.net – free for public use. Green Info Network
PADUS/Google Street/Birds Eye View
Reports coming soon.

Question: How accurate is the edge-matching between agencies?
Answer: Most are not lined up
FLWG is reviewing a new tool for PADUS 2.0 to be used at 1:24000 scale in 2.0 update.

PAD-US requires polygons. Trail lines don't meet requirement. Protected Trail Corridor Only.

4. **Future Meeting Dates & Topics**
   a. **May 16, 2017** – TBD
   b. **June 20, 2017** – TBD
   c. **July 18, 2017** – TBD

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

NTS GIS Network Email List: ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov
NTS GIS Network Website: http://pnts.org/new/national-trails-system-gis-network/

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.