NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 1:00 pm Mountain Time (12pm PT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET)

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Peter Bosnall/Kerry Shakarjian)

   Meeting Attendees:
   1. Taylor Willow, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and Geospatial Resource Assistant, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Office (Presenter)
   2. Peter Bosnall - National Trails System Program Specialist, NPS (moderator)
   3. Kerry Shakarjian - NPS GIS Specialist (moderator)
   4. Tiffany Stram - GIS/IT Specialist, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Cross Plains, WI
   5. Jennifer Tripp - Pacific Crest Trail Association
   6. Johanna -
   7. Nikki Grant-Hoffman, National Conservation Lands, CO
   8. Jaime Tompkins -
   9. TJ Broom -
   10. Anthony Tridente -
   11. Victoria Smith-Campbell - USFS Region 2 GIS Coordinator

2. **Announcements & Information from Audience**
   a. [Hike the Hill 2020](#), Washington DC, February 8 - 13, 2020
   b. [35th Annual Corps Network National Conference](#), Washington DC, February 9 - 12, 2020
   c. [ESRI Federal GIS Conference](#), Washington DC, February 11 - 12, 2020
   d. Other Announcements?

3. **Discussion Topic**

   Presenter: Taylor Willow, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and Geospatial Resource Assistant, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Office

   Spatially Tracking CDT Project Work to Improve Accountability and Identify Trends

   Each year, the Continental Divide Trail Administrator allocates CDT funding to projects through an online proposal system. This process was previously based in SharePoint and included no spatial component other than an optional shapefile or map attachment. The Trail Administrator required the addition of spatial locations for projects to help track work on the CDT through time, and to improve accountability for funding decisions.

   In order to improve efficiency, we developed an integrated workflow using SharePoint to collect and store project proposal information, Survey123 to collect and store spatial locations for projects, and ArcGIS Online web mapping to display the points and information together. The web map is filterable by year and funding decision, enabling the Trail Administrator to view the distribution of the current year's proposals and to take a retrospective look at historical funding and notice any spatial patterns that may be emerging.

   Join us to learn about how this new process was developed, and how spatial data is supporting funding and management decisions on the Continental Divide Trail.

   Notes:
   - Spatially-enabled system for tracking project proposals on the Continental Divide Trail (CDT)
   - Forest Service is administrator of the CDT with funding coming from Washington Office
   - Funding is distributed based on priority projects to FS Regions and other agencies if needed (BLM, NPS, etc.)
   - Project proposals are submitted early spring for next fiscal year by field level offices
   - Projects are housed in SharePoint Lists and its requested to provide a spatial file for location of project
     - location file attachments were not consistent (shapefile, kml, pdf)
   - Needed to visualize the distribution of project proposals for better tracking and decision making
     - Web map was the goal to show projects that was easy to use and informative
   - Keep process easy for non technical users while using the same SharePoint workflow for project submittals
   - Decided to use points for easier methods of data location submission verses submitting project location trail lines which are more difficult to work with in spatial data
   - Using SharePoint, Survey123 and ArcGIS Online widget to submit

- ○ Step 1: Sharepoint is still being used for project submission. SharePoint automatically creates a projectID
  - ○ Step 2: Survey123 project location entered within SharePoint widget for ArcGIS Online
- Not concerned with being accurate about projects locations, asking for general locations
- Data is displayed in ArcGIS Online and can be viewed by administrators to determine project decisions/funding
- Join spatial data with SharePoint data using the ProjectID to show all the SharePoint data within the ArcGIS Online map
- Only Forest Service can access SharePoint. Other agencies need to contact CDT Administrator directly and the information is hand entered
- Transition was smooth for users using the spatial component with high data entry rate
- Enables the ability to look at the history of funding and reveals patterns through time
- Question: Accomplishments being tracked as well? Potentially get on the ground reporting
  - ○ Yes, accomplishment reporting occurs in fall
    - ■ Using the same ProjectID as the link to the proposal to accomplishment and location
    - ■ Still in the works, not as smooth as the proposals due to lumping accomplishments or reporting additional accomplishments not in a proposal due to external funding

4. **Future Meeting Dates & Topics**
   a. **December 17, 2019** - No call this month, enjoy the holidays!
   b. **January 21, 2020** - Sarah E. Rivera and Brian Deaton, GIS Specialists for NPS National Trails, National Trails Near Real-Time Mapping of the Pony Express Re-Ride
   c. **February 18, 2020** - 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 Email Address: ntsgis@nps.gov
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.