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News From and For The Washington GIS Community

WAURISA

The Washington State Chapter of
URISA – The Association for GIS Professionals



FALL 2012 – WINTER 2013

WWW.WAURISA.ORG

ISSUE 29

GIS GLOWS IN WASHINGTON FIRE SEASON

By: Eadie Kaltenbacher, Summit Feature Editor

This past summer, thousands of acres in central and eastern Washington were charred by dozens of wildfires. GIS was essential at each stage, from planning the initial response to making decisions to providing information to the public during the recovery phase. *The Summit* spoke with three professionals to discuss the different roles they played in fighting the fires over the summer. We start with Lynn Palmer, who used traditional GIS techniques to provide the initial response to a high-complexity fire. Next, we speak with Jason Eklund, who used the latest technologies to develop interactive web maps for the fire response in his area. Finally, we hear from Doug Bleeker about the impact of GIS on his role as Incident Commander, and how his team relied on GIS to make decisions.

Part 1: Providing the Initial Response to a Complex Fire

Lynn Palmer is a dispatch supervisor and among her other duties, she is the GIS Coordinator for RiverCom, the 9-1-1 dispatch center in Wenatchee. She was answering calls at RiverCom on the night of September 7, 2012 when a major lightning storm struck. There were hundreds of lightning strikes, and over 30 fires started, igniting the Wenatchee Fire Complex. In the first two days, the 9-1-1 center was overwhelmed by more than 2,000 calls on their six phone lines.

***GIS was essential at each stage,
from planning the initial response to
making decisions to providing
information to the public during the
recovery phase***

Spread over more than 100 square miles, the fire complex contained at least eight separate fires. It was so large and complex that it was classified as a Type 1 Incident, which is the highest complexity, and assigned a team with the most training and experience. Palmer had recently taken a class in GIS for Incident Management, and was assigned to the incident command post as a GIS Trainee.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello GIS Colleagues! It's the time of year to be thankful and reflective and so I thought it might be nice to share with you what being President of Washington URISA has meant to me over the last two years. Most importantly I want those of you who are thinking "I could never be a board member or president" to keep on reading and perhaps be inspired.

I was never more surprised than when I became the president of a professional organization. Believe me, I'm more of an ideas person and like keeping the engine running behind the scenes. I am happy to interject an idea when I think I have a good one. But more typically I sit in the corner and listen and process what I'm hearing. I am thankful that fate dropped me into a leadership position and here's why:

1. I met great leaders in the GIS profession. My circle of colleagues grew exponentially. And I found that while they are all capable people, they are really just people like you and me. They are all very approachable.
2. I got to see very professional people act professionally in difficult situations. For me, as an introvert and someone lacking some of those 'soft people skills' this was an invaluable learning opportunity. And you don't really get that opportunity often. Tough decisions, awkward situations, rowing up that proverbial creek without a paddle... ever been there? Well we were a few times and I got to see and feel a community of professionals pull together and strive to do the right thing. They did it with polite manners and respectful demeanor, and I'm ever so grateful that those people were part of my team.
3. I now know how organizations are run. It's good insight to have, whether it's the PTA at your school or the GIS group you've thought about joining. They have similar structures and goals. It's good to know what that is like for many aspects of your life. The experience gives you a broader understanding of how things work in the world.

I always felt intimidated by those "leadership meetings" at the WAURISA conference. Is there a secret handshake? Do you have to commit to something? Do they only let you in if you are already a leader? The answers are no, no, and no. Absolutely anyone who is attending the conference can attend that meeting.

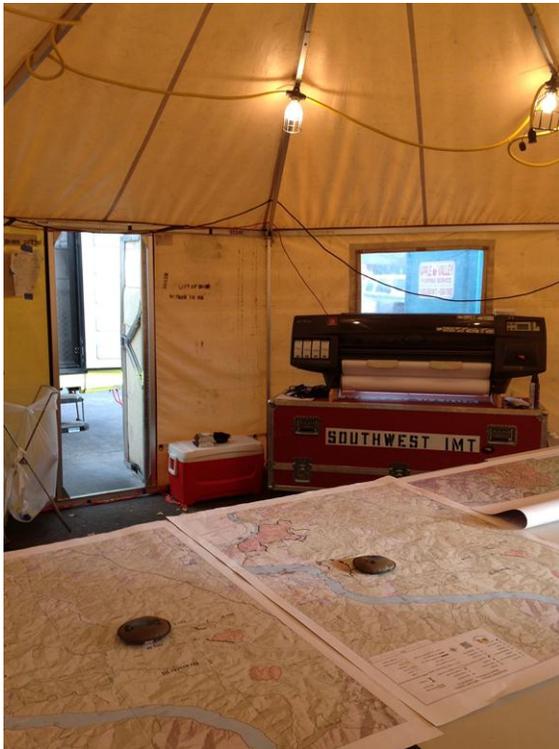
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GIS GLOWS IN WASHINGTON FIRE SEASON

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The command post was established in several yurts at Wenatchee River County Park. The GIS team, which consisted of a leader, a GIS Specialist, and two to three GIS trainees, set up in a 45 foot long motor home with an adjacent yurt for the printers. Palmer's first task was to create briefing maps showing the fire boundary, along with known water sources and vegetation, structures and transportation corridors. Next, she made maps for the incident action plans. These included aviation maps, transportation and road closure maps, and infrared maps. Infrared data came from a team that flew over the fire area at night to collect the data. In the morning, the GIS team could consume this data to produce maps and print them on two high-speed plotters in the yurt.

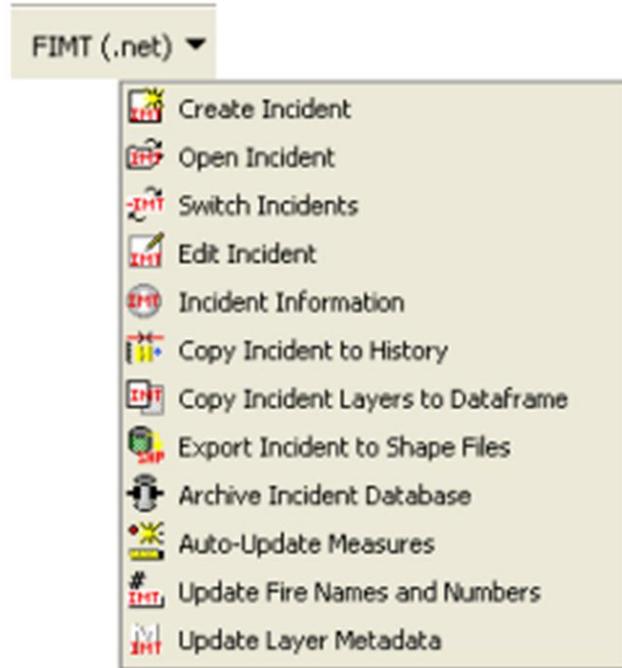


Maps in the GIS yurt at the Wenatchee Fire Complex

These maps would show the progression of the fire over time. They were also used by fire behavior specialists to predict how the fire might travel, and help determine what areas might need to be evacuated. Palmer also received GPS data with the locations of drop points (used by helicopters to transfer supplies and other items to the firefighters) and the fire edge.

When the GPS receivers came back to the command post, Palmer used an application called DNRGarmin to upload the data from the receivers into ArcMap. Another tool that proved useful was FIMT (Fire Incident Management Tool) which is a free download from the Bureau of Land Management. This tool provided built-in symbology and automated editing tools to save time.

This fire complex was especially difficult to manage, as it had eight different branches. Usually a fire will have one or two. Every branch had its own management system, so Palmer was busy filling requests for each branch. She and her team made piles of printed maps. After seven days, Palmer was relieved by another GIS Analyst. The fires continued to burn for several weeks, and as they wrapped up, the GIS work turned towards rehabilitation: helping to inform decisions about repairing roads and other general cleanup.



A screenshot of the Bureau of Land Management's Fire Incident Management Tool (FIMT)

See: GIS Glows in Washington Fire Season. Page 3

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GIS GLOWS IN WASHINGTON FIRE SEASON

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Part 2: Developing a Web Mapping Application

Near Ellensburg, the two major fires were the Taylor Bridge Fire in August and the Table Mountain Complex in September. The Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for both events, and they called upon County GIS resources to help with response and recovery.

Jason Eklund, the GIS Coordinator of Kittitas County, participated in the response to both fires. When the Taylor Bridge Fire flared up, his first approach was to create layers representing the fire perimeter, road blocks and evacuation zones, and add these layers to the County's existing Web ADF (Application Developer Framework) map application. However, on the second day, the server received about 14,000 hits (compared with 18,000 hits in an average month) which overwhelmed the GIS server.

The Kittitas County Information Technology department had recently purchased a subscription to ArcGIS Online, but Eklund hadn't yet had the chance to use it. He was contacted by Esri's Olympia office with offers of assistance getting set up. Solution Engineers Shane Clarke and Scott Moore from Esri worked with Eklund to get an ArcGIS online interactive map up and running. For Eklund, the main advantage of this map (aside from the ability to support the huge volume of users) was that layers and symbology he created could be extracted by third parties and used directly in other applications such as ArcGIS Desktop, and the ArcGIS app for mobile devices. This feature meant that Eklund didn't need to spend time exporting shapefiles and attaching them to emails, and the recipients didn't need to spend time re-creating his symbology. Agencies that used these layers included the state Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Social & Health Services.



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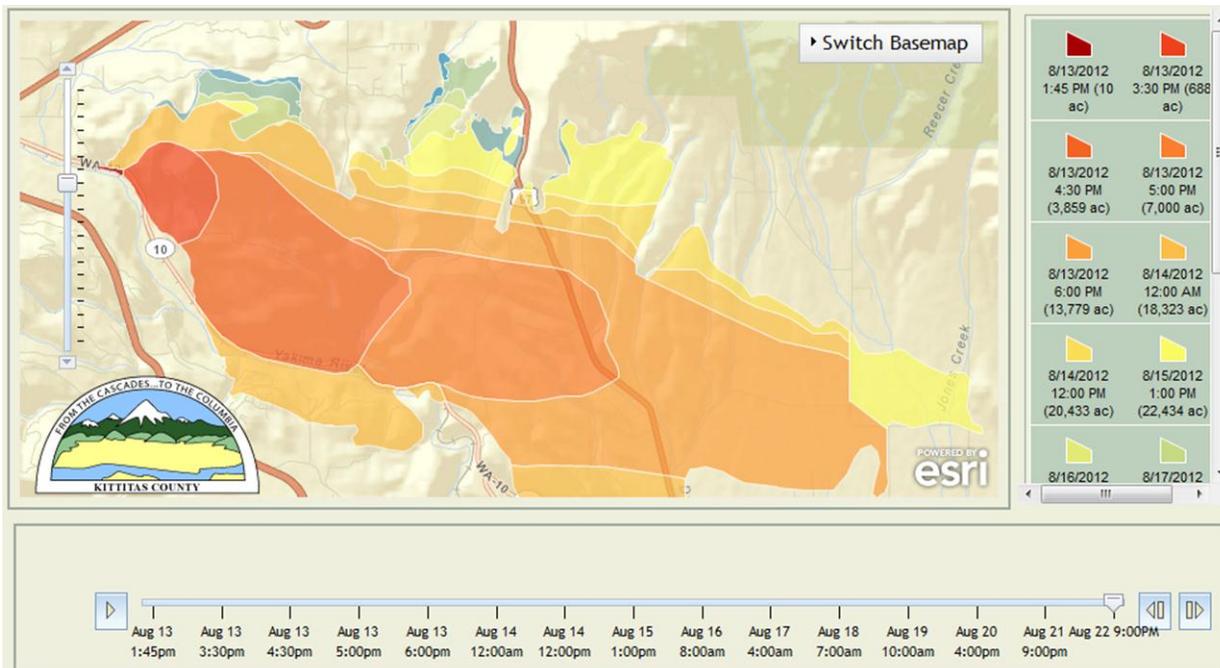


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Another useful feature was the Search by Address functionality. When members of the public called the EOC, staff could input their address and determine if they were inside an evacuation area, and if so, where nearby shelters were located. Furthermore, staff could provide direction to evacuees trying to reach shelters and avoid blocked roads.



A screenshot of the Kittitas County Taylor Bridge Fire interactive map

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GIS GLOWS IN WASHINGTON FIRE SEASON

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An interactive map showing the progression of the Taylor Bridge Fire can be viewed at:

<http://gis.co.kittitas.wa.us/tbfireprogression/default.html>.

Other maps of the Taylor Bridge Fire, including the interactive map used in coordinating the response, static maps, and mobile device maps, can be found by following the links at: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/response/20120813-fire/default.asp>.

Part 3: Making Informed Decisions with GIS

Doug Bleeker, one of Spokane County Fire District 9's Deputy Chiefs, was a Trainee Incident Commander for two Type 3 (local-scale) fires over the summer: the Douglas County Complex near Mansfield in July, and the Apache Pass Fire near Creston in September. As Incident Commander, Bleeker was one of the decision-makers who relied on GIS data to help inform his choices. GIS data is critical for consolidating and visualizing information, which leads to better fire management decisions. While a Type 3 Incident Response Team does not include dedicated GIS technicians, Bleeker does see the value in GIS. His team's approach was to collect GIS datasets and view them in DeLorme's XMap (a GIS data viewing application).

One of the requirements of the Situation Unit Leader is mapping support. At the beginning of every shift, a briefing map was produced to show the current situation and establish geographical divisions of the fire into manageable sections. Command staff created daily objectives for each section. Driven by these objectives, the Situation Unit Leader produced smaller paper maps for the crews to bring with them to the field.

Maps are also used to help predict fire behavior, as they display two of the three major factors in fire behavior: terrain and fuel. The third factor, weather, is provided from the National Weather Service but is not integrated into the maps. With these data layers, fire managers could envision where and how the fire was likely to spread, which helped command staff decide what fire-fighting tactics to apply. If the fire was likely to spread to populated areas, Bleeker reviewed the data to decide whether to issue an evacuation order, and what areas would be covered by that order. He studied the maps to find changes in the size of the fire over time. If it was growing, he might elevate its status to Type 2; or conversely, if it was shrinking, perhaps he could begin the demobilization process.

With these data layers, fire managers could envision where and how the fire was likely to spread, which helped command staff decide what fire-fighting tactics to apply

One of the most essential datasets was property ownership. Fire management teams build maps showing the locations of lands owned by federal or state authorities in the area of the fire. This data was necessary to coordinate firefighting efforts with different agencies, since a team's authority is only gained by delegation from the local fire control agencies. "I can't just go in and fight a fire on somebody else's land", Bleeker explained. This data helped determine how to distribute fire-fighting equipment and assign crews. He could also coordinate with nearby jurisdictions in advance. Specifically, if a map showed that a fire was near a jurisdictional boundary, the team could establish communications with that jurisdiction before the fire actually spread there. When the fires were finally over, the property ownership map was revisited to help determine how to allocate recovery funds.

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Bleeker's team also used GIS data to account for the results of the fire-fighting efforts. The Apache Pass fire expanded from 2000 acres to 20,000 acres in just 24 hours. When explaining this rapid spread, the maps helped illustrate the devastating combination of high winds and ample fuel (dry grass). Alongside the fact that only six fire trucks were available to combat the incident, the rapid spread made sense and the team could justify the need for more resources.

Structure protection maps are often created to illustrate which structures are at risk, and which areas have the highest priority for protection. Although not used in these fires, Bleeker described previous experience with structure protection maps. These maps require a robust dataset of structures with attributes in advance of the incident. In addition to homes and commercial sites, protection maps can also show the locations of cultural resources, such as historical sites. For example, there might be some pre-historic rock paintings in a cave. In that case, fire managers would coordinate with cultural resource experts who might advise them to let the area burn rather than applying fire-fighting foam or fire-retardant chemicals, because these materials could damage the paintings.

The challenge for GIS in incident response is making all the pieces fit together. It requires installed software, relatively powerful hardware, and most importantly, skilled professionals to import the data from various sources and operate the system. All of these come at a cost. Furthermore, since incidents occur sporadically, the team members responsible for mapping often have large gaps in time between using the software and therefore require some time to get up and running.

See: GIS Glows in Washington Fire Season, Page 5

GIS GLOWS IN WASHINGTON FIRE SEASON

Continued from page 4

Blazing the Path with GIS

In each of these cases, the unifying factor was that a plan was already in place to use GIS prior to the incident. Not so long ago, precious time would have been spent explaining what GIS is and how it could be useful in the situation. It is encouraging to see GIS being integrated into fire incident management at all stages.

*Eadie Kaltenbacher works for Kitsap County GIS
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 1

We go over what committees there are and what some of the goals are for the year. You learn when meetings happen for that committee and who the lead person is. Even then you don't have to commit. You may just want to listen in and see what's going on. But if you don't at least listen in, you won't even know that the perfect job for you is just waiting for someone like you to do it.

And what if you aren't on the "invite list" for the board meeting. Can you still attend? Heck yes! That list is just a list of people that added their name to a list at the leadership meeting. Anyone can be added at any time. And even if you just remember that we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at noon, and call in, that's fine too.

I'm writing to you about this because every other year there are several positions that open up, since board members are elected on a two year cycle. This is that year, with over half of the board positions up for election. It's the perfect opportunity for you to step up and try it on for size.

Get in touch with us at nominations@waurisa.org to let us know you are interested or if you know of someone you want to nominate to be a board member.

Don't forget the 17th annual **Washington GIS Conference** is at the **Lynnwood Convention Center** on **May 6 – 8th, 2013**. Registration opens soon! Keep an eye on www.waurisa.org for details as they become available.

*Ann Stark, President
@StarkAnn*

2013 WASHINGTON GIS CONFERENCE



URISA GEOSPATIAL MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY MODEL ACCEPTED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) has incorporated URISA's Geospatial Management Competency Model (GMCM) in its Competency Model Clearinghouse (<http://www.careeronestop.org/competencymodel/>). This endorsement follows a year-long effort to draft the GMCM by a task force of 18 contributors and a public review process that attracted 100 comments.

Of the 20 industries that have published competency models, the Geospatial industry is the first to have specified management competencies. Dr. Jennifer Troke of DOLETA's Office of Workforce Investment called the GMCM "a groundbreaking accomplishment."

URISA's Geospatial Management Competency Model (<http://www.urisa.org/gmcm>) specifies 74 essential competencies and 18 competency areas that characterize the work of most successful managers in the geospatial industry. The GMCM is an element of DOLETA's Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM), which specifies the foundational (Tiers 1-3), industry-wide (Tier 4), and industry sector-specific (Tier 5) expertise characteristic of the various occupations that comprise the geospatial industry (<http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx?GEO=Y>). Descriptions of individual geospatial occupations, including occupation-specific competencies and job requirements (Tiers 6-8), are published in DOLETA's O*NET occupation database (<http://www.onetonline.org/>). The GMCM corresponds to Tier 9 of the GTCM.

Competency models are used to guide individual professional development, to help people move up or over in an organization or industry, to help educators and trainers develop curricula that address workforce needs, to inform development of interview protocols, as requirements for professional certification, and as criteria for academic program accreditation and articulation.

The GMCM is a key component of URISA's recently announced GIS Management Institute (GMI) initiative. The initiative was a key topic of discussion at GIS-Pro 2012: URISA's 50th annual conference in Portland, OR (<http://www.urisa.org/gispro2012>). According to URISA President Greg Babinski, "Development of the Geospatial Management Competency Model once again demonstrates URISA leadership in the field. For almost 50 years now URISA has been identifying and addressing challenges in the practical application of technology for urban and regional systems. The GMCM continues that practice and the intellectual capital it represents for the Geospatial Profession will be a key resource to help develop a GIS management body of knowledge."

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association's (URISA's) qualifications to organize the GMCM effort include its nearly 50-year history as one of the founding organizations of the GIS profession, its successful organization of the GIS Certification Institute and the URISA Leadership Academy, and its healthy working relationships with other professional and scientific associations in the geospatial field through the Coalition on Geospatial Organizations (COGO).



Washington State Chapter of URISA



Become a board member or officer!

Yes, we are all introverted geeks at heart, happier making that great map, app or coding gem. But deep down we all enjoy that energy and inspiration we all get after attending a conference, workshop or meet and greet for GIS professionals. So have **you** ever considered becoming more involved in the GIS profession? Becoming more aware of the possibilities, connecting to your peers and hearing about what is important in your industry?

So why not become a board member or even an officer for WAURISA, the Washington chapter of URISA. We are looking for great GIS professionals to help lead our organization, people just like **you**. And no, it's not complicated, scary or requires some secret handshake or code word. It's a group of GIS professionals just like **you**, passionate about their profession, and wanting to give back to the industry they admire. Please give it some thought and email us at nominations@waurisa.org if you are interested or have questions.

Positions available in 2013

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Board Position #1
- Board Position #2
- Board Position #3

Some additional benefits for becoming involved in WAURISA

- Gain new leadership skills helpful in advancing your career
- Interject your vision into the WAURISA mission
- Contribute to the **awesome** GIS Profession
- Earn GISP points for your service
- Connect with and bond with other GIS profession leaders throughout the region and the world
- Experience the opportunity of representing the region at a URISA international conference

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[LinkedIn \(http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3740111\)](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3740111)

Keep up to date on the latest GIS and geospatial news in Washington and nationally, including news on conferences – including the [Washington GIS Conference \(http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/2013_Conference_Index.html\)](http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/2013_Conference_Index.html), workshops, webinars, and the hottest geospatial news of the day.

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www.waurisa.org

WAURISA — the Washington State Chapter of Urban and Regional Information Systems Association — has begun accepting presentation proposals for the 2013 Washington GIS Conference to be held May 6-8 at the Lynnwood Convention Center at Lynnwood, Washington. The conference theme for 2013 is **Power of Place**.

WAURISA is seeking potential speakers to provide fresh, dynamic solutions to today's challenges. Presentations are invited that address the broad subjects of interest to GIS practitioners such as:

Power of Place

3D Visualization
Cartography and Map Production
Developer Tools
Mobile GIS
Enterprise Systems
Fire, Rescue, and EMS
Imagery and Raster
Implementing Enterprise GIS
Managing Utility Infrastructure with GIS
Transportation Planning & Construction
Environment and Wildlife Applications

Interoperability and Standards
Lidar and 3D Mapping
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Open Source
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Tribal/Indigenous GIS Programs
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DEADLINE: MARCH 18

Two types of presentations are available:

- Individual presentations, allotted 30, 60, or 90 minutes
- Panel discussions, allotted 30 to 90 minutes

Speakers: If your paper is chosen for presentation the lead presenter will receive a \$60 discount from the 2-day or 3-day conference registration.

Please see additional details on next page.



WAURISA

ABSTRACT DEADLINE MARCH 18, 2013
SPEAKER REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2013

Washington GIS Conference

Power of Place!

**May 6-8,
2013**

**Lynnwood
Convention
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**For more
Information:**

www.waurisa.org



The Keynote speaker will be Michael F. Goodchild. He is Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he also holds the title of Research Professor. He also holds an affiliate appointment in the Department of Geography at the University of Washington. Until his retirement in June 2012 he was Jack and Laura Dangermond Professor of Geography, and Director of UCSB's Center for Spatial Studies.

Abstracts must be limited to no more than 300 words, and must include: presentation title, type of presentation requested, and author information including complete contact information. A clear concise abstract is your best ticket to a logical track placement and a well-attended session.

Presenters at the 2013 Washington GIS Conference will earn 1 GISCI Contribution Point for Conference Presentation or Conference Poster Display in addition to points earned for attending the conference and being a member of WAURISA.

Presentations may address any GIS topic of broad interest to the audience. Possible topics are not limited to the sample tracks listed above. A presentation should not be used to market a commercial product. Commercial presentations may be given by vendors reserving a vendor booth.

A presentation should describe a project, process, experience, expertise, management, or best practices related to GIS. Specific tracks will be assigned after the abstract proposals have been received. The subjects will be generally divided into management or technical categories. There will be a track for presentations that relate to the conference theme, Power of Place.

Selection criteria will be based on the value of the proposed topic to the audience and the clarity of the abstract. Individuals chosen to present will gain recognition by their peers, raise awareness of critical issues and identify current trends in the industry. The presentations committee will select session presentations to represent a wide range of interests and levels of expertise.

Note: All accepted presenters must register for the conference for either the Tuesday-Wednesday or the Monday through Wednesday options. Acceptance as a presenter does not register you for the conference. Presenters must register by April 1, 2013.

If your paper is chosen for presentation the lead presenter will receive a \$60 discount from the registration fee. Please bring a copy of your presentation in PDF format for publication on the WAURISA web site after the conference.

Submit an abstract at

http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/Abstract_submissions/Abstracts.php



CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

The Washington State Chapter of URISA (WAURISA) invites you to submit a proposal to conduct a workshop for the Washington GIS Conference 2013.

WAURISA

**Washington
GIS
Conference**

Power of Place!

**May 6-8
2013**

**Lynnwood
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We are seeking instructors to give educational presentations and workshops on a wide range of GIS topics. All submissions are welcome and will be evaluated as a potential workshop focus. Suggested workshop topics include; Cartography, Transportation, Asset Management, ArcGIS online development, Programming, Emergency Services, GIS & Land Surveying, Mobile GIS, Remote Sensing, Desktop GIS Apps, and Mobile GIS Apps.

Workshop details:

Half-day workshops for the 2013 Washington GIS Conference pre-conference series to be held from 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 on **May 6, 2013**, in **Lynnwood, WA**.

Attendance at these pre-conference workshops average 10-50 per workshop. Box lunch is included for all workshop attendees

Presenter benefits:

Workshop presenters will receive one **\$150 credit** towards a two or three day conference registration. You must register by April 1st in order to take advantage of the presenter benefit.

**DEADLINE:
FEB. 8, 2013**

**Abstract
submission**

**Send abstract
submissions to:
Workshops@waurisa.org**

- **Workshop Title**
- **Presenter Name(s)**
- **Workshop description** (to be published in the conference program limited to no more than 300 words)
- **Intended Audience** (managers, analysts, programmers, technicians, etc.)
- **Learning objectives and workshop content**

Please see additional details and guidelines on the following page



Call for workshops
 Page 2 of 2

When submitting an abstract for workshops, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Subject matter is relevant to the WAURISA membership and the Washington GIS community.
- Learning objectives are clearly outlined.
- Workshop will be presented in a way that it is educational in nature, and will not only promote your company or services.
- Instructor has prior teaching/speaking experience.
- If student access to computers is necessary please contact us and discuss it first.
- Please ensure you have adequate content to fill the advertised length of your workshop (3.5 hours for half day workshops)
- Presentation materials will be provided at no or low cost (WAURISA will reimburse up to \$100 for production of instructional materials.)
- Previous conferences workshops can be viewed at:
http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/2012/2012_Conference_Booklet.pdf (page 11)
<http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/2011/Workshops.html>

Deadlines: If you are interested in having your workshop considered for the 2013 Washington GIS conference the deadline is February 8th, 2013.

Please address questions to workshops@waurisa.org.

Presenters must bring their own laptops. There will be projectors in the presentation rooms. Plan to come to the conference facility at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the workshop to verify that your laptop works correctly with the projector. Bring the power adapter rather than depending on battery power during your presentation. Copy a backup presentation onto a CD and thumb drive. If bringing handouts, make sufficient copies and provide Internet links to the information. Wireless internet is available throughout the facility. We make no guarantees for internet speeds.

Note: All accepted workshop presenters must register for the conference for either the Tuesday-Wednesday or the Monday through Wednesday options. Acceptance as a presenter does not register you for the conference.

Presenters must register by April 1, 2013.

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 8, 2013
Registration Deadline: April 1, 2013



**Send Abstracts
 to:**
Workshops@waurisa.org

**Washington
 GIS
 Conference**

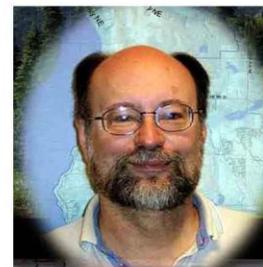
May 6-8, 2013

**Workshops
 May 6, 2013**

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 Information:
www.waurisa.org**



**7th Annual
Richard "Dick" Thomas Memorial Student
Presentation Competition & Award
at the
2013 Washington GIS Conference:
May 8, 2013 in Lynnwood**



Dick Thomas 1947 – 2006

WAURISA

**Washington
GIS
Conference**

**Power of
Place!**

**May 6-8
2013**

**Lynnwood
Convention
Center**

**For more
Information:**

www.waurisa.org

WAURISA, the Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, announces the 7th annual Richard "Dick" Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & Award. This award was established in 2006 to honor Washington State GIS pioneer and mentor Richard "Dick" Thomas.

The intent of this award is to honor Dick by continuing his work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and transition successfully into GIS careers.

WAURISA's objective is to inspire students to present their original work related to GIS, geography, or geographic research at the annual **Washington GIS Conference**.

First Place

- Dick Thomas Award Plaque
- \$1000
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Free registration to the **2014 Washington GIS Conference**
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)
- Plus, possible additional prizes

Second Place

- Dick Thomas Award Certificate
- \$300
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)
- Plus, possible additional prizes

Third Place

- Dick Thomas Award Certificate
- \$200
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)
- Plus, possible additional prizes

**DEADLINE:
APRIL 1
1ST PLACE:
\$1000**

This year we are continuing the award of \$250 to be given to the advisor or professor of the first place winner.

GISCI Points

Student presenters will earn 1 GISCI Contribution Point for Conference Presentation in addition to points earned for attending the **2013 Conference**.



WAURISA

Submit an abstract at
[http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/
 Abstract_submissions/
 StudentCompetitionAbstracts.html](http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/Abstract_submissions/StudentCompetitionAbstracts.html)

Deadline: April 1, 2013



Dick Thomas 1947 – 2006

About the Competition

The competition has two parts:

- selection of at least four (4) abstracts by the **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** for papers to be
- presented and judged during the Student Presentation Session at the **2013 Conference**.

The competition is limited to:

- current students enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant curriculum at a Washington State secondary school, community college, technical school, or university program
- current Washington residents enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant on-line GIS program

Entries must be:

- the original work by the student(s)
- conducted as a school project or under the supervision of a student advisor or professor
- while enrolled in a GIS, geography, technology, or related academic program
- papers should relate to geography, GIS, or allied technologies in Washington State
- as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or similar subject

Submittal Guidelines

All submitted entries must include:

1. An abstract of the project using a **maximum of 300 words** that describes the proposed presentation;
2. **And**, after an invitation to present at the **2013 Conference** is tendered, a letter from the students' professor or faculty advisor verifying the student's status and hours of enrollment on institutional letterhead is required. The letter can be faxed or sent as an e-mail attachment.
3. On the day of the presentation, a PDF of the presentation slides must be given to Amanda Taub, Dick Thomas Award Coordinator, to be included on WAURISA's website.

Go to the following website to submit the abstract:

[http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/
 Abstract_submissions/
 StudentCompetitionAbstracts.php](http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/Abstract_submissions/StudentCompetitionAbstracts.php)

Deadline to submit abstracts: Wednesday, April 1, 2013

The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will review submitted abstracts after **Wednesday, April 1, 2013**, and will notify the presenters chosen to present at the **Conference** by **Wednesday, April 18, 2013**.

Registration

The contact presenter from each selected paper and group members, up to 3 team members, will receive a 1-day pass to the **2013 Washington GIS Conference** for Wednesday, May 8th, only. For the first time, we are offering a limited number of 1-day passes for student advisors/professors interested in attending Wednesday only.

Presentation of Selected Papers: Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Judging Criteria

Abstracts and presentations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of geographic concepts
- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of GIS, related technology, and its application
- Explanation of how the work presented relates to the topic and contributes to greater understanding or knowledge of the topic and GIS
- Demonstration of innovative approach and/or critical thinking
- Quality of written abstract
- Quality of public presentation

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May 8–9, 2012 to learn more about Mobile GIS.



2013 WASHINGTON GIS CONFERENCE



INVITATION TO EXHIBIT

The WA State Chapter of URISA is pleased to invite you to exhibit at the upcoming 2013 Washington GIS Conference. The conference will be held at the Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA, May 7-8, 2013, with pre-conference workshops on May 6th.

Washington GIS Conference

**Power of
Place!**

**Lynnwood
Convention
Center**



**SHOW
DATES:
MAY 7 – 8,
2013**

WAURISA

**For more
Information:**

www.waurisa.org

Join the growing list of recent Washington GIS Conference Exhibitors:

ESRI • ELECTRONIC DATA SOLUTIONS
 KING COUNTY GIS CENTER • FUSION DIGITAL
 SOLUTIONS • GEOLINE • PACIFICAD • JUNIPER GIS
 OPENGEO • PICTOMETRY • ALSEA GEOSPATIAL
 AERIALS EXPRESS • GEOCORTEX • ENERGVO
 SOLUTIONS • CRW SYSTEMS • SURDEX
 CORPORATION • EAGLE MAPPING, INC. • GIS
 SERVICES • MCELHANNEY • PPI GROUP
 GEONORTH • LATITUDE GEOGRAPHICS
 INTERMAP • CUGOS • TERRA GIS
 AZTECA SYSTEMS

This conference, now in its 16th year, averages over 290 attendees seeking to gain knowledge and information about GIS trends, products, and services. Your company will benefit by being highly visible to hundreds of local clients attending the conference and pre-conference workshops.

You will be highly visible! We have designed the layout of the vendor booths to be integrated into the Ballroom, where the plenary sessions will be held, along with lunches, coffee breaks, and the Tuesday evening vendor social. This layout maximizes the contact between attendees and our vendors. Late afternoon Tuesday features a vendor social with delicious appetizers and a cocktail bar.

There will be a dedicated vendor track as part of the presentations. We strongly encourage you to sign up to give a presentation as part of our vendor track. The vendor track is ideal for sharing news about your products and services. 30, 45, 60, and 90 minute slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis after vendor space payment has been made. See page 3 for instructions.

DATES AND TRADE SHOW HOURS:

Monday, May 6	9:00 – 4:00 PM	Vendor Set-Up
Tuesday, May 7	8:00 – 4:30 PM	Vendor Hours
Tuesday, May 7	4:30 – 6:00 PM	Vendor Social
Wednesday, May 8	8:00 – 3:00 PM	Vendor Hours
Wednesday, May 8	3:00 – 5:00 PM	Vendor Tear -down

EXHIBITOR PACKAGE AND BENEFITS

- 10 x 8 booth with full pipe and drape, draped table and 2 chairs
- Electricity & Wireless Internet
- Opportunity to present in vendor track
- Company logo/listing featured in printed conference program and website
- Vendor passport program with prizes - designed to increase visitors to your booth
- Post-conference attendee list (name, organization, city/state)
- One-year corporate WAURISA sponsorship

EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Dedicated exhibit area
- Opening Session takes place in exhibit area
- Breaks and meals take place in exhibit area
- Tuesday Evening Vendor Social

YOUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO

- See current and past customers
- Prospect for new customers
- Evaluate the industry marketplace
- Attend all Tuesday/Wednesday conference activities & meals

ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

- GIS Managers & Directors
- GIS Analysts
- GIS Educators
- GIS Policy & Decision Makers



EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION OPTIONS

	Mt. Baker	Mt. Adams	Mt. Rainier
Cost	\$700	\$900	\$1,100
Number of Booths	1	1	2
Conference Attendee Passes	1	2	3
1 yr WAURISA Sponsorship	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo & Listing in Program	Yes	Yes	Yes
Listing on Conference Webpage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Summit Newsletter	Listing	1/4 Page Ad	Full Page Ad

STEPS FOR REGISTERING:

1. Register, pay, and select your top three booth choices (first come, first served) online at: http://www.regonline.com/2013WaGIS_Vendor. Please be prepared to upload your company logo and company description as part of your registration so we can include them with conference materials and the conference website, as well as in the Vendor Passport program.
2. Email the vendor coordinator if you wish to present in the vendor track (see page 2 for details).
3. Email vendorsupport@waurisa.org if you would like to contribute lanyards, pens, notepads, bags, a company brochure, or other item for distribution to conference attendees during registration. The deadline for this option is April 19, 2013.
4. If participating at the Mt. Adams or Mt. Rainier level, please email your ad to Greg Babinski, Summit Newsletter editor at Summit@waurisa.org. March 22, 2013 is the deadline to submit your ad for inclusion in the pre-conference issue of The Summit.
5. We welcome your questions! Please contact our vendor team at vendorsupport@waurisa.org

WAURISA SPONSORS

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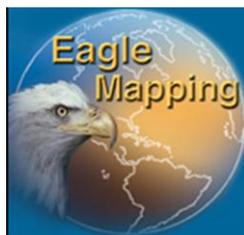


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THE SUMMIT - EDITORIAL

WHAT HAPPENED TO SoDo?

Wikipedia describes SoDo as: *'SoDo is a neighborhood in Seattle, Washington, that makes up part of the city's Industrial District. It is bounded on the north by South King Street, beyond which is Pioneer Square; on the south by South Spokane Street, beyond which is more of the Industrial District; on the west by the Duwamish Waterway, across which is West Seattle; and on the east by Metro Transit's Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and SoDo Busway, beyond which is the International District and the rest of the Industrial District.'*

Of course 'SoDo' refers to the area south of the old King Dome. But SoDo seems to be disappearing from public maps in the City of Seattle. The 'Public Map in Washington' featured in this issue of *The Summit* refers to the area as 'South Downtown'. An earlier public map of Seattle featured in *The Summit* designated the area 'Duwamish' (*The Summit*, Winter 2009, p. 17).



Seattle Kiosk Map at King Street Station

Can anyone imagine a tourist asking a Seattle resident 'how do I get to the Duwamish area?' and getting a coherent answer? What about directions to the 'South Downtown' area? Maybe, just maybe the area is 'south of downtown' but certainly not 'south downtown.'

Why is the City of Seattle creating this confusion and allowing these imprecise and inconsistent designations? A search of the City of Seattle's own web site (www.seattle.gov) finds 692 returns for SoDo. There are many SoDo business names and landmarks. Even the Seattle Mariners promote 'SoDo Mojo' (even if they displayed little last year besides a couple amazing perfect games).



PUBLIC MAPS IN WASHINGTON

What Happened to 'SoDo'? Waiting for a bus one evening this winter on Fifth Avenue at James in Seattle, I discovered this downtown Seattle kiosk map.



Greg Babinski Photo

Do you know of a public map display in Washington? Send it to *The Summit* and we'll include it in a future issue. -Editor

THE SUMMIT – LITERARY CORNER

Statements at Presentation of *In Your Hands: A Guide for Community Action for the Tenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1958)*

'Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: The neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt



The Summit is published by WAURISA. To encourage the discussion of issues and ideas of importance to the Washington GIS community we welcome letters to the editor or opinion essays. Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 100 words and essays should be limited to 500 words.

- Chief Editor:** Greg Babinski
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GIS USER GROUPS IN WASHINGTON

ACSM – Washington State Section

<http://www.wss-acsm.org/>

ASPRS Puget Sound Region

<http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/>

Cascadia Users of Geospatial Open Source

<http://groups.google.com/group/cugos/>

Contact Karsten Venneman at: karsten@terragis.net

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

<http://waurisa.org/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=24>

Contact Nora Gierloff at: ngierloff@ci.tukwila.wa.us

Central Washington GIS User Group

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

For information contact Amanda Taub at:

ataub_gis@yahoo.com

King County GIS User Group

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx>

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group

http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/gis/nwgis_mtgs.htm

Southeast Washington/Northwest Oregon GIS User Group

For more information, see:

<http://web03.pocketinet.com/~sewa-neor-gis/sewa-neor-gis.org/index.html>

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

<http://wagic.wa.gov/>

Join Listserv at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/wagic.html>

Washington Hazus Users Group

<http://www.usehazus.com/wahug>

Contact Cathy Walker at: c.walker@mil.wa.gov

To have your GIS related group or event listed in future issues of *The Summit*, notify the editor at:

SummitGISNews@URISA.org.

To be added to *The Summit* mailing list, contact: Summit@WAURISA.org

Back issues of *The Summit* are available at: <http://waurisa.org/thesummit/>

Interested in volunteering your time to help WAURISA? Contact Don Burdick or any Board member listed to the right.



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