University of Washington
Geography 469 GIS Workshop, Spring 2013

Topic/Title: Nationwide Rivers Inventory Geospatial Database in Idaho

Organization: National Park Service

Contact Name: Susan Rosebrough

Email Address: susan_rosebrough@nps.gov

Personnel from organization to be involved: Susan Rosebrough and possibly others (Joan Harn, Peter Barnsoll, Michael Linde)

Data available: original NRI database, land ownership and original topos available in ESRI data sets. National Hydrography Data, USFS WSR database (includes candidate/eligible WSRs that should be part of the NRI).

Project Description:

Background

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of more than 3,400 free-flowing river segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance and are potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic River (WSR) designation. The NRI was initiated in the 1970s and was last updated in 1993. Under a 1979 Presidential Directive, and related Council on Environmental Quality Procedures, all federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect one or more NRI segments.

The NRI is in need of updating both the geospatial information and attribute information. In addition, many rivers have since been found eligible for WSR through federal land management plans and these should be added to the NRI. A pilot project was conducted last year to update the geospatial and attribute information for the State of Oregon. The class project would continue to build on this effort by updating the geospatial information using the NHD high resolution data for another state(s) in the Pacific West Region (WA, ID, HI, CA, NV). In addition, the class project would identify strategies for updating the geospatial information to include rivers found eligible since 1993 and also provide broad strategies on updating the entire NRI using current available data and methodologies.

Expected benefits to organization: The National Park Service oversees the NRI. Creating a geospatial database and identifying strategies for further updates and improvements will help us meet our goals of providing an useful tool to identify and protect special rivers in our Country for use by NPS staff, regulatory agencies, developers, non-profits, and the general public.

Expected benefits to students: Students will get to use their technical GIS skills, project management, and strategic thinking skills on a community project that will have regional and national significance in protecting and enhancing the NRI and our country's s river resources.