**SCUG**

**South Coast Users Group**

**Oregon Urban Rural Information Services Association (URISA)**

The South Coast GIS Users Group (SCUG) is a group of Coos and Curry County GIS professionals that meet regularly to discuss a wide variety of topics impacting the GIS Industry. The purpose of SCUG is to promote the GIS industry, assist GIS users and to advocate for the local GIS user's data and technology needs.

Spring 2016 Meeting – March 24

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Interpretive Center – Seven Devils Road

**Attending**

 Jeff Stump Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, jstump@ctclusi.org

 Alex Murphy Coos County Planning Dept. amurphy@co.coos.or.us

 Robin Harkins Coquille Indian Tribe forestmaps.@gmail.com

 Tristan Holland Coos Bay BLM tholland@blm.gov

 Ali Helms SSNERR alicia.r.helms@state.or.us

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 Linda Spurgeon Coos-Curry Electric spurgeon@cooscurryelectric.com

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 John Bragg SSNERR john.bragg@state.or.us

 Bob Schafer Curry County Road Dept. schaferr@co.curry.or.us

 John Minor (ret.) Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) johnminor3537@gmail.com

 Jordan Fanning City of Brookings jfanning@brookings.or.us

 Jenni Schmitt SSNERR jenni.schmitt@state.or.us

 Brian Mladenich SSNERR brian.mladenich@gmail.com

**Minutes**

Jeff Stump opened the meeting with introductions around the table. He noted that it was the first user group meeting in a couple of years and introduced the agenda.

**Data-related training needs**

John B. led a short discussion to identify data-related training needs related to coastal environments. Estuary bottom data. Jeff asked about availability of models and standards for benthic (deep water) data in Coos Bay estuary. Bree described CMECS – the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard that is now being promulgated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a national standard for categorizing estuarine habitats. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) used CMECS to organize large data sets for Oregon estuaries (2014). Jenni said Oregon needs data standards across all of its estuaries; Coos Bay is a pilot project for implementing CMECS at fine-scale resolution.

Training potential?

* Translating on-the-ground sampling into GIS data
* Introduction to CMECS

**LiDAR**—More LiDAR data is needed especially for Curry County. Curry County has requested federal funding for more LiDAR flights over county lands.

BLM has LiDAR data, and may be able to add additional data areas to an existing flight. Contact Jake Edwards with the Oregon LiDAR Consortium (<http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/projects/olc/>) for more information.

New LiDAR using green laser light is coming available. It penetrates water (up to a meter?).

LiDAR flights are expensive, but by partnering with several large data users, costs can be spread out. The Gorse Action Group also uses LiDAR…maybe another partner?

Coos County is mostly up to date, although there may be future need for LiDAR data along the Hwy 42 corridor or of the extreme eastern end of the county.

Another LiDAR resource: Open Topo (<http://www.opentopography.org/>) website provides high-resolution topography data and tools including LiDAR.

**Data Fair**

John shared a one-pager describing a concept for a data fair and requested comments from the group. The original concept was of a face-to-face or virtual marketplace where data producers, providers, and consumers could meet and exchange information about data, data tools, and users’ needs. From early discussions with data management professionals (at the meeting and elsewhere) the idea has evolved into a virtual data clearinghouse where individuals or entities needing data could post or advertise their needs, and also learn what data is available. The discussion ranged across data resources, availability, and needs.

E.g., Jenni described the Community, Lands & Waters DataSource, a newly-compiled compendium of social and environmental information about the Coos Bay region, as a newly available resource that SSNERR could provide access to via the clearinghouse.

Ali provided information about the NERRS’ system-wide monitoring program, which gathers environmental data at four stations along the tidal gradient in the South Slough, supplemented by water quality data from lower Coos Bay. The data is collected using standard protocols at all 28 national estuarine research reserves and made available from the NERRS Centralized Data Management Office in South Carolina.

BLM has various data resources that could be linked to from the data clearinghouse. Tristan provided links (attached) to BLM data. He suggested calling local BLM offices to check for latest updates to data, as local layers may be the most current.

Jeff suggested a data clearinghouse could be a resource for data-sharing. Data sharing might be a solution to some difficulties counties face, e.g.,

Curry County is using ArcIMS, which ESRI no longer supports.

The cities of Brookings and Gold Beach are partnering with Curry County to develop a website, [www.CurryMap.org](http://www.CurryMap.org) (expected to go active March 2016). When completed, the site will provide information from the county assessor’s office, building department, planning, roads, and public works.

Alex said Coos County has no dedicated GIS coordinator, but needs one, and he noted several challenges for county GIS staff, including staffing, internal differences in software programs, communications between offices (both people and data). Some county data is available on the Coastal Atlas. The county maintains a public FTP site with a private section for confidential needs.

The group encouraged John to continue to develop the data concept along the lines of an online data clearinghouse rather than a face-to-face fair, and use SCUG as a resource. The scope of the clearinghouse will be Coos and Curry counties, but would reach out to Oregon universities, Central Coast GIS Users Group, tribal GIS users and state and federal agencies and regional entities. The clearinghouse will also seek links with ESRI resources (e.g., training, for example, in ArcGIS Pro) and link to services hosting large data sets (for example, Coastal Atlas, NERRS CDMO), and perhaps provide some standard products (e.g., SSNERR’s Communities, Lands and Waters DataSource mentioned earlier).

To facilitate this, John volunteered to take over coordination of SCUG to give Jeff a much-deserved break after shepherding the group for several years. Jeff will work with John and URISA to facilitate the changeover.

**Geospatial training opportunity for high school, middle school teachers**

John Minor announced an opportunity to recruit a Coos or Curry high school or middle school teacher to participate in a summer education program at Clark College, Vancouver WA, to bring geospatial thinking into the classroom. The opportunity provides funding for three teachers (K-12); John thought it would be most useful to a middle- or high school teacher. The 5-day training is June 20-24, 2016. If you know a teach that might be interested, have them call John at 541-756-3537, sooner rather than later, as it’s first-come, first-served.

**Coos Head Redevelopment**

Jeff Stump gave a brief update of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians’ progress to redevelop the former naval station at Coos Head. CTCLUSI is working with a contractor (Parametrics) to develop a master plan to include the 43 acre project area. A companion study is also in progress and will cover the tribal site and additional property owned by UO-Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and the BLM.

**Wrap up**

The group agreed:

* to continue to hold regular quarterly meetings. The next meeting is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I think we picked a date in June, but I neglected to write it down). **(June 23. jb)**
* that John B should use the SCUG website to establish the data clearinghouse, and that Jeff would work with John and URISA to get passwords and web access set up.
* to host experts and GIS specialists to **provide training or presentations at future meetings**. John will contact Cy Smith (Oregon Geospatial Frameworks Office—DLCD) and request he give a presentation on geospatial frameworks at a future meeting, and explore opportunities to address these **additional training areas:**
	+ server stuff (GIS servers? – I could use some more definitive suggestions on what kind of training would be useful)
	+ using LiDAR to map natural hazards
	+ Python scripting (ESRI training)
	+ tours of online tools and resources (e.g., DLCD’s Oregon Coastal Atlas or OSU Institute for Natural Resources’ Oregon Explorer – in particular, how they incorporate GIS, and what data do they have?) – agenda options for future meetings?
* John will invite Ross Tomlinson (SWOCC GIS Users), and Jed Roberts (DOGAMI) to the next meeting, and extend invitations to Andy Lanier, Tanya Haddad, and other GIS resource people to join the work group.
* Jeff will contact Molly at URISA and get passwords, etc., for John.