

Summary Output of Topographic Mapping Data Users Forums

Background

Two sessions were held on September 22, 2004 and September 23, 2004 for Topo Stakeholders from Northern and Southern Alberta (respectively) to discuss current and emerging needs; and to discuss appropriate inclusion strategies for future advancement of Alberta Topo data. The days were broken into two sections with the morning focusing on Stakeholder Needs, and the afternoon focused on discussing future Stakeholder feedback and engagement Strategies. Following are the summarized key themes emerging from both sessions.

Stakeholder Needs

Overriding Feedback from Participants - "Recurring themes"

- Better Currency and accuracy of Topo information
- Ever-improving Maintenance of Data including two way digital exchange between users and custodians. It was felt that this would require greatly enhanced standards and protocols.
- Communications: better flow both amongst government departments and with external Stakeholders; broader Board Representation – groups/company GIS workers; a mechanism for ongoing consultations/participation
- Need to deal with Land Dispositions electronically to get the next wave of innovation and value from this data

Needs and Expectations

- Protocols for update, update cycle and feedback
- Access data improvement (currency more important than accuracy)
- Committed/ongoing update process
- Meta data more of it and more current
- Continuous coverage (no breaks on boundaries)
- Hydrology needs to be improved/corrected
- DEM-Accuracy/Density
- Online sharing of data
- Land Disposition applications and approvals electronically

Critical Gaps

- Partnerships with other jurisdictions: Provincial-border areas; Reliable mapping for the National Parks regions. Today, the data drops off at the borders, while land management activities can cross borders
- First Nations Reserves
- Quality of the data from Feds is poor
- Better (more accurate) DEMs that keep pace with evolving sampling technology
- Land Dispositions

Changes Required – In Order Prioritized

- SDW should find an ongoing mechanism to obtain feedback from users of the information
- Develop a catalogue of spatial data and contact from government and private sector (Including “Data Sharing”)
- Better resolution to improve baseline accuracy
- Flexible areas/windowing
- Better prioritization: Agreed mechanisms; Error correction; Older areas, establish a baseline standard (i.e nothing older than 10 years).

Requests of SDW

- Transparency of the board
- Regular interaction with stakeholders
- Data collection standards – accuracy
- A Strategic Plan
- Base features (Prioritized): ATS Grid; Land Claims; Municipal Boundaries; Electoral (provincial) Boundaries; Access Updated data from end users; Hydrography; Time constraints for instream work; Contour attributes

Future Stakeholder Involvement

- Cross-sectional representation working group: Government, private industry, stakeholders
- Meet yearly, or more frequently
- Establish data exchange protocols
- Industry idea exchange forum
- Enhanced Communications: better communications from Board Members with GIS users from firms/ industry groups; more communications intra government and to users
- Defined Governance
- Strategic Plan development: standards; timeframes/milestones; set up priority group
- Process existing for Cadastral data - can use this for other systems
- Advisory Group for input and priority setting
- Set standards/priorities theme, area, quality/age
- Land Disposition data strategy coupled with current electronic assets
- More proactive communications to Stakeholders: Board, GOA Ministries, Forum for users, Sharing of GIS data