

The Wildlife Society (TWS) GIS Annual Remote Sensing Meeting

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The Wildlife Society (TWS) Annual Meeting hosted a special meeting of GIS and remote sensing interests in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 3, 1996. TWS has established a GIS Working Group to assist in the understanding and application of GIS and remote sensing technologies. Working Group Chairman Tony Curtis called the meeting to order by introducing the staffers and providing a brief overview and history of the Working Group. The Wildlife Society currently recognizes the GIS-RS as one of 6 Official Working Groups that have maintained the minimum requirements outlined by The Wildlife Society (this is out of 16 Working Groups that have formed since 1993).

Prior to taking a "socializing break" which included an ample supply of cold beverages, Tony posed several questions to the group:

1. What is the role of the Working Group?
2. What can this Working Group do for you?
3. How can we better represent the Working Group, the Wildlife Society, and other Working Groups?
4. What are you willing to do for the Working Group?

Following the Break, these questions were discussed in greater detail. Also, Jane Austin presented a brief overview of the upcoming Wildlife Telemetry Forum to be held at the Fourth Annual Meeting in Snowmass. This Forum will provide an opportunity for researchers and engineers to discuss new technologies, equipment and techniques. Paper sessions on

1. Transmitting/receiving systems,
2. Attachment techniques,
3. Physiological/environmental data collection via telemetry, and
4. Data processing and analysis will last 2 1/2 days immediately prior to the Snowmass Meeting.

Contact Jane at Northern Prairie Science Center <jane_austin@nbs.gov> or 701-252-5363 for more information on the Forum.

THE TWS GIS-RS Working Group meeting also discussed incorporating Spatial Ecology papers in future GIS-related symposia to facilitate discussions/interactions with people of that discipline. A proposal to host several GIS workshops/poster sessions at the Snowmass Meeting was also discussed.

The topic of Home Pages was brought up, with Dick Lawrence providing input on availability of GIS information on Home pages, and how the Working Group could beef-up the Society's own Home Page to make it a hotter place for obtaining news and job information.

A proposal was submitted to provide more input into the Working Group's newsletter by having various authors submit short "progress notes" on their current GIS research project. This will allow a greater flow of information and knowledge of who is doing what out there in the real world. This idea was extended to include a section of the Wildlifer dedicated to Working Groups so the entire membership could benefit from what each group is doing. This column would rotate among the Working Groups with one Working Group article per issue. Jacqui Frair volunteered to provide the working group with editorial support.

The dues-paying membership voted unanimously to support the Telemetry Forum with \$500.00, which will be used for renting space and other logistical costs at the Snowmass Meeting.

Kass Green of Pacific Meridian donated the GIS program LUCAS (Land Use Cover Change Analysis System) valued at \$750.00 to the Working Group, after which a drawing was held to determine the new owner of the software. Our thanks to Kass for her generosity!

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