



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

ERDC eGIS Tools Workshop

Promoting effective delivery of ERDC geospatial tools into District Enterprise GIS (eGIS) frameworks

Executive Summary

The Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted an Enterprise Geospatial Information Systems (EGIS) Tools Workshop in an effort to improve delivery of ERDC geospatial tools into District current and future GIS environments. The meeting was held in Denver, Colorado on July 29 – 31, 2008. The primary objectives of the workshop were to share district successes, challenges and direction in the use of advanced GIS tools and provide information and solicit feedback on emerging ERDC tool development.

The 49 workshop participants represented all USACE Divisions and most Districts. Highlights of the agenda included defining and interpreting EGIS, conducting an environmental scan of those issues impacting EGIS implementation, presenting Division/District success stories, envisioning USACE EGIS, and demonstrating emerging tools. District presentations provided a forum for discovering best practices and lessons learned in implementing EGIS, while demonstrations of emerging ERDC tools stirred discussions about ERDC, HQ and Districts working more collaboratively and leveraging District expertise.

Some of the challenges that surfaced during the workshop for ERDC to address included improving *ERDC tool delivery capability to the districts, tool adoption rate, R&D integration, and communication between ERDC and Districts, as well as better defining ERDC's role in the USACE GIS community of practice.*

The workshop participants suggested concrete recommendations to improve business practices and communications among the members of the geospatial community of practice. Recommendations emerging from the workshop participants included:

- *Improve communication mechanisms between ERDC & Districts*
- *Identify and share EGIS community expertise*
- *Establish an electronic Geospatial Knowledge Center for the GIS Community of Practice (CoP)*
- *Define core functionality needed to implement EGIS more fully*
- *Plan for ongoing collaboration for the GIS CoP*
- *Develop a Human Resource Succession Plan*
- *Develop a marketing message to demonstrate the importance of geospatial information to achieving the Corps mission*

A number of actions, responsible parties, and timeframes were identified to address the stated recommendations,

For more information and specific results of the workshop, visit

<http://operations.usace.army.mil/conference.cfm?CoP=Nav&Id=08JulGIS&Type=Conf>