Mapping Washington Surface Water Hydrography Project

Prepared by Rick Jordan, ECY, (360) 407-7128, rjor461@ecy.wa.gov

Presenter
Rick Jordan, Department of Ecology

Purpose of Appearance
To request an extension of Ecology as the Interim Hydrography Steward Agency until a permanent steward is appointed.

Status
At the March 29, 2007 meeting of the Geographic Information Technology (GIT) Committee the Department of Ecology was named as the Interim Hydro Stewardship Agency for Washington State. The role of the Hydrography Steward Agency is to insure that hydrography issues are coordinated and communicated between the Hydrography Data Initiative members and existing Agency Data Stewards.

As documented in the Mapping Washington Water Resources Briefing Paper approved at that meeting, the three agencies (Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Ecology) agreed to assign Ecology as the Interim Hydro Stewardship Agency for the duration of the Hydrography Data Initiative pilot project, which was to explore the creation of a common hydro layer for Washington State agencies.

Background
As discussed at the December 3, 2008 presentation to the Committee, the budget decision package prepared for the 2009-2011 Biennium Budget did not receive the support necessary to fund the creation of a consolidated hydrography layer, the pilot team[1], with the approval of the project steering committee[2], continues to meet for the purpose of:

- Developing a memorandum of understanding between the state agencies that will clarify how a common layer would be managed by the partners once the layer exists;
- Refining the cost estimates for building a common hydro layer by exploring grant opportunities that would allow the team to implement the methodologies developed during the Common Hydro Layer Pilot Project in one or more subbasins in Puget Sound;
- Exchanging technical information regarding tools and methodologies that could be used to facilitate the transfer of attribute data to a common hydro layer, with particular emphasis on the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as the target layer; and
- Continuing to work with the Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework (PNWHF) partners in order to cooperatively provide stewardship for key water-related GIS datasets in Oregon and Washington.

[1] The full pilot team consists of Deborah Naslund and Mac McKay – DNR, Tim Young, Arleta Agun and Andrew Weiss – DFW, Ron McFarlane – NWIFC, Joy Paulus – DIS, Dan Saul and Rick Jordan – ECY.
[2] The project steering committee consists of Carol Fleskes - ECY, David Jennings - DOH, James Eby – DFW, and Gary Graves – DNR.

Completion of these tasks are facilitated by having the stewardship agency function as the coordinating agency, with the coordinator serving as liaison between the other State Partners, the Framework Partners, and the PNWFC Clearinghouse Administrator.

Issues/Actions
None.

Next Steps
Continue to meet as needed to develop the interagency MOU and to continue the technology transfer of information pertaining to migrating attributes to a common data model. Continue pursuing grant opportunities to fund a larger scale proof of concept project.

Staff Recommendations to the Committee
Staff recommends that Ecology continue to serve as the Interim Hydrography Steward Agency until the three agencies agree to permanently assign that role to one of the agencies.

Previous Appearances before the Committee
December 3, 2008: Provide a status report on the Hydrography Research and Development Pilot Project Plan**.**

June 5, 2008: Report to the Committee on the 2009-2011 budget decision package.

December 12, 2007: Received status report on the project. Approved work plan and adjustments to the project schedule.

September 27, 2007: Approval of the Pilot Project Plan.

March 29, 2007: Requested and received approval of Interim Hydrography Data Initiative, Revised Data Initiative Charter, and Data Initiative Roles and Responsibilities.