Third Party Mapping Tools in State Government

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Presenter
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Purpose of Appearance
Provide an overview of the April 14, 2009 question and answer session with Google Earth, Google Maps, and Microsoft Virtual and determine next steps.

Status
The meeting minutes and summary matrix from the session was sent to the Committee for their review and comment. The matrix, along with vendor specific follow-up questions and meeting notes were also sent to Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Google, and Microsoft (MS). Once all follow-up information from the vendors is received, the Committee may wish to recommend a standard for State use and/or precede with master purchase agreements to streamline license compliance.

Background
Use of products like Google Earth, Google Maps, and MS Virtual Earth can be very useful within state government. However, there are differences between the various products and the language contained in the various licensing agreements is difficult to decipher. These products can be easily downloaded by staff and there are undoubtedly many copies being used by staff within the state. It is essential that the state develop a policy and possibly standards concerning the use of these types of products.

Issues/Actions
Many staff in the state government have downloaded various third party map visualization products without considering the technical, and licensing.

Previous Appearances Before the Committee
February 28, 2009: An overview of the issues related to licensing and standard use within state agencies on the use of third party map visualization products was presented.

Attachment A
Third Party Mapping Software Matrix

Attachment B
Ecology's Comparison Between Google Earth and ArcExplorer