

## **Introducing Idaho's Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative A Base Map for Everyone**

In today's world, map-centric applications are increasingly popular and are now used by a significant number of people with no technical knowledge. Government, industry and service businesses are discovering the rich benefits of using spatial data to improve operations, increase efficiency and make better decisions. Idaho organizations have been using spatial information for many years, but now we are leveraging this trend intentionally. In 2008, stakeholder groups across the state came together to develop strategic and business plans for realizing a common base map for Idaho in five years.

*What is a spatial data infrastructure (SDI)?* It's a combination of data and services, policies and people that form a general platform for a shared base map. Creating a spatial data infrastructure requires an organized approach to data development, data maintenance and data access, all within a responsive and collaborative structure. Nearly all government agencies and numerous private organizations have a role in making Idaho's SDI a success. Our challenge is in orchestrating everyone's role and making the results available for use. Build it once, keep it current, use it many times.

*Why build it?* Idaho's SDI (called The Idaho Map, or TIM) will provide accurate and reliable base data to fuel applications for decisions affecting the security, prosperity, health and safety of our citizens and businesses. Decision makers in both the public and private sectors are realizing that the challenges of implementing effective action in dynamic, long-term policy areas requires high-quality and accessible data, innovative analytic tools, and new ways of collaborating among many stakeholders. TIM will incorporate sophisticated resources capable of addressing these complexities while remaining straightforward and highly intuitive.

*What will the outcomes include?* TIM will provide a powerful platform for using digital maps to connect vast amounts of data for query and analysis. TIM will help decision makers visualize and understand complex situations, patterns and relationships; identify and compare the merits of alternative scenarios; more accurately predict outcomes; engage stakeholders to build consensus; and evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken.

*What will it look like?* Fully developed, maintained, and managed, TIM supports the missions of Idaho organizations through easy access to high-quality geographic information and related services. By design, it will maximize the Internet and related technologies to virtually integrate data statewide, distribute responsibility for data maintenance, and connect the community together regardless of geography.

*How does it fit in the bigger picture?* Most states and the federal government are engaged in collateral and nested visions and programs. The National SDI was launched 17 years ago by Presidential Executive Order, and a supportive organizational structure is emerging to more effectively assist states in their respective efforts. Beyond the U.S., many countries around the globe are on a similar path.

*What will it take to get there?* The GIS community can't achieve the vision without significant help. An undertaking of this breadth and significance requires solid and sustained support from top-level executives. It requires state agencies to provide some resources and a willingness to participate. It requires the support and participation of all levels of

government, as well as our private-sector partners. It requires raising awareness and fostering understanding of the real, substantial benefits to be gained and the methods in place to track them. It requires stable state funding to leverage and align other sources and engender confidence in its sustainability. It requires all of us working together.

Policy Area	Examples of what The Idaho Map will enable and improve	
Public Health, Healthcare, and Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease outbreak response</li> <li>• Food-borne contamination tracking</li> <li>• Health services delivery</li> <li>• Public health linkages to pollution sources</li> <li>• Bio-terrorism response</li> <li>• Child support services</li> </ul>	
Homeland Security/ Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border security</li> <li>• Common operational picture/situational awareness</li> <li>• Earthquake preparedness</li> <li>• Fire response</li> <li>• Critical infrastructure management</li> <li>• Public communications</li> <li>• Terrorism threat assessment</li> <li>• e911 dispatch</li> </ul>	
Economic Development/ Strategic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital projects planning (roads, other infrastructure)</li> <li>• Population projections</li> <li>• Transportation &amp; infrastructure planning</li> <li>• Recruit and retain business and educated workforce</li> <li>• Resource allocation</li> <li>• Supply and demand studies</li> <li>• Land use planning</li> </ul>	
Energy / Water / Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resource management</li> <li>• Utilities mapping (broadband, pipelines, transmission)</li> <li>• Demand forecasting</li> <li>• Alternative energy sources development</li> <li>• Flood mitigation, planning, and response</li> </ul>	
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global climate change impact mitigation</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions reduction</li> <li>• Drought and natural resource management</li> <li>• Endangered species management</li> </ul>	
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Safety</li> <li>• Animal and plant disease outbreaks response</li> <li>• Food supply safety and security</li> <li>• Invasive species tracking and suppression</li> <li>• Enhance farm productivity</li> </ul>	

We welcome your support.

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