

Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)
IDAHO GEOSPATIAL COUNCIL – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IGC-EC)
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. (Mountain)

Webex link (with video): [IGC-EC bi-monthly meeting](#)

Teleconference (audio) only/dial-in:

Toll-free phone: 1-833-695-0549 / Access Code: 2633 708 7163 # / No attendee ID required, press # to join

Physical Location: Office of IT Services
11331 W Chinden Blvd, Building 8, 2nd Floor, Boise ID 83714

Members Present:

Wilma Robertson, Office of IT Services
Elaine Guidero, USGS
Eric Buehler, USDA FPAC GEO
Cyndi Andersen, City of Meridian
Sue Parsons, City of Chubbock
Tom Kearns, Dept. of Lands
Bruce Godfrey, U of I- Inside Idaho
Keith Weber, ISU
Katey Jones, Idaho Power
Ryan Howerton, NNL
Bob Folsom, City of Post Falls
Laurie Ames, Nez Perce Tribe
Stewart Ward, Dioptra

Others Present:

Brock Lippie, IDFG
Margie Wilkins, IDWR
Robin Dunn, IDL
Wendy Largent, NLI Cooperative
Cory Scoffield, ISU
Ashley Bosa, BSU
Bill Reynolds, Nez Perce County
Heather Studley, Bannock County
Danielle Huerta, Bannock County
Megan Wheatley, Office of IT Services
Brad Bean, Office of IT Services
Catherine Thies, Office of IT Services

Members Absent:

Sydney Lewis, ITD (Chair)
Jackie Reader, Office of IT Services
Gabe Osterhout, SOS

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Chair Wheatley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:31 am MST. Roll call attendance was taken, and a quorum was established.

MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Godfrey moved, and Mr. Weber seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

BIOSCIENCE TWG STANDARD

Mr. Lipple presented the S4244 Species Ranges Layer & Data Standard as amended.

MOTION: Ms. Jones moved, and Ms. Robertson seconded a motion to approve; the motion passed unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION TWG STANDARD

Mr. Bean presented the S4227 Idaho Boat Ramps & Docks for Public Use Standard as amended and with a naming modification to clarify that the layer is intended for public docks and boat ramps, excluding private or permit-required ones.

MOTION: Ms. Andersen moved, and Mr. Godfrey seconded a motion to approve; the motion passed unanimously.

IGC-EC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Elaine Guidero (USGS): Was welcomed back to the board as the USGS liaison.
- Ryan Howerton (NNL): Will fill the federal seat previously held by David Duty. Ryan introduced himself, highlighting his nearly ten years of professional GIS experience, a master's degree from Idaho State University, and his recent GISP certification. He currently works for the Naval Nuclear Laboratories (NNL) at the INL's NRF site.

IMAGERY PROGRAM STUDY

Mr. Bean provided an update on a feasibility study for a statewide imagery program conducted with a Boise State master's capstone course. The study surveyed local, state, city, and federal government entities in Idaho regarding their imagery use and needs.

A thorough review of the results, including more detailed statistics and cost analysis, will be presented at the next Imagery Technical Working Group meeting in June. An overview of the results is available in Appendix A

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Biosciences TWG

Mr. Lipple stated that with the Species Range Standard completed, the next proposal will likely be for species observations, aiming to provide gridded occurrence data to complement the species ranges. Discussions are planned with ITD regarding roadkill data, which is a joint project.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025.

Boundary TWG

Ms. Robertson noted that the TWG is developing the standards for counties, census tracts, block groups, and blocks.

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Cadastral TWG

Mr. Bean is meeting with Jeff Hedge, an expert from Montana on PLSS (Public Land Survey System) adjustments, to discuss consistency checks and least squares adjustments for aligning Idaho's PLSS with the multi-state control point dataset.

Climate TWG

Mr. Bean noted that the TWG is working on putting together a growing degree day standard. The TWG will also explore creating a standard for historic climate datasets (e.g., temperature min/max) and is seeking feedback from entities like Water Resources to identify the most common data sets for historical temperatures.

The next meeting will be held June 10, 2025.

Elevation TWG

Mr. Weber shared that the imagery program study included questions about LiDAR, which will help identify recommendations for connecting with LiDAR users in Idaho.

The Digital Surface Model (DSM) now includes 11 new project areas and more are in process. All work is expected to be finished by the end of September 2025.

Ms. Guidero noted that progress is being made on LiDAR projects, with data coming in from contractors and undergoing review and correction cycles.

The Southern Gaps D23 project, though delayed, is now ahead of its revised schedule, nearing the original delivery date.

The next meeting will be held June 5th at 1:00pm.

Energy & Utilities TWG

The TWG is still exploring electricity service area boundaries, though collaboration with the Public Utilities Commission has some limitations due to their staffing and time constraints.

Mr. Bean noted that the focus will shift to identifying “low-hanging fruit” projects.

The next meeting will be held June 10th at 10:00am.

Geodetic TWG

Mr. Scofield informed the committee that a PDF version of the Multi-State Control Point Database (MCPD) user survey report is available. The survey was informative and led to improvements, but it exhibited a bias towards positive opinions, with limited responses from users with negative experiences or those who choose not to use the MCPD

Idaho currently lacks a state-wide Real-Time Network (RTN), relying on partial coverage from Utah's and Washington's networks, plus some commercial options.

Representatives from the Utah (Sean Fernandez) and Washington (Gavin Shock) networks provided valuable insights on costs, business models, and network structures. The Utah network serves as a successful example, where a state government arm funds the central data processing, and many stations are owned and maintained by third-party organizations (city agencies, county agencies, private surveying firms).

The TWG meets the fourth Thursday of every other month at 3p.m. MT.

Geoscience TWG

Currently the top priority for the TWG is active oil and gas wells. Ms. Reader is coordinating with the Oil and Gas Commission (under IDL) to acquire data.

Other upcoming initiatives include working on aggregates and historical roadside geology signs with ITD, exploring mineral rights and mining data sets through BLM data sets, and working closely with the Idaho Geological Survey.

The next meeting is May 20^h at 3:00 PM.

Hazard TWG

Ms. Robertson informed the attendees that the TWG is revising the flood data standard to include more recent flood data from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), as it has not yet been incorporated into the FEMA datasets. The FEMA data will remain, with IDWR data being added.

Human Interest TWG

The TWG received presentations from representatives of the Department of Labor and Health & Welfare, along with the Census Bureau, discussing accessing and using the Census website. A standalone webinar inviting the Census Bureau representative, is planned to teach a broader audience how to find and interpret census data.

There was a discussion of Broadband Speed Test Data, which includes speed up, speed down, jitter, and latency for broadband (not cellular), summarized to census block and federal Hexbin 8 levels. It's updated monthly for a moving 12-month window. This data set is public and could be prominently featured on the Idaho Map, potentially falling under the Utilities TWG due to its nature.

Imagery TWG

The TWG will be presenting and analyzing the Imagery Feasibility survey results.

Ms. Wilkins will reach out to the new NRCS liaison Sean Nield for updates on the imagery collection scheduled for Idaho this summer.

The TWG meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. MT.

Parcel TWG

Ms. Wheatley relayed that Shelby Johnson, the Geographic Information Officer from Arkansas, presented on their state's approach to a statewide parcel layer.

The progress on the statewide parcel layer includes meeting in person with counties close to the Treasure Valley (like Canyon County) to address their questions and concerns, aiming to encourage more participation. Currently, 13 counties have signed on.

The next meeting on May 28th at 2:00p.m. will include a presentation from the GIO from Washington state, Joanna Markert.

Public Safety TWG

Mr. Reynolds stated that significant progress has been made on Next Generation 911 (NG911) implementation with 28 counties and 47 PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points - dispatch centers) participating.

Also of note is that version three of the NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Next Gen 911 standards are expected this summer. The group will consider updating Idaho's standard by early fall if needed.

The TWG meets the third Thursday of every month at 2p.m. MT.

Transportation TWG

Mr. Bean stated that TWG is close to completing the nomination for boat ramp data, as well as the nominations for bridges and airports.

There's ongoing discussion about creating a standard for state road highway datasets, as it's one of the most requested data layers for the Idaho Map. Currently, only Next Gen 911 road centerlines are available, not comprehensive photogrammetric road data with classifications.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Idaho Student Mapping Competition for this year has concluded. Five 6th-grade students from Mary Elementary School submitted story maps and were recognized with certificates and gift cards. This will be the final year of the competition, however Esri software remains free for K-12 schools (including homeschools). Ms. Guidero suggested that "America View" (americaview.org), an organization involved in geospatial education, might be a potential partner for future outreach efforts.
- Northwest GIS Conference will be held in Boise from October 21 to 23, 2025. A LinkedIn page is now available for updates. The call for presentations is open until August 1st.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Ms. Reader moved, and Ms. Andersen seconded a motion to adjourn; the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 am MST.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025 9.30a.m. MST

C Thies, Office of IT Service

Appendix A

IMAGERY PROGRAM STUDY

- **Key Findings:**
 - **Respondents:** 99 total responses (from 77 different entities) after removing two private company responses.
 - 43% from counties (strong turnout, over 90% of counties responded).
 - 28% from state agencies.
 - 14% from cities.
 - 9% from federal agencies.
 - 2% from tribal units.
 - **Imagery Types and Resolutions:**
 - 32 respondents use only NAIP imagery.
 - 66 out of 99 use NAIP imagery (not exclusively).
 - 50 use another type of leaf-on or leaf-off imagery.
 - 22 use oblique imagery.
 - 33 out of 99 have at least partial 6-inch or better coverage.
 - **Update Frequency:**
 - Most common current update frequency: Every two years (likely aligned with NAIP).
 - **Ideal Update Frequency:** 68 out of 99 respondents would prefer yearly updates; 47 respondents who want yearly updates don't currently have them.
 - **Imagery Acquisition:**
 - 75 respondents utilize free sources (39 exclusively).
 - 29 out of 99 have contracts to acquire imagery.
 - **Desired Improvements:**
 - 77 out of 99 would like higher resolution aerial imagery.
 - 52 would find oblique imagery useful.
 - 39 would like a leaf-off aerial layer.
 - 30 would find near-infrared useful.
 - **Potential Savings:** 61% indicated a statewide imagery program would save their agency/organization time and money.