

GIS in NWS

DOH Science Conference

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GIS in NWS

- **At RFCs**
- **Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) between ESRI and NOAA**

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

Initial specs sent to NGIT from OST:

- ESRI
- MS Windows
- Access from all RFC workstations
- Solution includes integrated access to operational DB

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

NGIT response

- In addition to ESRI, proposed GRASS
- Open source
- Cheaper
 - Major consideration compared to ESRI
 - Both hardware and software

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

- OST, OCWWS, OHD agreed to objective decision process
- Does GRASS meet requirements?
 - Develop list of requirements
 - Based on input from RFCs and OHD
 - A number of offices have provided input
 - Integrated set of requirements will be provided to all RFCs/OHD for review and comment
 - Evaluation of GRASS vs. consensus requirements

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

Requirements statement categories

1. Development, integration within operational modeling

2. Desktop:

- **casual/*ad hoc* use
(briefings, analysis tool)**
- **graphics products**
- **collaboration with partners**

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

Assuming GRASS is viable

- Cost-benefit analysis comparing GRASS with ESRI software
- Also consider 'intangibles'

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

Consider full system costs, not just initial purchase

- Software
- Hardware
- Training (past investment with ESRI and future cost for GRASS)
- Maintenance/support

RFCs: GRASS vs. ESRI

Consider 'intangibles'

- Effective collaboration with partners
- NOAA usage
- Ease of use/accessibility for all staff
- Use of both GRASS and ESRI software

NOAA-ESRI ELA

- **NOAA-wide**
- **Current ESRI Proposal**
 - **Unlimited licenses for all ESRI software**
 - **NOAA responsible for 'Tier 1 support'**
 - **NOAA responsible for tracking and dissemination of licenses**
 - **NOAA responsible for distribution of media and documentation**

NOAA-ESRI ELA

Issues

- **Cost**
- **Support**
- **Administration**

NOAA-ESRI ELA

Cost

- **Does the value justify the cost**
 - **Based on current usage vs. potential usage**
- **How are costs allocated**
 - **At LO level based on usage vs. NOAA-wide 'overhead'**

NOAA-ESRI ELA

Support

- **Tier 1 support**
 - NOAA responsible for fielding all questions
 - NOAA expected to answer basic questions
 - Only Tier 1 Support Centers (up to 6, one per LO) can contact ESRI for support
 - Additional charge for custom/enhanced support
- **Additional cost to NOAA**
- **Quality/timeliness of support for operations**

NOAA-ESRI ELA

■ Overhead

- NOAA responsible for tracking and dissemination of licenses
- NOAA responsible for distribution of media and documentation
- Additional cost to NOAA

ELA and RFCs

- **Adoption of ELA would dramatically alter RFC GIS cost-benefit analysis**
- **When will there be a decision?
Can we wait?**