

# **Developing a National Geoinformatics System (NGS)**

J. Douglas Walker, University of Kansas

# NSF Workshop - March 2007

- Define the content of a National Geoinformatics System for the United States
- Identify the technology via which such a system could be created
- Create a process for moving forward to jointly plan and develop such a system.
- A document containing descriptions of many geoinformatics efforts was assembled. This document contained descriptions for 36 geoinformatics projects and reports from 12 previous workshops which dealt with some aspects of geoinformatics. The report is available as an electronic supplement of this report at [www.geoinformatics.info](http://www.geoinformatics.info).

# Workshop - Move Forward

Proposal prepared over summer 2007 to make progress on developing NGS (groups established)

- Identify all stakeholders potentially needing or wanting to participate in a National Geoinformatics System;
- Begin establishment of a collaborative, community-driven governance structure;
- Investigate possible technological and social solutions to interoperability between existing and planned efforts; and
- Conduct education and outreach (E&O) activities building on those of many of the current Geoinformatics efforts.

# Identify all stakeholders potentially needing or wanting to participate in a National Geoinformatics System

- Town hall meetings at GSA and AGU
- Publicize through geoinformatics website
- Work with GSA/AGU sections
- Technical sessions (2008)
- EOS article
- Word of mouth

# Begin establishment of a collaborative, community-driven governance structure

- What models are available?
- What does the community want?
- What would work for this effort?

# Investigate possible technological and social solutions to interoperability between existing and planned efforts

- Central vs. distributed sources
- Speed vs. flexibility - discovery vs. downloads
- OGC standards
- GeoSciML, existing ML, YAML
- Pay for Play or Play for Pay?

# Conduct education and outreach (E&O) activities building on those of many of the current Geoinformatics efforts

- NGS can be an invaluable resource for E&O efforts
- Provides basic data and tools
- Some excellent models (e.g., SCEC and SERC)
- Bring science to public (is there a volcano near my house?)