GIS INVENTORY

Providing Access to Geospatial Information for Public Safety

http://gisinventory.net

The GIS Inventory provides 24/7 access to information that supports Public Safety & Homeland Security efforts. The National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation (NAPSG) is working with the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) to advance the use of this important tool across all of public safety—fire, EMS, police, intelligence, and emergency management.

The GIS Inventory

is produced by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) as a tool for state and local governments. It is a web-based tool that tracks the status of geospatial data, people, organizations, policies and GIS implementations.

It is *not* a source for spatial data. Rather, it is a catalogue of information & links where you can:

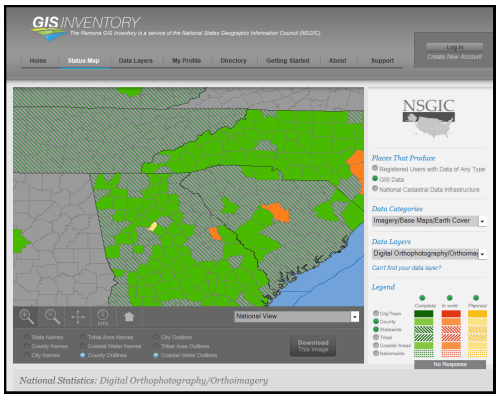
- **Explore** what data exists
- **Discover** who produces what data
- **Learn** how to get access to the data your agency needs
- **Find out** about policies on data access & use
- **Review** FGDC-compliant metadata for each layer

These are all highly valuable capabilities for local and state public safety agencies to leverage for:

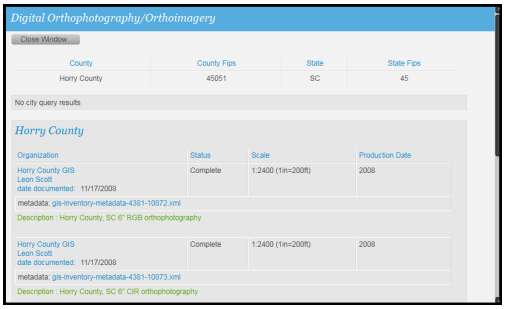
- Forging relationships & collaboration to enhance the use of GIS in your agency
- Getting access to data layers your agency needs to advance the way your agency uses GIS in daily operations

The System Basics...

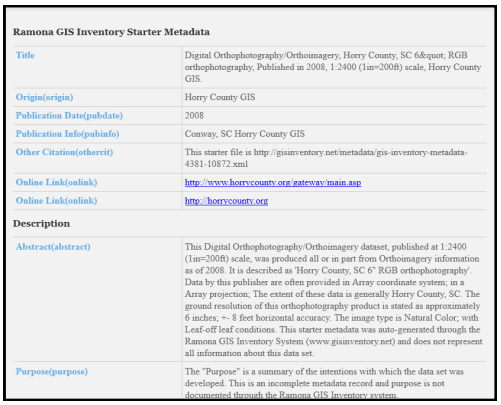
The GIS Inventory **is not** a repository for GIS data. Nor is it a metadata creation tool. It is a publicly accessible web-based system that allows registered users to provide their contact information and then inventory other information related to their organization, the software systems used, their data management policies, their 'geography' and the GIS data layers that they produce. This information is publicly available through a map interface and a variety of search tools. More sophisticated statewide and national reports are available to system administrators.



The Status Map (above) is an interactive tool that allows the user to quickly see the status of a single data layer over any geographic area that they choose. The Status Map **Information Report** tool (below) allows the user to access all information in the system at



the location of a mouse click. It provides an E-Mail link to the Users; a hyperlink to their organization's web pages; basic information about the data that is organized by City, County, State, Tribal and Federal groups; and a link to the **Metadata Template** (above) that includes a complete description of the



Christina McCullough

Geospatial Analyst, M.A., Joint Forces Headquarters of Indiana

"When emergencies strike, I go to the GIS Inventory first to find other GIS experts in the area of the event. It helps me to connect with them so that I can perform my support role for state and local government. The system has been vital for communications and getting local contacts on several different incidents. For example, during a major tornado event in Evansville, IN, we used the GIS Inventory to identify local GIS coordinators and contacts from the National Weather Service. We were able to quickly receive data from them that showed the line of the tornado path, as well as before and after images for use by the Indiana National Guard. This type of coordination means we are able to work with the same data – *high quality local data* – as our counterparts in the field."

Want to learn more?

NAPSG & NSGIC will be hosting free webcast trainings on *How to Leverage the GIS Inventory for Public Safety* — Register at:

www.napsgfoundation.org

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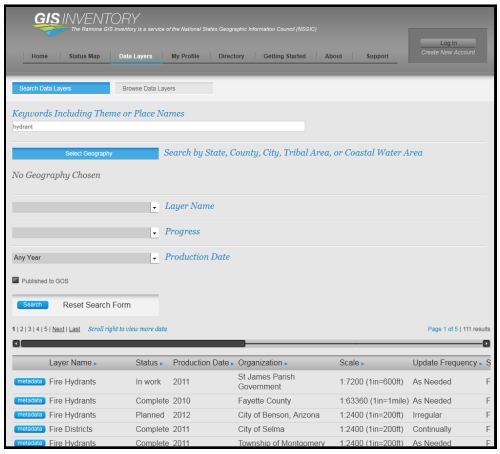
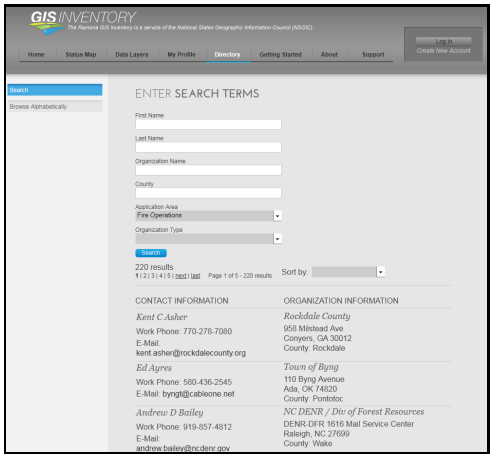
data layer and additional links to the map services that offer these data, as well as archival repositories for the data.



The **Data Layers** tab (above) is a search tool that allows users to search on any combination of specific data layer, key word, production date, production status, or by a particular geography. The search results provide a quick look at basic information on the individual data layers, direct links to map services and access to the completed metadata template.



The **Directory** tab (above) allows you to identify other users based on their own name or by searching their organization name. It also allows you to find other users in particular application areas or by organization type.

Administrator Privileges for the GIS Inventory provide other capabilities, and access to reports with complete information in Excel and Shapefile formats.

The GIS Inventory was designed as a tool for the entire geospatial community which means that it has to balance **competing demands**. It provides the features that are commonly needed by all users. It does not concentrate on the business requirements of one particular community. This is actually a strength of the System because **emergencies** of all types & scales often **require quick assembly of data and information** from a wide variety of sources not always used by the Public Safety & Homeland Security community. Having one location to do this is invaluable to all.

The GIS Inventory is a 'content management' system that can be easily modified by any of the Super Users. This allows the **flexibility** required to make rapid additions or changes to existing questions and answers. However, new features are always carefully examined to ensure that changes for one community will not negatively impact its usefulness for other communities.

Use of the System by the Public Safety & Homeland Security Community will encourage more states and local governments to become Users, thereby increasing the utility of the System for all communities. Several Federal agencies are showing increasing support for the GIS Inventory and asking their state and local partners to use the System. **Reasonable changes can and will be made to support the needs of users from all communities.**

For Further Information:

Visit—http://gisinventory.net
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