



Background:

The cultural resources management and reporting requirements for DoD necessitate a consistent approach to cultural resources data management. At present, the only standard for cultural resources data within DoD is the SDSFIE. The cultural resources component of the existing SDSFIE (version 2.6) is problematic and not sufficient to support all of DoD's cultural resources business data needs. The SDSFIE is currently undergoing a major overhaul to eliminate redundancies and improve its functionality. Plans to revise the SDSFIE envision minimizing the attributes associated with spatial feature classes. This means that many attributes of cultural resources spatial feature classes critical for cultural resources management will need to be included as a part of a cultural resources business data standard. This project was carried out so that the Cultural Resources Business Data Standards proposed here are consistent with and complementary to what will be released as the SDSFIE Version 3.0. Development of standards for these business data is the goal of the present project.

This project drew on the lessons learned from previous Legacy funded projects, particularly the efforts since 1998 by the Air Force to develop a data model to be the cultural resources component of the enterprise information management system for environmental programs within the Air Force, and Legacy Project 07-369 which developed minimum Cultural Resources Spatial Data Standards. These efforts provided valuable insights into DoD cultural resources management processes and the nature and extent of cultural resources electronic data in DoD, and identified the minimum cultural resources data elements that should be available in DoD Installation GIS layers.

Objective:

This project assessed DoD cultural resources data collection and management processes and provided recommendations for establishing a DoD cultural resources business data standard. This standard incorporates extant DoD cultural resources data into a format that complements the planned revisions to the cultural resources portions of the SDSFIE.

Summary of Approach:

The draft standard was developed by building on the results of previous projects in consultation with a working group comprising cultural resources subject matter experts and GIS experts from across the four services at the headquarters service level and from installations.

The aim of the project was to develop standards sufficient to support the full range of cultural resources management business processes common across the DoD, but flexible enough to allow for service and even installation specific needs. For this reason, emphasis was placed on identifying the minimum data elements and attributes needed, rather than attempting to accommodate the full range of all data used in cultural resources management. It is expected that some services and installations

may wish to extend the proposed standard to accommodate these needs. This follows similar expectations that the SDSFIE will be profilable (users will select and use those feature classes applicable to them) and extensible (users will be able to add unique types of feature classes needed for their organization, but not common across the DoD).

The goals of the project were met primarily through teleconferences with the Cultural Resources Business Standards Working Group (Working Group), and through communication with group members between meetings.

Benefit:

The project assisted DoD agencies nationwide in meeting the cultural resources management and reporting requirements of ARPA, NAGPRA, and NHPA. In addition to meeting reporting requirements up the chain of command, installation level cultural resources managers need ready access to accurate and consistently maintained cultural resources data to support the cultural resources conservation requirements of sustainable range management. Inconsistent data collection and maintenance practices together with high staff turnover rates for the cultural resources positions on some installations has meant that essential data are not always available to those who need them. Establishing minimum data standards is an important precursor to incorporating existing data into a cultural resources mission data set compliant with the DISDI Architecture and metadata standards and the SDSFIE, and an essential element for future management of DoD lands.

Accomplishments:

Using a process for identifying DoD cultural resources data needs, established for Legacy Project 07-369, this project developed a draft set of cultural resources business data standards that will be used to complement revisions to the SDSFIE.

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