

Development of NED Data Partnership Agreements and Channel Steward Function

Review of materials

1) Background:

One of the 2006 NED tasks involves the development of a template or templates that together would function as longer-term Data Partnership Agreements. The agreements would be for signature by various consortia of federal, state and tribal entities with a need to share data in other than ad-hoc ways. Alternatively they would provide documentation for approved data sharing

Sub-components of interest to NED are sharing agreements that would support consistent arrangements for: Project Level Information, Data Collection, Data Sharing, Data Reporting, Data Quality Assurance/Control, Metadata Reporting, Document Deliverables, Locational (Spatial) Data, Map-Coordinate Projection, Names/naming conventions (e.g. sampling stations) and Calendar/Date/time (temporal) data. There are also legal obligations to consider.

Some of these materials will best developed by other entities with have particular content expertise. For example, protocols for data collection for aquatic areas are being developed by PNAMP. Other pieces have already been developed, e.g. the NED Best Practices for Reporting Location and Time Data.

Regardless of the origination of sub-components of a partnership agreement there is a need to organize and present these various agreements to reduce the organizational and administrative burden of deployment. Wrapping the sub-components of a data partnership agreement into a single package has merit. Why have separate agreements for each component when all are needed for a coherent end-to-end data network?

The following text introduces examples of Data Sharing Agreements and a Channel Steward Handbook.

2) Examples of Data-Sharing Agreements

There are many different data sharing agreements. A quick web search located the following examples. While there are obvious differences, all have been developed for the purpose of improving the sharing and exchange of data. For example, while some focus on the sharing of GIS or spatial data others focus on different types of data, for example research or statistical data.

The following documents are available at the NED web site in the April 5th Meeting folder...see the agenda for links.

BC_Data Exchange Agreement.nov2003.doc

Department of Defense_data sharing agreement.pdf

Global Biodiversity_Sharing language.doc

Harvard BCBDDataSharingAgreement.pdf

National Statistics_ DataSharing.pdf

Open Data Consortium_Data_Policy-4b[1].pdf

PNW Exchange TPA v 1.0.doc

State of Oregon_Framework Data License Agmt v1.1.doc

TPA_Final_Report_Best_Practices.pdf

The agreements are written for different purposes.

The **BC Data Exchange Agreement** and the **Open Data Consortium Data Policy, and the State of Oregon GIS Framework Data License Agreement** are examples of documents specifically developed to support the exchange and sharing of GIS data products. Issues dealt with primarily concern business arrangements involved in the exchange. The BC Agreement covers the provision of spatial data from private entities in exchange for the free use of Provincial data for the private entities – it is a trade. The Open Data Consortium model – is more of a policy document, an extensive discussion of issues concerning exchange of geo-data across private, public and non -profit data service providers. The Oregon Framework License agreement provides for licensing of multiple products for multiple uses between the State of Oregon (the User) and Counties and other local jurisdictions within Oregon (the Custodian). The focus is on framework data layers. Of particular interest is the applicability of the license agreement to multiple situations through the Yes/No Tables. It lends itself to web enablement.

The **EIEN Trading Partner Agreement**, the **PNWWQDX Trader Partner Agreement** and the **Department of Defense Directive** describe agreements (or directives) for establishing Distributed Data Base Management Systems. The EIEN and exchange documents are relevant for future NED interests in working on database to database data exchange. Given the existence of these documents and the interest that NED has in working with the Exchange Network it does not seem necessary for NED to develop new language for these circumstances.

The **Harvard BCBD** sharing agreement is specifically designed for setting up understandings and obligations of parties sharing data into a common system for use by researchers. In particular it protects the use of the data across a group of researchers and obligates those receiving certain funding to share their data in this fashion. It is an example of obligations for sharing data being linked to the funding source through a sharing agreement. This is an issue of concern to some NED Partners

The **Global Diversity Sharing Language** is related to the sharing of data for Portals and so is of interest to the NED effort in developing language to cover data sharing through the portal. An additional advantage might be the brevity of the document.

An across-the-Atlantic **Data Sharing for Statistical Purposes -A Practitioners' Guide to the Legal Framework** is included because it covers a lot of material quickly and clearly and includes the important idea of providing guidance to the establishment and use of data sharing agreements.

There are a number of different types of agreements outlined here. NED will need at least the following: an agreement to cover posting/using data on the Portal and, when NED gets to this stage, an agreement to cover DDBMS data sharing. NED may also want to provide and make available model agreements for other data sharing functions, for example, for exchanging GIS products and services.

Many of the examples include definitions of the terms used in the agreements and are a rich source of material.

The next step is to review some of these agreements and then to identify what if any of the content meets NED needs.

3. Example of Channel Steward Role.

For the NED Portal it is necessary to develop and support a Data (or Channel) Steward function. The role and responsibilities of this function needs to be developed. GeoData.gov has developed a Geospatial One-Stop Channel Steward Handbook which includes descriptions, from pages 1 through 10, of the role of the Channel Steward. This material is relevant to the NED task and is a good starting point for development of the NED Data (or Channel) Steward role.