

ADVOCATING SURVEY NETWORKS FOR RESERVATIONS

Within the April 2009 issue of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Bulletin is an article that describes the "big picture" concerning development of a multi-purpose, enterprise system land base:

<http://www.webmazine.org/issues/bull238/documents/landbaseAccuracy.pdf> (visited Feb, 2010)

I have been advocating a similar approach for many years, to also include database validation and additional considerations peculiar to tribal entities.

The ACSM Bulletin article identifies some of the purposes for development of the Muckleshoot SNARE in 2005-2006:

<http://www.waurisa.org/thesummit/TheSummit200607A.pdf> (visited Feb, 2010)

The ACSM article mentions a "survey network" and I have been an advocate of developing a good survey network particularly for the developing areas of a tribal land base, where infrastructure will be built to serve new facilities and homes and where Civil/Survey CAD information can provide input to GIS.

Note that the BLM/BIA's work regarding allotments is primarily focused on horizontal measurements. A good reference network will also include vertical control near existing or planned "built" areas.

Work I did with the Muckleshoot and further within my studies at the University of Redlands inspired me to create a geodatabase template that can be used to collect survey control or monument information for GIS. It is based on the Washington Council of County Surveyors database template. This template is used in other states in the US and other countries:

<http://plso.wadnr.gov/surveycontrol/templates.htm> (visited Feb, 2010)

A geodatabase version is available (free) for downloading within the software section of my company website along with other information that might be useful for tribal GIS analysts and managers.

Sincerely,

Tim Leach, GISP
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I will be happy to put together a project proposal and/or presentation regarding the development of a SNARE project via my consulting company for any tribe. I believe this to be of great importance – ultimately resulting in benefits that will persist for years into the future. In difference to other information that can be sensitive, a survey network is an asset that a tribe will want to share with everyone!