

Department of the Interior Remote Sensing Work Group (DOIRSWG) Training Sub-group Charter

SCOPE

This charter defines a Training Subgroup under the Department of the Interior Remote Sensing Work Group (DOIRSWG), to increase the availability and relevance of remote sensing training materials to DOI agencies. The charter established a collaborative, mutually beneficial relationship DOI agencies and the USFS Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC). This charter does not establish formal authority, but acknowledges the intent of the Subgroup which operates on a voluntary basis with no transfer of funds implied.

BACKGROUND

Remote sensing technology supports a broad range of DOI resource, ecological and hazards-related mission needs. DOI agencies offer limited internally-developed training materials and classes, and vendor-provided training. Training is provided in a distributed fashion and mainly supported by specific programs where remote sensing plays a significant role. The USFS RSAC provides centralized national assistance to agency field units in applying remote sensing technology for improved monitoring and mapping of natural resources. RSAC's principal goal is to develop and implement less costly ways for the Forest Service to obtain needed forest resource information.

PURPOSE

The role of the Training Subgroup is to enhance DOI remote sensing applications through the discovery, sharing, and potential collaborative development of new and improved training materials and courses. The Subgroup will initiate collaboration among DOI agencies and the USFS RSAC. Other agencies or organizations may be engaged as the work of the Subgroup progresses.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Discovery and Inventory

The Subgroup will identify and inventory readily accessible remote sensing training content and courses within DOI agencies and USFS/RSAC. A high-level "inventory" will include content that is readily accessible and usable in native formats, content that is broadly relevant but not accessible outside of a host agency, content that could be broadly useful if updated or modified, and content that is needed but does not exist. (Agency training content may be inaccessible for various reasons, such as firewall issues, because the training content is packaged using specialized training management software, because the training requires access to commercially licensed software packages, etc.) The initial priority is to fully identify the location and nature of existing content that can be shared and used with little or no change required.

Access and Sharing.

A web site will be established to facilitate sharing of training content. The training inventory will be evaluated and prioritized, and content will be brought online in a progressive fashion as resources allow. Stand-alone training sources that are not dependent on specialized training software or encumbered by links to exercises or data behind firewalls will be added to the website first. Content that is not readily accessible

but relevant to other agencies will be selectively ported to an accessible place. Subgroup member agencies will help identify and describe their training sources for the website, and as applicable, maintain and provide selected content to a common “training archive” (possible at USGS EROS) where it can be accessed with DOI and RSAC members.

Training Content Development.

Training content is continually being developed, maintained and presented in the FS/RSAC and DOI agencies. The Subgroup will keep abreast of these activities and may collaborate in the development and presentation of specific training modules, or build on other agency training content, tailoring it for their mission objectives. For example, RSAC, USGS and NGA have independently developed training that describes how to access commercial remotes sensing imagery. These agencies could leverage efforts to reduce the burden and improve the quality of this content.

MEMBERSHIP ROLES

Membership is open and will represent the DOI interests in its respective Bureaus and the interests of the USFS/RSAC. There are no term limits on membership.

CO-CHAIRS

The Training Subgroup is co-chaired by the USGS and the RSAC (?). Co-chairs may annually rotate among agencies as agreed by the Subgroup. The duties of the co-chairs include organizing and facilitating monthly teleconferences and coordinating the ensuing actions.

MEMBERS

There is an identified Point-Of-Contact (POC) for each Bureau that wishes to be represented. Members agree to the membership criteria outlined below:

- Serve on a volunteer basis,
- Committed to the advancement of the use of Remote Sensing for better decision-making,
- Ability to ‘think outside the box’, and to work collaboratively as a team player,
- Positive, constructive thinker,
- Capable of representing the interests of their bureau

SECRETARY

The role of the Secretary is to support the co-chairs. In particular, the secretary will be responsible for documenting meetings and support technical and programmatic information exchange among members.