

**Remote Sensing Subcommittee Charter**  
**Geographic Information Systems Committee**  
**National Park Service**  
**Department of the Interior**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the National Park Service Remote Sensing Subcommittee (RSS) is to improve planning, coordination, and technical support for park scientific research and management. The RSS will provide guidance to the GISC on the use of remote sensing for GIS and related technologies and communicate the current capabilities and status of sensors, software, and applications. The RSS will also encourage best practices to managers and practitioners who make use of the technology and/or products.

**Background**

Remote sensing data and technology allow resource managers to survey, map, and monitor natural, cultural, facility, and landscape features in a cost-effective manner. Park and program managers will benefit from implementation of the RSS that supports the planning, acquisition, application, and long-term preservation of remotely-sensed data and information.

The need for remote sensing expertise and resources in the NPS is increasing. For example, the NPS Natural Resource Challenge provides funding for monitoring ecological vital signs and many NPS Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Networks are turning to remote sensing technologies as a cost-effective way to monitor park resources. In addition, large quantities of data made available through existing partnerships would be more effectively used NPS by consolidating institutional knowledge, education, and resources. Existing RS resources include a broad range of imagery archives that relatively few NPS staff know about or understand. Imagery from these archives can support a wide variety of monitoring, mapping, and management applications.

**Roles and Functions**

1. **COMMUNICATION:** Facilitate and serve as a focal point for communications about remote sensing issues, programs, policies, budgets and budget initiatives; internally, with other agencies, and external partners. Keep personnel up to date in Remote Sensing technologies, sensors, available data, applications, and training opportunities.
2. **ADVISORY ROLE:** Serve as a source of recommendations to the NPS GISC on strategies and priorities for the Remote Sensing Subcommittee and project(s) direction. Represent the NPS in appropriate forums related to applications, systems, data, training, and policy.
3. **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** Organize the existing expertise and training of users in the application of remote sensing technologies. Identify NPS remote sensing training needs and plan or make recommendations for the development and presentation of training in cooperation with other groups or agencies.
4. **DATA MANAGEMENT, SHARING, and STANDARDS:** Facilitate the sharing of and access to NPS remotely-sensed data. Provide guidance on protocols for spatial data management, spatial analysis, mapping, etc.
5. **REMOTE SENSING TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** Provide guidance and direction for all technical support centers to ensure adequate remote sensing support is provided to

NPS park, region, and program offices that make use of remotely-sensed information.  
Partner with other agencies in order to acquire expertise that NPS does not have.

### **Membership**

The NPS RSS is co-chaired by the National Remote Sensing Coordinator and another NPS remote sensing coordinator or specialist working on high-level projects or partnerships. Membership to the NPS RSS will be limited to 10 individuals who represent a cross section of remote sensing coordinators and specialists/users across the NPS. Active members and their supervisors must agree to the membership criteria outlined below. Members serve on a volunteer basis. Non-NPS employees may serve as non-voting ex officio members.

In addition to the regular RSS membership, task groups may be formed and request the assistance of subject-matter experts on an *ad hoc* basis.

#### Membership Criteria:

- A strong interest in advancing the use of Remote Sensing by park managers to support better-informed decision-making
- Visionary, demonstrated ability to 'think outside the box', and to work collaboratively
- A good team player
- Positive, constructive thinker
- Capable of representing the interests of their professional community and the NPS
- Supervisory approval for the rotational members

### **Meetings**

Monthly meetings will normally be held by teleconference. Additional in-person or teleconference meetings may be scheduled as needed to complete the requests and projects assigned to the subcommittee by the GISC and National GIS Program Manager. Meetings will be coordinated and facilitated by the co-chairs with input of GISC and RSS members. The RSS will provide an update of current remote sensing activities at the monthly GISC meetings as directed.

The RSS will attempt to make decisions by consensus among members, but decisions may be reached by a majority vote when necessary. More than half of current Subcommittee members must vote on a decision to constitute a quorum. Subject matter experts or other individuals invited on an *ad hoc* basis can provide information or recommendations, but they can not be involved in the decision-making or voting process.

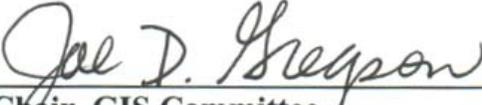
Additional remote sensing task groups may be established by the GISC to address specific remote sensing issues. The composition of these work groups will, to the extent possible, represent different geographic and organizational perspectives and may include personnel from a variety of agencies and organizations. Task group reports and recommendations will be submitted to the GISC for information update(s), approval, and/or further action. The RSS/GISC will identify a liaison to any remote sensing task groups that are established.

**Approval**

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the GISC. This charter is valid for five years from the date signed unless revised or discontinued. This charter can be revised upon the recommendation of the GISC.

**Recommended by GISC: March 15, 2006**

**Approved**

  
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Chair, GIS Committee

Date: 3/16/06

## **Appendix A – NPS Remote Sensing Subcommittee Charter Membership**

David Duran, Co-Chair, National Remote Sensing Coordinator, GIS Division, National Information Systems Center (NISC)

Mike Story, Co-Chair, Natural Resource Remote Sensing Coordinator, Office of Inventory & Monitoring (OIME), Natural Resources Program Center (NRPC)

Anne Vawser, Member, Archeological Information Management Team Leader, Midwest Region ASMIS Coordinator

Gareth Rowell, Member, Data Manager, Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network (HTLN)

James Stein, Member, Cultural Resources GIS

Jess Grunblatt, Member, Alaska Region Inventory Coordinator

John Gross, Member, Ecologist, OIME, NRPC

Karl Brown, Member, Vegetation Mapping Program Manager, NRPC

Tammy Stidham, Member, National Capital Regional Technical Support Center (RTSC) GIS Specialist

Alison Forrestel, Member, Bay Area Network Fire Ecologist, Point Reyes National Seashore, Fire

Robert Kennedy, Ex Officio Member, Oregon State University