



# The Science Data Coordinator Network (SDCN)

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Presentation created April 8, 2013

# What is the SDCN?

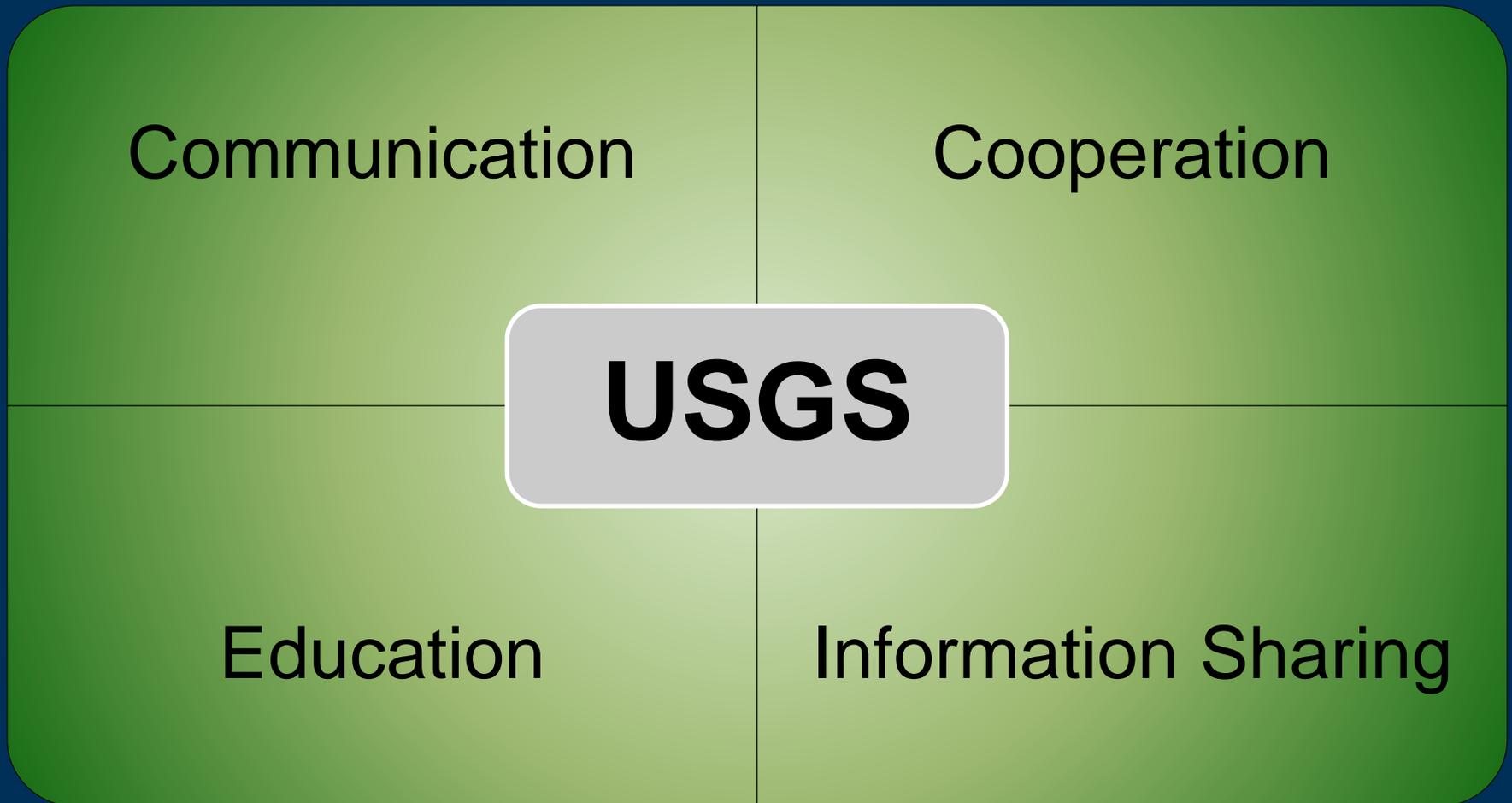
*A Partnership to Connect Resources  
in the USGS*

**SDCN facilitates collaboration among:**



- **Scientists, Managers & Data Professionals**
- **Data, Services, and Tools to Support Science**
- **Expertise & Skills to Solve Information Management Problems**

# It's About *People...* A Communication Network



# The SDCN is *NOT*:



Hardware Acquisition



Hardware Installation



Network/Hardware Maintenance



A Storage Repository



Prescriptive

# Science Data Coordinators (FY12)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIVE	CORE SCIENCE SYSTEMS REPRESENTATIVE
Northeast	Steve Tessler	Marcia McNiff
Midwest	JC Nelson Jessica Thompson	
Southeast	Heather Henkel	Jean Freeney
South Central	Leslie Armstrong	
Rocky Mountain	Dave Ferderer	Jennifer Carlino
Northwest	Jennifer Bayer	
Southwest	Derrick Hirsch	Julie Prior-Magee
Alaska	Carl Markon	

# Science Data Coordinators (FY13)

Regions	
Northwest Region	Jen Bayer
Pacific Region	Derrick Hirsch
Alaska Region	Carl Markon
Southwest Region	Dave Ferderer
Midwest Region	JC Nelson, Jessica Thompson
Northeast Region	Steve Tessler
Southeast Region	Heather Henkel (Chair)
Mission Areas	
Climate and Land Use Change	John Faundeen
Core Science Systems	Marcia McNiff, Jen Carlino
Ecosystems	Joe Bunnell
Energy & Minerals, & Environmental Health	Vito Nuccio
Natural Hazards	John Haines, Mike Blanpied
Water	Susan Trapanese
Office of Science Quality and Integrity	Carolyn Reid
Administration and Enterprise Information	Gloria Castro
Office of Communications and Publishing	Doug Thompson

# Recent SDCN Activities

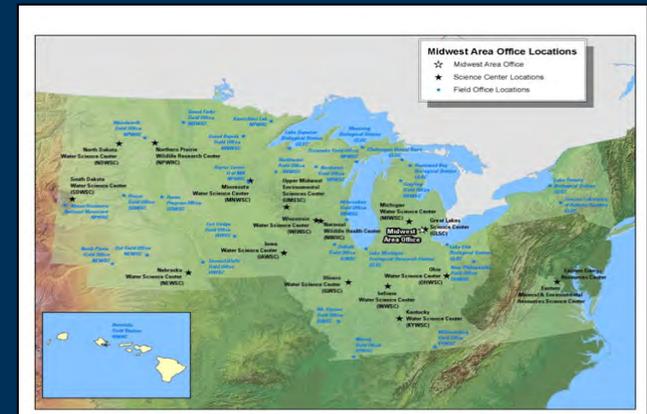
- **FY13: SDCN representation now includes each Mission Area**
- **FY12 Tasks Completed**
  - 1. Introductory Documents: Introduce the SDCN**
  - 2. Landscape Characterization: Identify the Who, What & Where**
  - 3. Surveying Data Management Issues: Identify common issues from surveys; make recommendations**
  - 4. Data Management Support: Assess current state of data management support; make recommendations**
  - 5. FY12 Executive Summary report (available online<sup>1</sup>)**

# Task 1: Introduce the SDCN

- This task focused on generating introductory documents to be delivered to various audiences to highlight the SDCN goals and plans, and to create support for current and future activities
- Created master presentation as a foundation for all SDCN introductory discussions and presentations
- Developed one-page “Fact Sheet” summaries highlighting the Charter, Project Tasks, and SDCN activities
- Created SDCN website available at:  
[http://www.usgs.gov/core\\_science\\_systems/csas/usgs\\_sdcn\\_contacts.html](http://www.usgs.gov/core_science_systems/csas/usgs_sdcn_contacts.html)

## Task 2: Landscape Characterization

- Developed draft maps for all FY12 geographic areas
  - Show locations of Science Centers and Field Offices
- Created list of database attributes (metadata) we'd like to collect for each location
  - Includes points of contact
- Will help characterize: expertise, capabilities, linkages, overlap
- Will collaborate with ScienceBase



## Task 3: “Surveys of surveys”

- Located and evaluated existing data and information management surveys conducted in and outside of USGS
  - 14 surveys were identified and results collected, 7 selected
- Summarized surveys by their questions and responses
  - Categorized into components of USGS Science Data Lifecycle Model

Survey Name	Years Survey Were Conducted	SDCN Point of Contact
<b>Surveys Used in Analysis:</b>		
DataONE Scientists Survey	2011	Heather Henkel
DataONE Data Managers Survey	2011	Heather Henkel
IBIS Biodiversity Information Users' Survey	2011	Jean Freeney
CDI Web Services Survey	2009-2010	David Ferderer
FGDC Geospatial (Data Services Survey)	2009	Leslie Armstrong
GISIN Needs Assessment Survey	2007	Terri Killeffer
IT Business Strategy Review Manager Survey	2007	David Ferderer
<b>Surveys Identified, but Not Used in the Analysis:</b>		
DOI Quantitative Data Call Response		
USGS Information Infrastructure Plan Focus Group Issues Summary		
United Kingdom (UK) Archive Survey		
USGS Water Resources Division (WRD) IT Survey		
USGS Midwest GIS Survey		
DOI IT Skills Set Survey		
EarthCube		

## **Task 3: “Surveys of Surveys”**

### **Recommended next steps:**

- **Complete a comprehensive report summarizing the results, the commonalities, and the differences among the various surveys**
- **Combine concerns & needs from Scientists**
- **Recommendation made to turn existing work over to CDI DMWG to have them carry on the analysis**

# Task 4: Evaluate Data Management Support Need

- Investigated five USGS support service systems: Enterprise GIS (EGIS), Ask-a-Librarian, Ask USGS, Ask-a-Geologist, and NWIS Help
- Reviewed websites and initiated interviews to:
  - Evaluate the current state of data management support within these groups;
  - Characterize critical support system attributes, including authorization methods, organizational structures, capabilities and operational logistics;
  - Identify potential analogs and implementation scenarios for a future data management support services; and
  - Produce general recommendations to improve the overall data management capability in the Survey.

# Task 4: Evaluate Data Management Support Need

**Consensus Recommendation:** *...there is a critical need to implement a Data Management Support Service and related mechanism(s) to assist scientists and data professionals in resolving a wide range of data handling, documentation, preservation, and information management issues....*

*...support should be based on the Science Data Lifecycle to provide a common framework to evaluate service needs, improve processes, and promote comprehensive management of USGS assets; leading to better quality data having more utility and a longer and more useful lifespan....*

*...Data Management Support Service is predicated on deploying a dedicated Data Steward Network (either as part of the SDCN or independent from SDCN) with representation and expertise from across the USGS to champion data, information management practices, and stewardship issues....*

*...Work with CDI Data Management Working Group to evaluate options and formulate plans to deploy a service support and steward network...*

- **20+ Data Management Recommendations**
  - Great need for Data Management Support
  - Local Data Stewards needed for Network
  - CDI DMWG-SDCN collaboration
- **Next step: turn work over to the CDI DMWG**



## **Task 5: Summarize FY12 Accomplishments**

- **Deliverables:**
  - **Executive Summary report**
  - **Individual reports for each task listing accomplishments**
  - **List of recommendations for continuing the SDCN into FY13 and beyond**

# SDCN FY13 Activities

- Get back to our original charge – focus on *communication*
  - Coordinate among Regions and Mission Areas
  - Focus on activities and responsibilities for each Area
  - Build upon work initiated in FY12 tasks
- Continue to work with other groups within USGS who are involved in collaborative data management activities
  - Geospatial Liaisons network (NGP Partnerships Program)
  - Community for Data Integration (CDI)
  - CDI Data Management Working Group (DMWG)
  - Ocean Planning (formerly Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning)

# For More Information

## Contact:

- [GS\\_SDCN@usgs.gov](mailto:GS_SDCN@usgs.gov)
- Your SDCN Representative

## Visit:

- Online  
[http://www.usgs.gov/core\\_science\\_systems/csas/usgs\\_sdcn\\_contacts.html](http://www.usgs.gov/core_science_systems/csas/usgs_sdcn_contacts.html)

# Science Data Coordinator Network

Thank You

