

Science Data Coordination Network (SDCN) – FY2012

Introduction

The SDCN is a partnership between the Core Science Systems (CSS) Mission Area and the USGS Geographic Areas, established to address current and cross-cutting information management issues that will increase the success and impact of collaborative science projects. The Network provides a conduit and framework for activities that help connect information investments across multiple disciplinary, geographic, temporal, and political boundaries, while assisting with identification and prioritization of local science and information management requirements. By building upon existing data investments and expertise, the SDCN supports the deployment of more consistent data management and long-term preservation practices and helps facilitate integration, discovery, access, and delivery of information assets developed at the USGS.

Charter

The Network Charter was developed by the Network and approved in October 2011. The Charter helps establish scope, goals, and responsibilities. The Charter goals build upon the term “network” in the truest sense, as it will promote increased communication, education, cooperation, and information-sharing across and within the Geographic and Mission Areas by developing a networked community of practitioners among researchers and information management specialists. The Network will do this by:

- Improving data management and information stewardship within the USGS;
- Identifying and connecting expertise and capability across the USGS to establish a science data network;
- Facilitating access to, and availability of USGS data and information products;
- Characterizing and addressing cross-cutting and local science data and information management needs and requirement.;
- Helping to deploy educational materials, data management services, and best practices in support of USGS research goals; and
- Developing linkages for sharing data, applicable resources, expertise, and infrastructure among Science Centers, Mission Areas, Geographic Areas, and Core Science Systems.

Project Plan

The Network Project Plan, which was approved by the Network in early January, identifies a purpose, audience, key deliverables, tactics, and metrics. The Plan includes the following tasks:

- Creating introductory documents as well as reports summarizing our accomplishments;
- Characterizing the USGS Landscape;
- Evaluating existing data and information management-related surveys to help identify current capabilities and needs; and
- Promoting Data and Information Management support in the USGS.

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