Kick-Off Meeting – 2023 Wildfire Season Takeaways

November 15, 2023 | 13:00 – 14:00   Emergency Management Geomatics Community of Practice (EMGCP)

Attendees	DFO, DND (CJOC), ECCC, ESDC, ISC, NRCan (EGS), PS (GOC), PSPC (RPS), RCMP, StatCan, TC (TDG), TC (TEA), CRC
Location	Online (Microsoft Teams)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION   13:00-13:05

Presenter(s): Darlene Tran - PS (GOC)

Description

Introduction of the Community of Practice, presentation of the meeting agenda and general announcements.

1.1. CALL TO ORDER

Description

The attendance is noted by an alphabetical roll call of all departments and/or agencies that are members of the EMGCP.

2. 2023 WILDFIRE SEASON TAKEAWAYS   13:05-13:50

Presenter(s): Darlene Tran - PS (GOC)

Description

Opportunity for every group to provide a brief introduction of their team and provide insight into the work they accomplished during the 2023 wildfire season, notably in terms of the key partners they worked with, products that were developed and key takeaways.

2.1. PS (GOC)

Presenter(s): Clare Williamson

Team and role
- Team of 4 geomatics duty officers with the addition of a student.

Closely worked with a number of different partners during the 2023 wildfire season, notably:
- TC National Aerial Surveillance Program (NASP)
  - Acquisition of aerial imagery for both the Tantallon and Sherlburne wildfires in Nova Scotia for fire detection.
  - Acquisition of aerial imagery for several interface wildfires of interest in British Columbia for damage assessment.
- TC (TDG)
  - Provided surge support.
- NRCan Canadian Wildland Fire Information System (CWFIS)
  - Acquisition and sharing of several key datasets driving our wildfire mapping projects.
- NRCan Emergency Geomatics Service (EGS)
  - Provided coding support aiding in the acquisition and maintenance of feature layers on ArcGIS Online.
- ECCC
  - Access to data, notably the predictive smoke model.
- ISC
  - Mapping First Nation communities across Canada impacted and/or evacuated due to wildfires.

Worked on over 1,400 static products related to wildfires over the course of the summer.

Other notable products developed include:
- A limited distribution webmap for NASP imagery dissemination with partners;
- A limited distribution webmap for wildfires;
- A Common Operating Picture (COP) for senior officials, capturing key metrics with mapping components;
- Scripts to scrape wildfire data to ensure no data breakages on web products.

Key Takeaways
- Aiming to increase awareness within the GOC of our in-house geomatics capabilities;
- Realizing the benefit of maintaining and expanding our network in terms of surge support capacity;
- Importance of maintaining alternative means of access to key information/data.

2.2. DFO

Presenter(s): Hugo Mercier

Team and role
- Operate within the Conservation and Protection (C&P) team at the Maritime Security Operation Centre (MSOC) for the Eastern region.

Happy to be a member of the community and looking forward to do some networking and learn more about the work done by other geomatics professionals within the federal government.

2.3. DND (CJOC)

Presenter(s): Maj. Kevin Madore

Team and role
- CJOC possesses geomatics capabilities within all four regions of Canada.
- Interactions with many international partners, including NATO.

CJOC is mainly interested in the realm of geospatial intelligence
- Several dashboards have been developed by pulling data from OGDs, notably a dashboard that tracks deployment of troops across Canada.

Key Takeaways
- Focus on personal requirements;
- Early warning is key for CJOC's operations;
- Obtaining updated data from other departments.

2.4. ISC

Presenter(s): Erika Douglas

Nothing significant to report

2.5. NRCan (EGS)

Presenter(s): Nicolas Svacina

Team and role
- Role is primarily to support operations, mainly through the use of satellite imagery, as well as to support Provinces/Territories for flood detection analysis.

During the 2023 wildfire season, worked closely with NRCan Canadian Forest Service (CFS), PS (GOC) and GeoDiscovery
- Developed several remote sensing analyses;
- Coordinated with CSA for the McDougall Creek wildfire in British Columbia as well as for the wildfires near Yellowknife in order to provide RCM SAR imagery analysis;
- Provided bi-weekly geographic support for mapping to GeoDiscovery;
- Coordinated with PS (GOC) and GeoDiscovery to assist the GOC in the creation of scripts aiming at acquiring fire perimeters in ArcGIS Online in a more efficient manner.

Key Takeaways
- Important to conduct a comprehensive review of gaps for remotely sensed products to identify required updates/improvements;
- Need to review cartographic support gaps.

2.6. ECCC

Presenter(s): Maxime Perron

Not much to report, wildfires are a little outside our jurisdiction.

2.7. PSPC

Presenter(s): Isabelle Proulx

Team and role
- Part of a small team of only 4 members after some people have left for retirement.
- Lots of responsibilities that are not only linked to Emergency Management.
- Mainly support senior management with any demand for any product that requires a visual, a cartographic product, a dashboard, etc..
- Products are mainly focused on buildings and properties, but also on national parks and First Nations communities.
    - Federal properties are always present on their products given our departmental mandate.
- PSPC rarely works with or for other departments of the Federal Government, but sometimes do.
- Makes use of mainly ArcGIS Online but also have access to ArcGIS Enterprise

Products
- Developed web products making use of any open data we were able to find
    - Makes use of data either available on Esri's Living Atlas or openly available data published by the Federal Government
    - All products are created to be bilingual
- Created an ArcGIS Experience page to group all applications in a central location (available here).
    - *A short demonstration was provided showcasing the ArcGIS Experience page and applications.*

2.8. RCMP

Presenter(s): Ivi Iliriani

Team and role
- Mostly interested in criminal activities. Not as focused on wildfires but it is a growing interest given the magnitude of the 2023 season.

Products
- Currently working on integrating a World geocoder to help internal operations.

2.9. StatCan

Presenter(s): Yann Pelcat

Team and role
- About 7 people working in the team.
- Custom development of applications using JavaScript and HTML that meet StatCan's accessibility standards.
- Provide support to another division at StatCan in the development of surveys
    - Aim at identifying all national areas that are currently evacuated to help identify areas that should not be surveyed.

An updated version of the Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD) dataset using data from the 2021 Census was released last week (available here)
- All tables from the 2021 Census are also available online, they simply have to be joined.
- The user guides are also available online and are available in both HTML and PDF format.

2.10. TC (TDG)

Presenter(s): Ethan Howieson

Team and role
- Identify unknown Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) activity in Canada
- Conduct regional studies and supply chain analyses to identify risks and hazards

Provided surge support over the summer to PS (GOC).

2.11. TC (TEA)

Presenter(s): Aaron Ludmer

Team and role
- Mainly interested in having knowledge of what resources are moving where
  - Have a sense of what economic impact a specific transportation impact could have on supply chain.

Products
- Access to a near real time application that tracks trains nationally and provides insight into what resources are travelling where, as well as their origin
  - *A short demonstration of the RailState application was provided showcasing its ability to narrow down to a specific train and tracking specific cars and where they had recently been.*

Question
- RCMP: Are there cross border sensors?
  - TC (TEA): Yes, there are some, and also in and out of ports. For example, there are some sensors in Montana for Coutts. Current access to the application is limited to only within TC, but details will be provided for departments who would be interested in reaching out to the private company
    - Point of Contact: John Schmitter, Chief Commercial Officer, RailState LLC, johnschmitter@railstate.com

2.12. CRC

Presenter(s): Grayson Mortimer

Team and role
- Part of a small team of 2.
- Primary mandate during wildfire season is providing mass financial assistance.

Over the summer, was engaged with the Government of Nova Scotia to provide mass financial assistance to households impacted by wildfires.
- Determine polygons of assistance eligibility for quick reference.

Smoke and weather layer are very important to us. We're also very curious to know if we could have a central resource for data sharing.

2.13. ESDC

Presenter(s): Sylvain Bisson

Team and role
- Clients are mostly internal within the department.

During the wildfire season, role was mostly program-driven.
- Deliver a list of postal codes of people potentially impacted by wildfires.

Key Takeaways
- Aim at developing a nice looking map as part of the next phase;
- Looking at implementing a dashboard showcasing all wildfires, floods and hurricanes using ArcGIS Enterprise.

3. OPEN DISCUSSION   13:50-13:58

Description
Open floor for contribution by any member.

Questions
- NRCan (EGS): Did any of the groups present on the call see any of the cartographic products produced by NRCan EGS during the wildfire season?
  - PS (GOC) : The GOC did. They were shared internally but were no disseminated externally
- NRCan (EGS): Are there any new needs in terms of damage assessments going forward?
  - PS (GOC) : We did receive a request for damage assessment in British Columbia which was conducted using TC NASP. The activation of TC NASP in Nova Scotia was mainly for fire detection and not damage assessment.
  - StatCan : Several other divisions at StatCan need fire perimeters to assess socio-economic impacts.
  - NRCan EGS : There are new satellite being launched almost every day. Trying to keep up with the latest service offerings in order to provide the best support possible.

4. ADJOURNMENT   13:58-14:00

Presenter(s): Darlene Tran - PS (GOC)

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on February 14, 2024 | 13:00 - 14:00

Terms of Reference will be shared with the group for feedback to be provided at the next meeting

Wishing everyone a Happy GIS Day!

Tasks Summary

Task	Due Date	Owner
Share Terms of Reference with all community members	22 December 2023	Darlene Tran (PS (GOC))
Review Terms of Reference and prepare feedback ahead of the next meeting	14 February 2024	*All community members*