

RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative
Land Cover Mapping Subgroup Meeting
13 July 2005, 9:00 AM
Large Conference Room URI Bay Campus

Agenda

Some of the questions we want to address and some starting points for our discussions at our meeting on July 13 are below. The questions are offered just to get us thinking and the answers are the first word, not the last word, on how we might proceed.

Question: What are the technical specifications for the most suitable digital orthophotography for Rhode Island?

Specs ??: 1 foot pixel, true color, leaf off, spring imagery, SPF-NAD83, hardcopy or film product not required.

Question: What are the technical specifications for imagery that would support remapping statewide wetland habitats?

Specs ??: color infra-red photographic film transparencies, 9"x 9" photo scale of 1:12,000, leaf off, spring imagery.

Question: Should future land use and land cover mapping include remapping wetlands rather than working from the 1988 wetland delineations?

Answer ??: Yes, if at all possible

Question: Is our existing digital terrain model (DTM) satisfactory for creating 1 foot pixel size orthos and satisfying user application needs?

Answer ??: Yes, our existing DTM is suitable for creating ortho imagery. It is not suitable for most user applications. It would be desirable to have digital terrain data that at minimum have 10 m pixel size and +/- 1 m vertical accuracy. A digital terrain model is the preferred product; from it contour maps, slope maps, flood plain maps, etc, can be derived. Coastal areas and flood-prone areas likely require data of greater horizontal and vertical accuracy.

Question: Should there be changes made in the wetland classification system and mapping specifications?

Answer ??: No retain the 0.1 hectare (0.25 acre) minimum mapping unit specification. Retain the current classification system.

Question: Should there be changes in the land cover classification system currently used in the RIGIS dataset.

Answer ??: Yes, to support habitat and forest management applications, forest and brushland classes should be mapped to level 4 detail and show community types for specific habitats. DEM Division of Forest Management and the DEM Heritage Program (and RINHS?) should take the lead in defining the communities to be mapped. Other RIGIS categories should be retained as they currently are.

Question: Who will pay for all this?

Answer ??: USGS might be able to do project management on a photo mission; potential sources of funding are federal highway funds, SWG funds, state funds, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (\$100,000 available). Others?