



January 29, 2009

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*Managing fish and wildlife
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Richard Butgareit, GIS Administrator
Florida Statewide GIS Steering Committee
FL Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Dear Mr. Butgareit,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strongly supports the efforts of the Florida Statewide GIS Steering Committee to develop and implement a strategy for coordination of a statewide geographic information system (GIS).

FWC recognizes that while GIS in Florida is well established with a long history of success, there remain areas of the state where the technology has not yet been adopted. The state's GIS data need to be organized, consistent from location to location, distributed across many layers of government, and available when needed. Statewide coordination will also result in substantial cost benefit and a reduction in duplication of effort.

The geospatial community desires a comprehensive, integrated strategy to improve the spatial data infrastructure of the state of Florida. It is through the coordination of GIS that the citizens of Florida can be assured both a maximum return on public resource investment and that all regions of the state will share equally in the benefits of improved information to support critical government services.

FWC is committed to advancing the state's geospatial resources and wholly support the efforts of the Steering Committee in their resolve for statewide coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kenneth Haddad".

Kenneth Haddad
Executive Director