

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR**

THE SOCIETY OF CONSERVATION GIS

FOUNDED, JULY 1997

PO Box 861

Lake Placid, FL 33862

Prepared by:

Gillian Bowser

Roberta Pickert

Sandra Coveny

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

The Society for Conservation GIS can open communication and cooperation among conservation organizations and members working for species conservation and preservation. Conservation requires such cooperation and this Society, through its board members and activities, can foster a conservation community that is proactive. The Society needs to be pro-active in providing membership the services desired as expressed at the founding of the Society and through discussion of the Board Members. As a new organization, in a field increasingly crowded with groups, list servers and chatrooms, it is important that the Society provide a venue for services not widely available. Tasks such as peer review, data access, professional networking, and simple knowledge of activities is currently lacking in the GIS field specifically among conservationists. The Society targets this audience as one of the rapidly growing fields in the computer industry and one desperately in need of an organization for sharing ideas.

Maps 'speak' in many languages. The need for mapping resources and predicting resource impacts is present in newly developing countries and in the industrialized nations. Maps that answer resource questions are desperately needed in Russia, in South America, and in United States wilderness areas and preserves. This common need can bring together peoples of many cultures and ethnic backgrounds and can foster communication and expand the conservation field. I believe we have a unique opportunity at the Society for Conservation GIS to demonstrate the importance of conservation to all peoples of all ethnic and economic backgrounds.

Gillian Bowser
Ecologist, National Park Service

STATEMENT FROM VICE PRESIDENT

My primary hope for SCGIS is that it connect conservation GIS users, facilitating the exchange of ideas, techniques, resources, etc., and serving as a community to support building of partnerships and collaborative efforts worldwide. In my mind the #1 problem that prevents GIS from being a viable tool for the larger conservation community (from my non-profit perspective) is lack of connection - lack of connection among conservation GIS users, lack of connection between people who have resources, know-how, etc., and people who need GIS. My definition of the conservation GIS users is very broad. I believe we need to engage community-based conservation organizations, regional and national non-profits, corporations, and universities, as well as constituencies that are not considered conservationist in the conventional sense - community service, public health, economic justice organizations to name a few.

My goal, professional and in terms of SCGIS is to empower a wide (and ever widening) audience to use GIS for community based conservation. All of us who know and love GIS (and all the cool things it can do) need to be mindful of the fact that as neat as the tool is, the goal (conservation/restoration of the environment) is what is important. Many on-the-ground conservationists types (and foundation program officers) have decided they don't like GIS because of the barriers of cost, technical complexity, access to know how, etc. They perceive that that the technology has taken on a life of its own and that GIS enthusiasts have lost sight of the immediacy of the needs of small conservation organizations. I do not believe that these perceptions are true, but they certainly exist. I would like to see SCGIS help GIS break down these barriers, real or perceived. We need to link current and potential conservation GIS users to training, to technical expertise, to computer resources, and to people who have data. We need learning networks, publications, and standards of professional excellence.

Regarding the implementation of my grand vision, I am imminently practical. In the short term, I think the focus of the board of the SCGIS is to build a firmly established organization to achieve these goals. This means establishing a funding base, identifying staffing needs, developing good leadership (staff and board), and generally building a framework for success. In this first year I believe we should focus on three basic things: securing funding for our goals, most likely including a full-time staff person, building the structure of the organization, and throwing another outstanding conference. I would like to see the scope of the conference be somewhat broader this year, including professional development/training on topics such as advanced GIS techniques, fundraising, conservation science, etc. It would be nice to pull in some foundation/corporate folks to present and/or attend.

Cheryl Crupi

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SECTION 1: Society Goals and Objectives

The Society for Conservation GIS was founded July 1997 as a formal continuation of the Conservation GIS program started through the Conservation grants program of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, California. At the annual gathering at the James Reserve in July of the former Conservation GIS Association, the Society for Conservation was voted into existence as a non-profit 501c(3) profession organization for conservation GIS users and those interested in conservation GIS. The Society was founded to provide a mechanism for communication, collaboration, and data exchange among members and to provide opportunities for professional growth and training. The Society was to provide a common venue for all GIS users whether from federal, state, or non-profit organizations such that data could be shared, ideas reviewed, and technical support supplied. To meet this goal, the Society will continue to host an annual meeting to allow conservation GIS users to exchange ideas, present papers, and establish communication with other GIS users from around the world.

The Society reaches out to the casual users, the graduate student, the professional, and the federal worker to provide a forum for discussion and communication. Thus, the focus and goal of the Society is to:

1. Promote a network of peers in conservation GIS
2. Provide a vehicle for peer review and support
3. Provide for regular meetings where conservation GIS users can meet and discuss ideas.
4. Assist members in obtaining GIS equipment and software
5. Assist members in data access
6. Facilitate in the transfer and publication of GIS work
7. Provide a network for students and new GIS users in the conservation field as well as the professional.

SECTION 2: Society Outlook

The Society for Conservation GIS currently has at minimum of 50 members from three continents and many countries. Membership is growing slowly; however, with the recent registration of the website with search engines on the World Wide Web, interest in the Society is expected to grow. In addition, a small abstract contest for graduates students to win their travel to the annual conference, will help advertise the Society and its goals. The second annual meeting with the replacement of the interim board and officers will help launch the Society for the year 1998 and 1999.

The Society as received several large donations from several individuals and corporations. ESRI made a significant donation to the Society and those monies will be used to invest in the future of the Society and to ensure its ability to meet its financial obligations. Output expenditures were limited during this first year as the Society concentrated on establishing by-laws, electing officers and creating a Board of Directors. Now that those tasks are completed, the Society can start to focus on the next years goals of providing a newsletter, developing products to give to each member, and to continue to support the annual conference.

The Society has identified several long-term goals that are important for the stability of a society and the success in passing on the key goals and objectives of the Society. One long term goal is to establish a journal (electronic or paper format) that gives membership a place for peer review, publication, networking for job opportunities and other announcements. A second goal is to establish a peer-review process where Society members can request reviews of maps, spatial models, or other data from professionals in the field at no cost to the member. Five year goals for long term planning include financial stability through wise investments and practical spending; solid membership with the majority of the membership renewing each year; substantial growth in membership that demonstrates the ability of the Society to present its message and principals to increasing wider audiences.

SECTION 3: Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President

Gillian Bowser, MS, National Park Service
Gillian_Bowser@nps.gov

Vice President

Cheryl Crupi,
cheryl@arcana.com

Treasurer

Roberta Pickert
GISLAB@ct.net

Secretary

Kai Snyder
snyderk@ccmail.orst.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Will Allen
Leslie Backus
Tim Bechtold
Steve Beckwitt
Charles Convis
Sandra Coveny
Easy
Michael Hamilton
John Mangiameli
Peter Morrison

SECTION 4: Membership growth and representation

SECTION 5: Society Activities (conference, peer reviews)

SECTION 6: Active Committees under Board of Directors

Committee Chairs

Finance	Roberta Pickert
Conference	Michael Hamilton
Webpage	Easy
Membership	Sandra Coveny
Data Access	Gillian Bowser
International Student/Minority recruitment	Gillian/Charles

SECTION 7: Supplementary position descriptions for staff adjunct to the Board of Directors

**SECTION 8: Significant Accounting Policies (receipts, donations,
and investments)**

SECTION 9: Board Advisory Members

SECTION 10: Year-in-Review

SECTION 11: Bylaws as Submitted For 501c(3) status

ARTICLE I. OFFICES

- 1.1 The principal office of the corporation in the State of Montana shall be located in the City of Missoula, County of Missoula. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or outside the State of Montana, as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are as follows:

- 2.1 To serve as a professional organization for conservation Geographical Information System users, providing for communication, collaboration, and data exchange between members; creating and maintaining standards for performance and competency in conservation GIS work; providing a network of peer reviewers; assuring public access to public data; and arranging for regular meetings and conferences for members; assisting members in obtaining GIS equipment, software and services; assisting members in attending meetings and conferences.
- 2.2 To do anything necessary, proper, advisable or convenient for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, and to do all other things incidental to it or connected with it that are not forbidden by the non-profit corporation statutes of the State of Montana, by any other law, or by these Bylaws. The foregoing specific purposes are to the end that the corporation is organized exclusively for purposes within the scope of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE III. NET EARNINGS

- 3.01 No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of these Bylaws, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation or association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.01 GENERAL POWERS: The business and affairs of the corporation shall be vested in and managed by the Board of Directors. The board shall follow the consensus process in decision making whenever possible. Should consensus fail for any point, a two-thirds majority vote shall be employed.

4.02 NUMBER, TENURE, & QUALIFICATION: The number of directors of the corporation shall be eleven. Each director shall hold office until the next annual meeting and until his/her successor shall have been selected and qualified. A director must be a member in good standing of the organization.

4.03 ELECTION & TERM OF DIRECTORS: The directors shall be selected at an annual meeting by a vote of the members in good standing. Members in good standing may vote for Directors via a mail-in or electronic mail ballot. Ballots shall be received by the date of the annual meeting. The Vice President shall appoint a disinterested third party to conduct balloting. Board members shall serve three year terms.

4.04 MEETINGS: The Board of Directors shall meet twice annually. One of the two meetings shall be held in-person. Board of Director elections shall take place at the in-person meeting. The other meeting may be held via conference call or other electronic medium. The place and time of each meeting shall be determined at the preceding meeting. The Board of Directors may provide, by resolution, the time and place of additional regular meetings without notice other than such resolution.

4.05 QUORUM: A simple majority of the directors fixed by Section 4.02 of Article IV shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, but if fewer than such majority are present at a meeting, a majority of the Directors present may elect to adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

1/3 of the board is elected each year

4.06 RESIGNATION A Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board, the President, or the Secretary of the corporation. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board or such officer. The acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

4.07 REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS Directors may be removed at any annual meeting by a simple majority vote of the Directors present.

4.08 VACANCIES The Board of Directors shall have power to fill vacancies in its own membership. Such new Directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

- 5.01 NUMBER The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer and a Secretary, each of whom shall be elected by the members in good standing. Such other officers and assistant officers as may be deemed necessary may be appointed by the Board of Directors. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary.
- 5.02 ELECTION & TERM OF OFFICE The officers of the corporation shall be elected by the members in good standing via electronic ballot, or other methods that the Board may deem necessary and proper. Each officer shall hold office until his/her successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified or until his/her death or until s/he shall resign or shall have been removed in the manner described in Section 4.07 of Article IV.
- 5.03 VACANCIES A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.
- 5.04 PRESIDENT The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the corporation. In general s/he shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.
- 5.05 VICE PRESIDENT The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President, and s/he shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board of Directors.
- 5.06 TREASURER The Treasurer or his/her designated appointee shall: (a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation; (b) receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories; and (c) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors.
- 5.07 SECRETARY The Secretary shall keep and maintain the minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors and see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and other such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. NON-DISCRIMINATION

6.01 No person shall be denied membership in the organization or be excluded from serving or being served by the organization because of race, color, sex, creed, sexual orientation, national ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, or physical disability.

6.02 There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, sexual orientation, national ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, or physical disability with regards to hiring, assignment, promotion, or other conditions of staff employment, or with respect to members being selected for the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII. PAID STAFF

7.01 The Board of Directors may appoint paid staff members of the organization, fix compensation, prescribe duties and terms of employment upon recommendation from organization staff members. No member of the Board shall serve as a paid staff member. The Board shall comply with Article V with regards to paid staff.

ARTICLE VIII ADVISORY BOARD

8.01 The Board of Directors may appoint an advisory board, according to a structure and with purposes deemed beneficial to the board. Recommendations from the advisory board will not be binding, and the final decision-making authority will rest with the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX. MEMBERSHIP

9.01 Membership in the organization shall be open to any persons undertaking or interested in conservation applications of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) work.

9.02 Members in good standing are those who have paid yearly dues in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE X. DO NO HARM

10.01 When members are gathered as a society, they will not allow harm to come to colleagues by word or deed. At all times, members will not allow harm to come to the natural environment by their technology or their actions.

ARTICLE XI. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

11.01 Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law), or

distribute the assets to the federal, state or local government for a public purpose, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court in the county in which the principal office of the association is then located, exclusively for such purpose or purposes and to such organizations as said court shall determine are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

12.01 These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of members in good standing at the annual meeting. No amendment shall be retroactive.

Adopted unanimously by the incorporators of Society for Conservation GIS, Inc., on the _____ day of _____, 1997.

Will Allen

Leslie Backus

Timothy Bechtold

Steve Beckwitt

Gillian Bowser

Charles Convis

Sandra Coveny

Cheryl Crupi

Easy

Michael Hamilton

John Mangiameli

Peter Morrison

Roberta Pickert

Kai Snyder

SECTION 12: Financial Report for Year Ending 31 December 1997

INFLOWS

Donations:	
Gift – corporate	10,000.00
TOTAL Donations	10,000.00
Dues:	
Dues – basic	147.00
Dues – standard.....	1,375.00
Dues – supporting	250.00
TOTAL Dues	1,772.00
Interest	54.65
Other Income.....	202.22
TOTAL INFLOWS	12,028.87

OUTFLOWS

To date the Society for Conservation has had no outflows.

This report will be hardcopy mailed to each member of the board of directors and will be included in our first annual report.

Notes to the Board of Directors of the Society for Conservation GIS

1. The Society has not yet formalized an operating budget. As reported we have only had inflow – no outflow.
2. Jack's founding donation is still in the account since we have not yet determined advertising needs, nor newsletter and attendant costs, nor web site completion, nor 1998 conference costs, etc.
3. Our newest donation (From Robert Arenz) is reported and reflected in 1998 accounting.
4. After examining several potential investment funds two have risen to the top of the bunch. Neither is especially green but are also not especially hazardous either. Our fund will continue to grow if we reinvest all but 5 to 10 percent each year. However, I am unwilling to commit the funds to investment in either fund until the above mentioned issues are resolved.