

USGS National Hydrography Dataset Newsletter

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by Steve Aichele and Al Rea, USGS

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Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Report delivered

By Steve Aichele

The Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study (HRBS) report was received from Dewberry last month. The full report (totalling over 2500 pages, including tables and appendices) is available at <http://nationalmap.gov/HRBS.html>, along with an executive summary. Additional information will be posted to this page as the project progresses.

Currently we are working on estimating the cost of different implementation scenarios. That work involves collecting hydrography data to different specifications across multiple landscapes such that we can reasonably extrapolate across the country. This work will proceed over the remainder of the calendar year, and will result in a series of implementation scenarios with associated costs and benefits. At that point we will evaluate the options and make a recommendation.

NHD Update Tool Official Release

By Paul Kimsey

The National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) is pleased to announce the release of NHD Update tool v6.2.1. This ArcGIS 10.2.2 version of the tool has incorporated many bug fixes identified in the previous NHD Update tool v6.2.0 and has incorporated enhancements to improve the overall editing experience and to meet NHDPlus HR quality control requirements. The official version will be made available through the Stewardship website <http://usgs-mrs.cr.usgs.gov/usgssteward/> or <http://usgs-mrs.cr.usgs.gov/usgsstewardbeta/> by the end of June.

An ArcGIS 10.3.1 NHD Update tool Beta build is now in testing and will be made available via the Stewardship website by the end of July.

Please direct all questions to Paul Kimsey pjkimsey@usgs.gov

HEM 2.8.0.2 Beta Release

By Mike Tinker

Calling all beta testers! The National Geospatial Technical Operations Center would like to announce the beta release of HEM 2.8.0.2, built for Arc 10.3.1, for User Acceptance Testing. This build includes many bug fixes and several UI improvements to the Batch Synchronize functions. A production release will be built during this current development cycle. It will be posted, along with test data, a test matrix, and list of fixes and enhancements in the HEM product blog of the Hydrographic Data Community between June 23-July 14. If you would like to participate in the User Acceptance Testing, please visit the HEM product blog @ <https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/hdc/HEM+Product+Blog>, or contact Michael Tinker @ mdtinker@usgs.gov.

WBD News

Elizabeth Stevens-Klein, Kimberly Jones, Susan Buto

WBD Editor Tools for ArcGIS 10.2 and 10.3 WBD Model 2.2 Released!

Please visit the Hydrographic Data Community Watershed Boundary Dataset Software Download page to acquire one of the new tools only compatible with the current model. These tools are not compatible with the new WBD Model 2.2.1 due to be released on or around August 1st (new tools coming soon). If it's worth it to you to install the newly released tools for the current model (such as for the new "List Changes" tool), we encourage you to do so. Otherwise, please wait until 2.3.2.x tools are released (note: NRCS will only be certifying the 2.3.2.x tools).

Important Dates Regarding WBD Model 2.2.1 Implementation Plan

We plan to migrate our production database (The National Map and the Stewardship Website) to WBD Model 2.2.1 on or around August 1st, 2016 (see previous newsletter for more information regarding WBD Model 2.2.1). Impacts are as follows:

1. If you haven't done so already, please check your own custom software and/or tools to make sure they are compatible with the new WBD Model 2.2.1 (and please disseminate the information in this and the previous newsletter so others can check as well).
2. Once the new 2.2.1 model is released, you will only be able to edit WBD using WBD Editor Tools 2.3.2.x for ArcGIS 10.3 and WBD Model 2.2.1 (not the aforementioned tools)

just released). WBD Editor Tools 2.3.2.x will be released before the new model is implemented to allow you enough time to upgrade to ArcGIS 10.3 if you haven't already, and to get the new required WBD Editor Tools 2.3.2.x installed. NHD Update for ArcGIS 10.3 should be released soon for those of you waiting to upgrade to ArcGIS 10.3.

3. The Stewardship BETA site has already been pointed to the new WBD Model 2.2.1 for testing the 2.3.2.x tools (June 24th). You cannot use the stewardship beta site until you have the new 2.3.2.x tools installed.
4. The Stewardship Production site will be closed to WBD job checkouts July 1st! You will not be able to check out any jobs between July 1st and until the new model is implemented on or around August 1st.
5. All current jobs checked out must be submitted for NQC by July 11th! Any jobs not submitted in time for us to NQC on or before August 1st will not be accepted.

June 2016 NHD Network Improvement Project Status Report

By Cynthia Ritmiller

The NGTOC continues its focus on the Network Improvement Project with the goal of identifying and correcting network and data quality issues existing in the high resolution NHD. One of the key drivers for this effort is the need to provide data ready to use for the production of NHDPlus High Resolution (NHDPlusHR). Data is being reviewed and edited to support the production schedule for NHDPlusHR beginning with Regions 06, 01, 12, 02, 14, and 15. Coordination with appropriate NHD POC's will begin prior to review. Please see status information for details.

Network Improvement- Status (As of June 28, 2016):

Network Improvement Regions Completed: 06, 01, 12, 20, 21 and 22

Network Improvement Regions In Work:

***Note: For all regions listed below, as new data becomes available it will go through the QA/QC process.

Region 02 - New QC's were ran for sub-regions 0201- 0208, Chris Helm is reviewing.

Region 07 - Charles Browker is reviewing sub-region's 1701 - 1714.

Region 10 - Allen Karsh, Travis Landauer, Bob Merson, and Tanya Torres are reviewing sub-regions 1003 - 1030.

Region 13 - Cynthia Ritmiller completed edits in 1301. Sub-regions 1302- 1309 have been reviewed.

Region 14 - QC's were ran for sub-regions 1401 - 1408. Edits will be completed by Cynthia Ritmiller and Tanya Torres. Subregions 1405 and 1407 have been reviewed and sent to Horizon Systems for NHDPlusHR processing.

Region 15 - QC's were ran for sub-regions 1501 - 1508. Edits will be completed by Cynthia Ritmiller and Tanya Torres. Subregions 1504 and 1506 have been reviewed and sent to Horizon Systems for NHDPlusHR processing..

Region 16- Carol Brady is reviewing sub-regions 1601-1606.

Network Improvement Regions Remaining: 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 11, 17, 18, and 19

Changes to Desktop Tool Support Policies

By Ariel Doumbouya

The National Geospatial Program (NGP) recently revised its policy on development of current and future National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) desktop applications. In the future, NGTOC will develop tools for the current USGS enterprise version of ArcGIS Desktop. This policy is effective immediately. This shift affects all desktop tools including many hydrography tools such as NHD Update, GeoConflation, HEM and WBD. This change will allow NGTOC to reduce the number of software products under active maintenance, and allow NGTOC to more efficiently support our users.

The current USGS enterprise version of ArcGIS Desktop is 10.3.1. All current development will focus on ArcGIS Desktop 10.3.1. When the USGS Enterprise GIS group adopts a new version of ArcGIS Desktop, all future development will be in that version.

This means if and when users would like to utilize the latest versions of tools, with the latest round of enhancements and/or bug fixes, users will be required to upgrade to the most recent USGS enterprise version of ArcGIS Desktop. Prior versions of the tools will continue to work with prior versions of ArcGIS, but will not reflect data model changes and may or may not continue to work with the national database.

This policy change is important to NGP and our relationships with our partners as we continue to strive to provide all partners with the latest technological advances and functionality possible. If there are questions relating to any specific toolset and the impact of this shift please feel free to reach out to the USGS Point of Contact for that specific toolset. You may also contact Steve Aichele (saichele@usgs.gov) with questions or comments.

NHD Photo

This month's photo was contributed by Jennifer Crea of State of Minnesota, Data Administration and GIS. The photo is of Minneopa Falls, on Minneopa Creek in southern Minnesota. NHD reachcode 070200007000159.

Check it out at [NHD Photo of the Month](#)

NHD Quiz

In what might be a first, we received no correct answers to last month's NHD Quiz. So we're taking a Mulligan on it - here's the same quiz, with additional clues (shown in blue, following the clues from last month.

This month's hydrography quiz can still be found at the [Hydrography Quiz](http://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography130.png)
<http://nhdftp.usgs.gov/Quiz/Hydrography130.png>

The hatched area is a Lake/Pond according to the Medium Resolution NHD (1:100,000-scale NHDPlus Version 2.1) and the tan areas are Inundation Areas for the lake in the MR NHD. Old topographic maps show a lake as depicted in the MR NHD. The small blue polygon and streams are from the High Resolution NHD. All the streams in the image except the one going from the southwest to the lake are classified as intermittent in the High Resolution NHD. What is the name of the lake, and why does it appear to have shrunk so much? **NEW (Blue) Clues: The lake is in the "Sooner State". The High Plains Aquifer plays a role in this story.**

Send your responses to saichele@usgs.gov