

>> MR. DOYLE: Carl Brown from National Park Service. Carl?

>> MR. BROWN (NPS): Good morning. So I would like to maybe break this into 3 pieces for the ideas of what we say. The start of that is of course, thanks for the ability to come and talk and I'm from that part of the country that is not exactly fly-over country but, I'm

from Colorado. And so, the passion and interest in what's going on here certainly has a slightly different twist outside of the beltway.

And so but I do want to thank.. I'm part of an agency that manages an incredibly diverse set of national treasures and for those of you that seen the Ken Burns series on the national parks idea, you get some idea of the breadth of that somewhere north of 390 items that are currently being managed by the National Park Service. I've been a inventory and veg mapping person all of my career. And that started with the U.S. Forest Service and spent time in the U.S. Geological Survey.

And now I run the Vegetation Mapping Program for the Park Service. That is a staff of three and just to give you some idea of the numbers we have applied about 9.9 million acres about 8.3 million acres underway and 12 million to go.

So, we are very interested in the positioning and the correct determination of what that stuff is. We do a range of things at the Department of Interior, in the National Park Service that are related to this change and we have had our share of excitement going from 29 to 83. But between the veg mapping, veg inventories, fire, I been involved with this since about 1974 and the things that have happened have taught me that these agencies are way more similar than they are different. And what we found is that in being involved with the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittees since 1986 and Rear Admiral Yeager and other directors that have come along, it's been important for us to continue to remind folks that there is real stuff being done out there on the ground that matter and the question is, well, does it really relate to the kind of topics and accuracy that we are talking about here. That's why I want to get to the next piece of this which is the places that we are at. But before I leave the thanks section, I also want to say that tying this meeting together with the chance to have the Feds talk more later this week is very important. Not only is this a horizontal vertical discussion, it is also an opportunity for feds to get together and talk about how we cooperate, collaborate and work together, how we can all leverage our limited budgets and all of that. And the other thing is that the industry here is a partner and it is not just about the federal agencies talking. There are ways and there have been ways for the venue of that Geodetic Control Subcommittee to involve industry. And there are some rules about FACA and federal meeting rules but simple fact is we need all of that input and we can take all that input. And if we get to some kind of policy setting thing, we can sequester it down to just the feds. And the point is, use the people here this week, use them as much as you can and I think if there is a way to even extend some discussion this afternoon, if we will break at noon, a lot of us have traveled in here, getting here cost money. We are not in the beltway, we have to get here so give us some notice when you want to do that and thank you director for sponsoring that.

The places: Let me talk about some of these places to give you some perspective.

Positioning is so important for us because we also have an international component.

The first international Peace park ever created was between Canada and Montana in glacier. It's known as Watering Glacier International Peace Park. Our inventory worked

with the Province of Alberta. We were able to work that successfully together and was a great example of international cooperation. So, that international peace park has now spawned several others that are spanning borders between in some cases, warring countries and are seeing the peace park as an opportunity to diffuse some of that border issue. Commonly, these ridge tops, that's no real surprise to geographers. Also, on the southern border, the Organ Pipe, and the Chicos mountains, okay, even though we got a border fence ripping right through the biology there, the fact is just south of it in Mexico is the Pinacate and that is a national park on the Mexican side. And they have exactly the same issues and challenges and being able to work on a common landscape that happens to have an administrative boundary going through it. In Grand Portage, the northern end of the Great Lakes. It sit right across from the Pigeon River. Another place for Canada to work with us. And the North Cascades National Park, relatively large piece of ground in Washington, it crosses over in British Columbia and there is a provincial park there. So these are some of the issues -- how we can share that data.

So of the 12 million acres we have left, let me give some places we have left to map. We are in the middle of the Grand Canyon, going downstream to the lake working on that. And the two other sister parks of the Park Service are the Death Valley and the Mojave Preserve, almost a million acres each. We have yet to do Yellowstone, North Coast Cascade Network is currently in Rainer and Olympic and North Cascade. Those are the kind of landscapes we have left to do and we are going to need to be able to support the positioning that helps do that.

On the hope, let me give you some hope here -- I think this is a tremendous opportunity that we are working on here together. The passive control does matter to us in difference to the previous speaker. We are dealing with not only natural landscape but cultural landscape and many of the 1860 and earlier and mapping efforts were tied to some kind of control. We need those pieces of control. They are like the Tim Smith's term, the Rosetta stone to get us back to that original information, if you abandoned the passive marks, you lose the connection to that path.

It is great we are looking forward but to even learn from your history and be able to relate to your history, you have to be able to go backwards too. So, there is a good case for why the passive marks is needed. Now, maybe as cultural resource, those passive marks need to be maintained as a cultural resource, nine and correct in ten, fifteen years if we get five centimeters out of watches, we may argue why we need those because they help you tie.

I've been an active FGCS member since 1996, there's been a GPS challenge team spreading across the Agriculture Department, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, all of the Interior agencies, 7 of them, we've been working on doing testing of GPS and we know that all of our maps currently are coming out, NAD 83, CORS 96 and NAVD 88. And those are the kind of standards we have to do. So I know that my veg mapping are 1:24,000 based scale, Alaska is a different animal, 1 to 63 but that is a pretty fine resolution and so we are very interested in how this can work. The last thing I'll say in the hope category is we're not just mappers working with Garmin. We got hand-held receivers that are completely blurring the break between the surveying community and the GIS mapping community. When you can run a hand-held with real time differential and best a here and down there in the centimeter range,

we are talking about things that matter to more than just the surveyors so remember that population of users far eclipses the surveying community. So when we talk about working groups and standards and mission statements and all, that's when you start saying we're only talking about survey, you are leaving out a very large population that I don't think you want to ignore. Thank you for your time.

>> MR. DOYLE: Thank you Carl. Park Service deal was a huge inventory issue. I would like to comment very briefly on a couple of things that Carl brought up, the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee, Juliana Blackwell, Director of NGS chairs that and will be meeting tomorrow morning. Most of the federal agencies involved in some form of spatial data have representation on there. If you do not know who your representative is, please contact us. We will certainly let you know that so you can be in direct touch with that individual. Make sure that any issues you see or your office sees are addressed at the FGCS. If you do not have a representative, please see us if you will like to participate in that because through the FGCS is how the nuts and bolts of what we will ultimately do both in the short term and long term get accomplished. So your representation is critical in that arena. ...

Carl also mentioned the issue with vendors, the private sector, those that provide us with the tools and toys that we play with. The National Geodetic Survey has been engaging with GIAA, Geomatics Industry Association of America a trade group that represents most of the manufacturers of GPS and GIS software in the country. So we've been debating with them developing a technical working group so that we can address many of these issues that we have directly with the vendors.

We have representatives from Topcon here and they are part of that, just to recognize one. And we feel that is an important part of this, that we can bring the various issues, whether we are talking datum transformations or other models, tools or educational issues. What we would like to have is some form of standardization so that regardless of who's box you buy, you know you will get the same models and tools, and if you take training from Trimble, Topcon, Leica, Ashtec, Sokkia, whatever, you are going to be hearing basically the same thing that you would hear if you went to hear Bill Henning talk about real time networks. So we do have some aggressive issues there.