The summer has come and gone and we have been busy. We are quite pleased with our accomplishments. Who is you ask? Besides myself, 4 GIS Technicians/Analysts and interns worked in the GIS Center throughout the summer. Our staff consisted of Jesse Schomberg, John Kaser, Michelle Byrd, and Jim Glennon. Each worked on research projects contracted to the GIS Center. All these research projects were completed on schedule (or currently are on schedule). To learn more about these projects, visit our web-site.

That brings up our next topic—the web-site! To visit our web-site, point your browser to http://giscenter.isu.edu. I am using MS Internet Information Server, Corel web-graphics, MapThis!, and Cold Fusion software to create our pages. We have a live web-cam, a web-map, web-statistics software, and Internet Map Server running. You can also find various software utilities on our web-site. This brings up another news topic. I have been busy writing VB applications to solve various problems. New software titles include the Metadata Profile Builder (ver 1.1, copyright in progress), Association software (ecological software, ms in review), ArcView APR re-writer to simplify or eliminate the training process, and a Netscape Bookmark/Internet Explorer Favorites conversion utility. You may have noticed that a manuscript describing the Association software is currently in review...that's right...another task of mine! I currently have 3 manuscripts in review (I am primary author) and another ms—for which I am co-author—is also in the works. I trained over 60 people in 5 GIS workshops that we held this summer. All turned out very well. Other summer projects:

1) RGI- Regional Groundwater Initiative, Phase I: we compiled and created a lot of information, QC'd it and put it on a secured site on our NT web server.
2) Image Processing for the Peruvian rain forest: despite problems with software vendors and slow delivery of our imagery, we are in good shape.
3) Campus GIS: we have

I completed an ArcView certification test this summer. I should hear from ESRI in about a month or so. After obtaining trainer certification I will seek certification for the GIS Center.

More news from ESRI...we will be attending a preview of ArcView GIS 3.1 on September 1 here in Pocatello. I helped the folks at ESRI set this up. Now ESRI wants to use the GIS Center for advanced training (e.g., ArcInfo, ArcView Spatial Analyst, Avenue, MapObjects). They are quite impressed with our facilities. We are still working on the State-wide site license. The light at the end of the tunnel
I have become involved in the planning and preparation for the 1999 Idaho-Montana GIS Conference to be held in Idaho Falls in April. The committee has followed my suggestion to produce a transactions publication. This is a great opportunity for students and researchers.

McGraw-Hill asked me to review a new GIS text for them. Did it! It was an interesting experience. I also reviewed the new International Standards Organization (ISO) metadata standard proposal. There are some problems, but it looks promising.

I am working with the City of Pocatello on a new GIS project/contract for the Center. I am also working with the US Forest Service on a contract for a lengthy (several years) GIS project.

We recently received a contract from Bannock county to perform some GIS conversions for them. We will begin work on this contract this week.

I recently downloaded MS Agent. For Visual Basic programmers like myself, this ActiveX control allows me to program an animated character (similar to the office assistant) in my VB apps. This user-friendly fellow will improve my help support. The Agent can speak and comes with speech recognition software. Look out! Some cool apps are bound to come out of this tool. I am seeking re-licensing for the Agent to allow me to distribute these applications on the web.

More stuff on the Horizon!