Delivering Actionable Information



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End-users, Customers, Stakeholders, and Decision-Makers

- GIS is a fantastic decision-support tool
- Yet, the decision-makers are often

Drowning in Data...Thirsting for Information



The Data to Wisdom Pathway

Data

Information

Knowledge

Wisdom



Data

171412	10060007	Brush Lake Closed Basin	
45219	10110203	Middle Little Missouri	
117254	10120108	Hat	
22445	10180013	Pumpkin	
100637	10190017	Sidney Draw	
66448	10190018	Lower South Platte	
241536	10250006	Stinking Water	
349270	10150002	Niobrara Headwaters	
940319	10180009	Middle North Platte-Scotts Bluff	
1104145	11080001	Canadian Headwaters	
671680	11080002	Cimarron	
		-	

Information

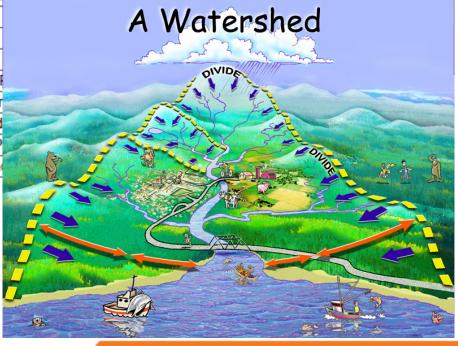
- Context
- Meaningful

ACRES	HUC_8	WBD_Name
171412	10060007	Brush Lake Closed Basin
45219	10110203	Middle Little Missouri
117254	10120108	Hat
22445	10180013	Pumpkin
100637	10190017	Sidney Draw
66448	10190018	Lower South Platte
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Knowledge

- Context
- Meaningful
- Speaks to you
- Part of your paradigm

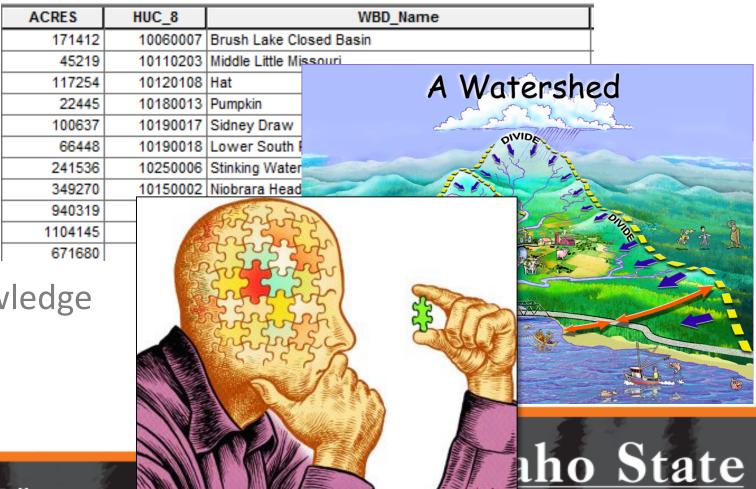
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WBD_Name

Wisdom

- Context
- Meaningful
- Speaks to you
- Part of your paradigm
- Appropriate use of knowledge

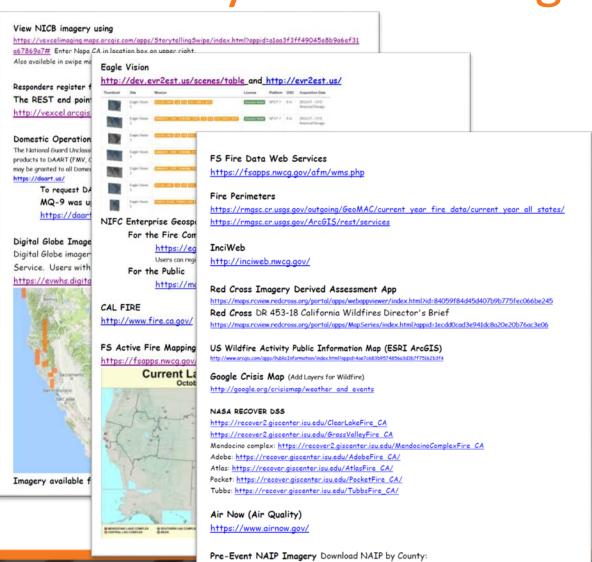


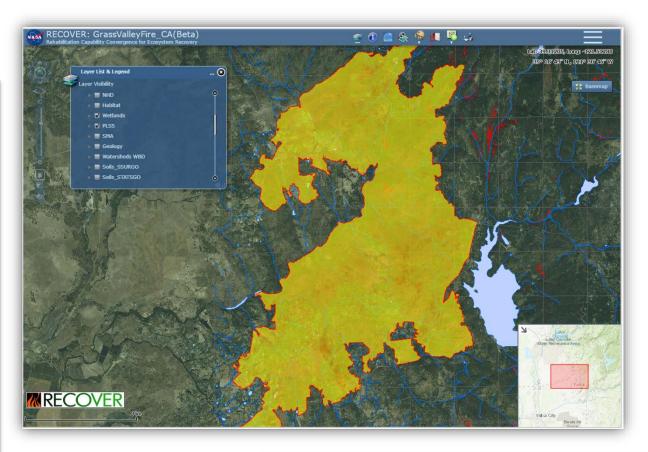
Wisdom

Where has all the wisdom gone?



Are you Delivering Data or Information?







https://nrcs.app.box.com/v/naip/

It's about Communication

- What does this mean How do we communicate with geospatial data?
 - First, we need data
 - Ideally from reliable and/or authoritative source
 - Use standardized or accepted symbology
 - Regardless of how you feel about it cartographically
 - Consider generalization or reclassification
 - High, medium, or low instead of 0-10000
 - Using meaningful values and words



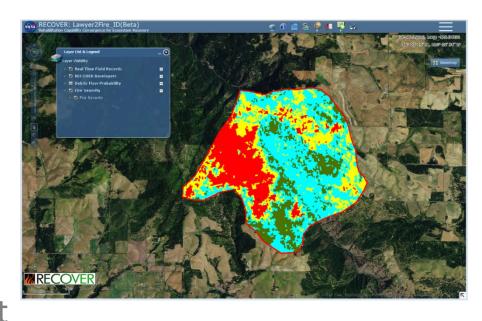
It's about Communication (cont'd)

- Use meaningful units
 - Acres instead of the number of pixels
 - Miles instead of meters
 - "Sagebrush-steppe" instead of code 4622



An Example

- Q: How much of the 2015 Widget fire was considered a high severity burn?
 - A: 1,968 pixels
 - A: 1,771,200 m² (1,968 30x30 m (900 m²) pixels)
 - A: 437.673052 acres (be cognizant of significant digits)
 - A: 437 acres



How can we fix it...

Brainstorm



A Checklist

- When you have finished spatial analysis and are ready to deliver the results...
- Ask yourself:
 - How can I explain this, so the results can immediately support sound decisions
 - How can I best communicate these data
 - How can I help turn these data/results into actionable information

A recent study has found that the top skills in highest demand for GIS candidates are:

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1. Analysis & Modeling
2. Communication, Interpersonal skills, Self-Motivation and Independence



Questions



