

The two main uses of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) at the West Virginia Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) are delineation of surface drinking water source protection areas and upstream or downstream geospatial analysis. An updated and more accurate high resolution (1:24000) NHD will help SWAP improve the quality of its protection area data and relevant services provided to the public in West Virginia. However, SWAP's business is focused on protecting drinking water sources. A wide usage or manipulation of NHD is not part of its business routine at SWAP.

1. Who should be the primary steward for NHD in WV?

The West Virginia GIS Technical Center (WVGISTC) and the Natural Resources Analysis Center (NRAC) at West Virginia University (WVU) have done a NHD pilot project with the funding from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). WVGISTC hosts the West Virginia GIS data clearing house, the largest GIS data repository in West Virginia, in which a timely updated and well maintained NHD can become an essentially valuable asset. Therefore, WVGISTC, as the most experienced party, is the best candidate for the primary steward. Placing the NHD stewardship program in WVGISTC also brings in other benefits. For instance, the program can leverage the research resources at WVU and the solid relationship between WVGISTC and a variety of NHD users in West Virginia.

2. What should the stewardship priorities be (what should be addressed first)?

After the stewardship is set up, the priority should be given to update NHD data in areas where human water use activities are heavy. The top two regions can be McDowell and Wyoming counties (watersheds 05070101 & 05070201) and Morgan, Beckley, and Jefferson counties (watersheds 02070003, 02070004 & 02070007)

3. What are some funding sources for stewardship?

There are at least three funding sources available. First, the USGS seed money can be a primary source. USGS is also able to provide resources such as training and software. Second, WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has been actively involved in using and updating NHD for its own business purpose. WVDEP will be one of the major beneficiaries if an updated high resolution NHD is available. An investment from WVDEP should be expected. Third, the West Virginia GIS Coordinator's office can provide additional financial help, as promised by the current GIS Coordinator during the meeting.

Smaller NHD users such as West Virginia Department of Highway (WVDOT) and SWAP can contribute some funding to the program if needed.

4. What is a reasonable timeline – when to start this process?

The sooner the better

5. Who are additional sub-stewards, and how will the steward/sub-stewards be organized?

If WVGISTC becomes the primary steward, NRAC, WVDEP, and WVDOT can be the three major sub-stewards. They are recommended because they all have a relatively big GIS staff, have some experience in updating NHD or other GIS data, or regulate activities causing changes in topography in West Virginia. The sub-stewards will have the authority to edit data and are supposed to send their updates to the primary steward other than USGS. The primary steward should be the only entity exchanging data with USGS.