Seminole Geography

Using GIS as a Tool for
Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

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Seminole Tribe of Florida

- ~3,100 tribal members live in South Florida
- 7 Reservations – Big Cypress, Brighton, Coconut Creek, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee, Tampa
- ~90,000 Acres of Land
Indigenous Southeastern Native American Cultural Group
“Unconquered People”
Today: Small but rapidly increasing GIS Community
Environment

- Tropical Savannah
- Diverse Environmental Setting: Wetlands, Swamps, Pasture, and Urban Areas
- >110 cm of annual precipitation
- Limited topographic variation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
THPO


Teminacet pemmahakv acayecet
apeyvkares
Creek Language
"Help each other preserve our teachings"

Yaatkateshet emmahayaket ahechaachek
aklek atakałkekolakash
Miccosukee Language
"Working together to preserve Seminole culture and heritage"

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Willard S. Steele - Department Head
Types of Cultural Resources

- Archaeological Sites
- Historic Structures
- Traditional Cultural Properties
Cultural Resources
GIS Database Server
Archaeometry

The application of modern scientific theories and methods to understanding and interpreting the data recovered by archaeological research.

- GIS Administration, Development, and Education
- Historical Mapping
- Remote Sensing
Geophysics: Ground Penetrating Radar

- GSSI SIR-3000 GPR Device with mobile cart
- Detect subsurface features such as burials without ground disturbing activity
- Integrate subsurface data with proxy cultural and environmental datasets

Post-Processed GPR Data
GPR-Slice Software
Architectural History

- Prepares National Register nominations for eligible buildings
- Reconnaissance and in-depth surveys of individual buildings and building districts
- Georeferenced 3D laser scanning of important structures

Researches and documents the buildings and structures of key importance to Seminole heritage—both on and off reservation.

Red Barn, Brighton Reservation – NR Nomination
Cultural Advisory

Recognition and understanding of culturally sensitive matters
Identifying, recording, protecting, and maintaining, traditional cultural properties
Community involvement, participation, and education

Help Develop Departmental Sensitivity Towards the Traditions and Culture of Seminole People
High-resolution spatial data recovery through survey grade GPS

Accurate on-the-fly site boundary definition derived from field observations that are compared against preloaded historic, topographic, and environmental datasets using ArcPad software.
Tribal Archaeology - Laboratory

Field recorded artifact data downloaded into laboratory database system

Post-Processed spatial analysis of the recovery locations of different artifacts can inform models of past human behavior

Mammoth Tooth, Big Cypress Reservation
THPO receives more than 3,000 projects to review annually from lands considered by the tribe to be ancestral, aboriginal, or ceded.

Spatial analysis of federal agencies submitting projects to the THPO for review.

Consultation with multiple agencies to ensure abidance of federal laws for project activities that can impact tribal heritage.
Research

Uses historical documents, tribal traditions, and non-destructive archaeology to comprehend the origins of the Seminole people

- Seminole Site File (SSF) - a digital archive of cultural resources relevant to the past of the tribe
- Integration of existing state site files into the geographically referenced SSF
Historical GIS

**Historical Map of the Seat of War in Florida in 1839**

Legend:
- Area of Importance

Map Source:

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Record Group #17, L.447 - 3 & 4.
Historical GIS
Historical GIS
Historical GIS
Historical Mapping
# The Future – Teaching GIS

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The Future – Data
For further information about the office refer to the website:

www.stofthpo.com