

Native Names Project 2007-2008

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<http://gis.cdatribe-nsn.gov/NativeNames>

Abstract

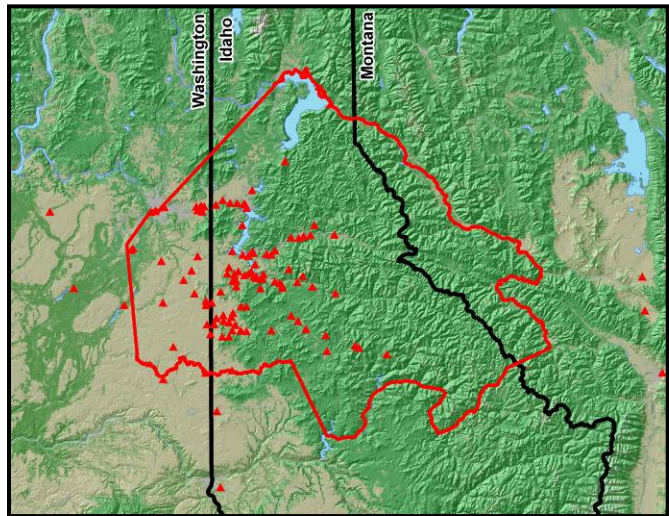
In 2007 Native Names Project was expanded to bring other Tribes into the project. With a grant to provide training to participating Tribes training was held to teach participating Tribes the methodology of entering their names into the database. With the success of the training session the project was invited to the Tlingit and Haida GIS User Conference to speak. Follow up has continued and tribes have continued to add their audio, photos, and video to the project. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe also maintains an Internet Map Server on its website and in 2007-2008 it has updated its IMS map as well as adding a KML version of the Native Names Map for use in Google Earth. The Tribe has recently been awarded another grant from the USGS to continue outreach and training to other Tribes and another training session was held in Grand Ronde, OR.

Introduction

At the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the primary interest of the GIS program is to create and maintain data layers within the Tribe's aboriginal territory. The aboriginal territory spans more than 5 million acres of today's Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has also developed a data layer of native place names in the Coeur d'Alene language for sites within the aboriginal territory, which has since evolved into the Native Names Project.

One of the most important things about this project is preserving the individual stories and pronunciations of the places. On many reservations across the United States, it is the unfortunate truth that only a handful of the people know the native geographic names.

The goal of this project is to collect these place names before they disappear forever.



The Native Names project has evolved over time and now has several goals. The first is to use GIS as a tool for the cultural and language preservation of native geography. This is done by connecting native place names on a map to a website containing cultural information about the site. The second is to get the native place names recognized by the federal government by submitting them to the Geographic Names Information System [GNIS] through contacts we have developed throughout the

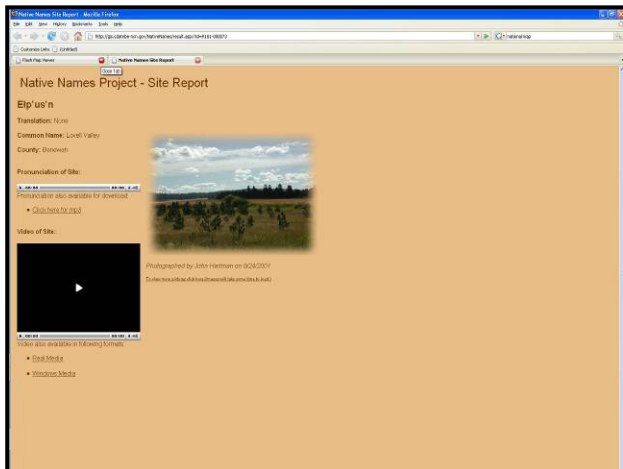
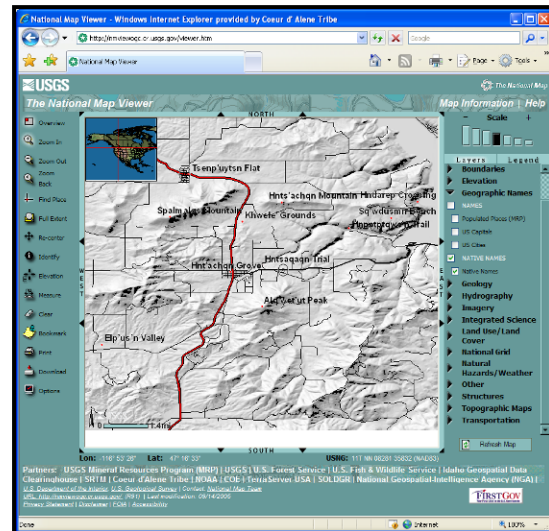
project. Third, is to supply indigenous place names to the USGS and The National Map [TNM]. Most recently the goal has been to expand the project to bring in the place names of other Tribes.

Background

The Native Place Names project began with the Tribe wanting to see maps created by the Tribe’s GIS program to have places names in the Coeur d’Alene language. In 1999 a layer of named places in the Coeur d’Alene language started being developed. Along with the development of the layer; audio, video, and photos of the locations were gathered that could be linked to from the native place names data layer. The result was an internal product where tribal members could explore a map and then select a site to hear the pronunciation in the Coeur d’Alene language of the name of the place, photographs of the location, and video of a tribal elder speaking about the significance of the location both culturally and historically. The data layer was then expanded to include names from another tribe through a partnership with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

In September of 2005, the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) funded the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) grant to supply Native American place names to TNM. Over that year, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe began working with USGS to get Native American place names both into the GNIS and to provide pertinent information about these place names on to TNM.

At this time, the content is displayed on TNM. Users can click on locations and bring up a web page that displays some of the items of interest about the site. In all cases, this includes an audio file of how to say the name, along with other information about the site. In addition, some sites have photographs and video clips of the site. Many of the sites that have been identified by elders at the Coeur d’Alene Tribe will also include a history and a video narrative about the site.



In 2007 the Tribe was award additional grants from the USGS to expand the project nationwide, involving other tribes from around the United States. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is currently working with several other Native American groups across the country to develop content for this project. We are very hopeful that this will be the first step in

getting Native names recognized and preserved across the United States.

2007-2008 – Expanding the Native Names Project

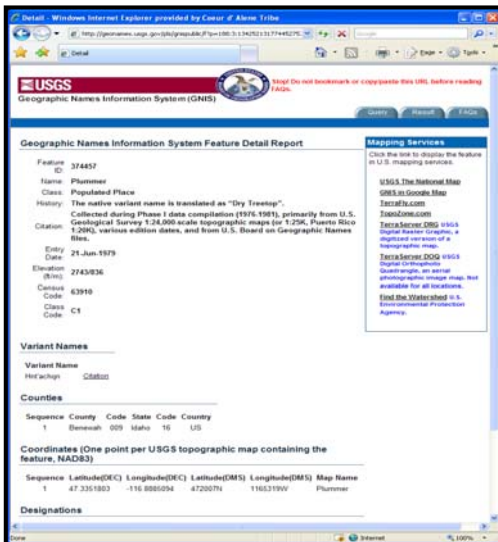
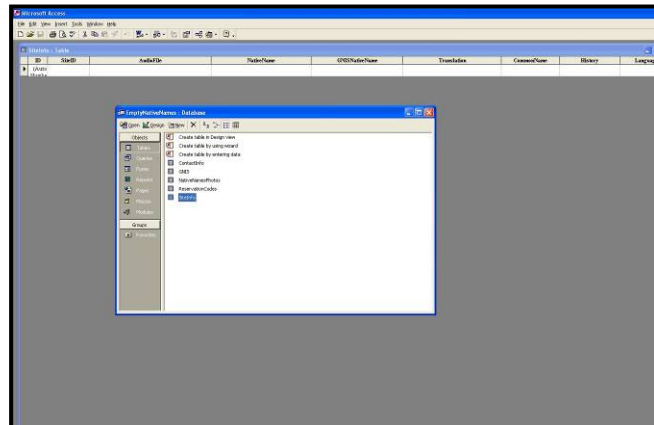
Concerns

The primary concern we hear from other tribes is that some locations and names are too sensitive to be shared. We are not expecting these names and locations to be shared. In fact, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe maintains a separate non-public database of names and locations of sacred and highly-sensitive sites, which is not available to the public and has access limited. Also, before we accept any names, a resolution from tribal council is required approving the sharing of the names submitted. It is not our place to give away other tribe's information. We will add only what they are willing to share. Furthermore, the methodology and database we have designed is free to be used by anyone and other tribes wishing to use it for their own internal purposes are free to.

Methodology

In expanding the project, we wanted it to be accessible to non-GIS users so we have developed a system which will allow non-GIS users to enter names in the database, submit them to the GNIS and view the names. To submit names, a list of approved names and a resolution allowing their submittal from tribal council is required. The names and required information are then entered into an Access database we have

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The names and required information are then entered into an Access database we have developed for the project. A copy of the completed Access database is sent to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe GIS program and another copy can be sent to our contact at the GNIS to continue the process of getting the names recognized. We leave submitting the database to the GNIS up to the individual tribes. Then any photos, audio, or video that is sent to us will be linked to the place names on TNM as well at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe GIS site.

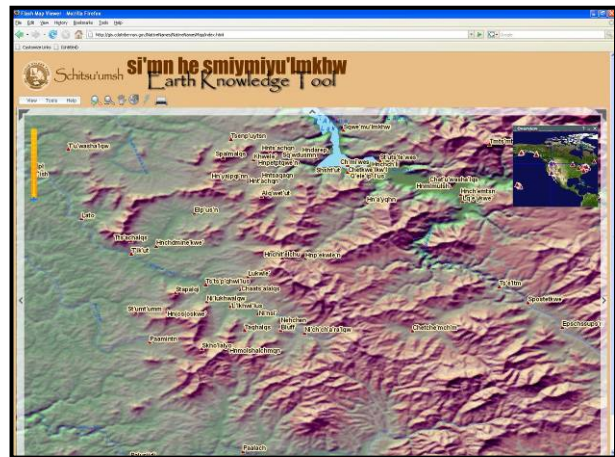
Once we have received the Access database we import it into a SQL server table. The table is then used in a x,y event theme in an ArcIMS service. The service is connected to TNM and when the Native Names layer is selected TNM connects to our servers in Plummer, ID to display the names. Another copy of the database can be sent to our contact at the GNIS. This is the process that

gets the names officially recognized by the federal government. The GNIS is the official database of place names used by the United States. If a location already has a name the native name is entered as an official variant name. If the location does not have a name the native name submitted becomes the official name for that location.

Within the Native Place Names layer there is a link to an ASP.NET site which can contain additional information. While on the site you can hear an mp3 with the pronunciation of the name, photographs of the location, and video of a tribal elder speaking about the location. With this additional information, someone exploring the names can: the name of the place, where it is located, the story of the place and the traditional use of the place. Any photos, video, or mp3s submitted by participating Tribes are added to the site and accessible through TNM and maps supported on the Tribe's website.

Accessing the Names

Once names have been submitted by the participating tribes, they are accessible from TNM; but also those wishing to view the names who do not wish to use TNM can access the names from other maps hosted on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's website. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe GIS program maintains an ArcIMS service which can be viewed through a Flash interface on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe GIS website. This uses the Macromedia Flash tool from flashmapping.org as well as custom modules such as: a scale slider, print function, and identify tool. We also maintain a KML file with all the names that links to the ASP site for those who would like to use Google Earth. There is also the option to explore names by Site ID or Name as opposed to from a map. Also, ESRI has also requested images of the project for use in an upcoming map book featuring tribal maps.



The addition of the KML is a new development this year as well as a redesign of the Flash-Based map run with the ArcIMS service. The ASP.NET site contain the cultural information has also been improved over the past year with new additions to ease the accessibility of the audio pronunciations of the names

Training and Outreach

The biggest aspect of the expansion of the project over the past year is the outreach and training we have carried out with on-site visits over the past year with participating Tribes and Tribes interested in the project. We have carried out training and outreach over the past year showing those interested the project the methodology that we have developed. Over the past year we have held two training sessions, one in Plummer, ID in August 2007 in conjunction with the Indigenous Mapping Network conference, one in Grande Ronde, OR in March 2008, and the project was presented at the Tlingit and Haida GIS User Conference in Juneau, AK in November 2007 as well as the WAURISA Conference in Seattle, WA in May 2008. So far the project has names from seven different Tribes from across the US: The Coeur d'Alene Tribe, St. Regis Mohawk, Timbisha-Shoshone, Bad River, Nondalton, Tlingit/Haida, and Hawaiian. Individual follow up has also continued with participating Tribes. At the training sessions we show how to fill out the database and explain the required fields and give tips on audio and video recording.



The Future of the Project

The plans for the project in the future include: continuing outreach to create more interest in the project, continue training for any tribes interested in participating, as well as follow up with tribes which have attended training sessions. We are always looking to add more names to the project as well as the cultural information which goes along with the locations. Also we are looking at moving from ArcIMS services to ArcServer services for the interactive maps available on our website.

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