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GIS Development

Natural resource information developed by ERIC can be presented as maps but it is most readily distributed and applied in digital formats. The information is developed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and is generally best applied using GIS.

The use of GIS is now becoming standard but the limitations and complexities of systems can hinder application. Simple systems, which are generally the easiest to learn, can have limitations in handling data derived from different sources and/or covering large areas. Comprehensive systems that can address all requirements have an appreciable level of complexity and can be difficult to operate.

A further constraint can arise where clients seek to expand the capability of existing systems. Ideally the new information should be seamlessly integrated into the existing system. This integration is usually straightforward with complex GIS systems but can require developments where systems have previously been developed to address specific requirements.

The requirements addressed by ERIC include:

- Providing developments to existing GIS.
- Tailoring new GIS for ease of operation.
- Providing training in the use of GIS to address identified needs.
- Providing ongoing support in GIS operation.

- Providing training in the collection and application of information.
- Providing ongoing support for information development and maintenance.

General data management services include:

- Information development.
- Data importing and cleaning.
- Adapting information for use in specific GIS.
- Data analysis to derive new information layers.

Clients choose the options that best suite their needs.

Overall, ERIC develops the capability of clients to derive the desired benefits from information held in GIS on natural resources, infrastructure, and social and economic constraints.