

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
STATEWIDE DIGITAL MAPPING INITIATIVE
AND
STAKEHOLDERS**

SUBJECT: The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement is to correct a long-standing deficiency regarding the accuracy and modernization of maps depicting Alaska.

BACKGROUND: A single source digital map of Alaska is essential because existing USGS maps of Alaska are more than 40 years old and have inaccuracies in excess of a quarter mile. The data simply cannot be relied upon and in most cases the source of the map(s) must be revalidated for many professional purposes. Revalidating each map is an expensive and time consuming proposition that impedes economic progress. Both private and public entities have been acquiring the data to support their individual program needs, projects and agencies. More often than not, this data is licensed and used on a project by project basis. This rarely benefits the potentially broader user group, which often results in costly duplicative efforts. This is an inefficient way to conduct business and affairs of the state. The state, in pursuit of these goals will adopt a more effective ethic regarding data management to reflect a: *develop once—use many times* philosophy.

To these ends, a coalition between the University of Alaska (UA), the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Dept. of Military and Veteran's Affairs (DMVA) was formed and ratified by a Memorandum of Agreement. This coalition is known as the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI). The SDMI, in cooperation with federal, municipal and private stakeholders, understands and supports the necessary requirements to create a modern high resolution map of the state. This high resolution map will be derived using various products produced by commercially available imaging and sensing platforms.

The map's ultimate intended use is that of a single source document for the benefit of all citizens and furthers the advancement of planning, economic development, emergency response, public safety, permitting and scientific research.

UNDERSTANDING: It is understood the SDMI will provide the leadership and oversight necessary to ensure the success of this initiative. It is also understood that the far-reaching cost benefits derived from such an undertaking are enormous; however, the initial investment in project management, ancillary personnel support costs and data acquisitions may be extensive. In-order-

to secure formal cooperation and support for this project, the State has elected to request that teaming partners and stakeholders sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

INTENT: To ensure a long term mutually beneficial partnership between the respective end users of the geospatial data and the SDMI the signatory to this MOA acknowledges the following understandings:

- A. The need for a statewide initiative to map the State of Alaska is long overdue;
- B. This mapping initiative benefits many elements of the public and private sectors;
- C. A seamless single source high resolution map of the state will be compiled in accordance with National Map Accuracy Standards (NMAS);
- D. The data will be shared between all users to improve the development of the state albeit from an economic, public safety, resource development/protection, planning or scientific perspective;
- E. The necessary data acquisitions required to compile this map are intended to be licensed in such a way that it can be shared free of charge with all stakeholders utilizing an electronic clearing house concept;
- F. Cooperation between stakeholders and the state to leverage separate funding efforts for the acquisition of mutually beneficial data should be explored whenever and where ever feasible to minimize costs and maximize efficiencies.

ACCEPTANCE: By signature to this MOA the individual, agency or organization accepts the intent of this initiative and agrees to support it conceptually. Acceptance in no way implies the intent to obligate funding, personnel or any other type of resources to the initiative.

WITHDRAWAL: Any signatory to this MOA may withdraw their support at any time by providing a thirty (30) day written notice to the SDMI.

SIGNATURE: I accept the terms and conditions of this MOA:

 _____ 11 July, 2007
 SIGNATURE DATE

Associate State Director _____ 907-271-5076
 TITLE PHONE

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska _____ 907-271-4596
 ORGANIZATION, AFFILIATION OR COMPANY FAX

222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513 _____ gust_panos@blm.gov
 ADDRESS E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)

Attachment

The Bureau of Land Management -Alaska enters into this Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) under the following authorities:

- A. **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976** (43 u.S.C. 1737) to enter into cooperative agreements involving management, protection, and development of public lands (Section 307 (b))
- B. **The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501)** requires agencies to minimize the cost to the Federal Government of collecting, maintaining, using, and disseminating information.

Ella Wright
BLM-AK MOU Coordinator

July 11, 2007
Date