

Completion Report

Project Title: A Google Earth interface for the South Dakota Watershed Boundary Dataset

Project Sponsors: Angela Ehlers, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts; Mark Heckenlaible, Hyde County Conservation District; SD State Conservation Commission

Completed by: U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Hyde County Conservation District and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

The South Dakota Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) has capabilities that can contribute substantially to numerous activities related to defining, understanding, and managing of nonpoint source issues. Prior to this project, the South Dakota WBD was accessible only via a Web-based clearinghouse provided by NRCS (<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>) and could be used only with geographic information system (GIS) software. The purpose of this project was to develop a Web page that will provide the public with access to the WBD via an interface with Google Earth. Google Earth is a free software package that allows users to view geospatial data on a backdrop of high-resolution aerial imagery of the earth's surface. The Web page provides background information about the WBD and a zipped Keyhole Markup Language file of the WBD (WBD.kmz) that can be downloaded. Once WBD.kmz has been downloaded and opened in Google Earth, users can zoom in and explore the WBD for an area of interest. WBD.kmz contains two layers: a color-coded overlay of the hydrologic unit boundaries, and a pushpin for each 12-digit hydrologic unit that may be clicked to view additional information (such as code, name, and drainage area) in a "text balloon."

The website software will allow the number and type of page visits to be monitored to quantify the amount of use the WBD receives.

The Web page was made live at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/projects/GoogleHuc/GoogleHUC.html> on December 17, 2009. Comments should be directed to Ryan Thompson at rcthoms@usgs.gov or Dan Driscoll at dgdrisco@usgs.gov.

Project Funding:

Source	Proposed	Completed
U.S. Geological Survey	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
S.D. 319 Information & Education Grant	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Grant	\$2,500.00	\$2,189.00
Total	\$10,500.00	\$10,189.00