NMGIC since 1984

Volume 27

January 2018

Happy New Year from NMGIC!

The Map Legend

As another year comes to a close, and a new one comes in on the horizon, I wanted to thank our members for their support and continued growth. These past few years, we have said goodbye to several long-standing board members. While fellow board members will miss the knowledge base, we know that change happens, and look forward to the new board members' experience, point of view, and ideas that might come with a new board composition. This year we were unable to award our scholarship, but look to that as a challenge for the incoming board; one we will spiritedly take on. We hosted several social events, well attended workshops and meetings, and hopefully created plenty of opportunities to network and create new colleagues. Our membership increased among students, professionals, and corporate sponsors. As our spring meeting approaches, feel free to send us ideas on workshop or meeting topics, social event options, or possible ways to increase our presence among students. Thank you for another successful year, and see you in the spring!

Veronica Lopez,
NMGIC President

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The Map Legend

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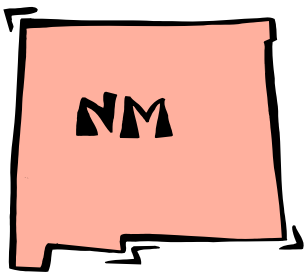

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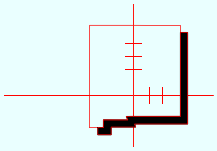
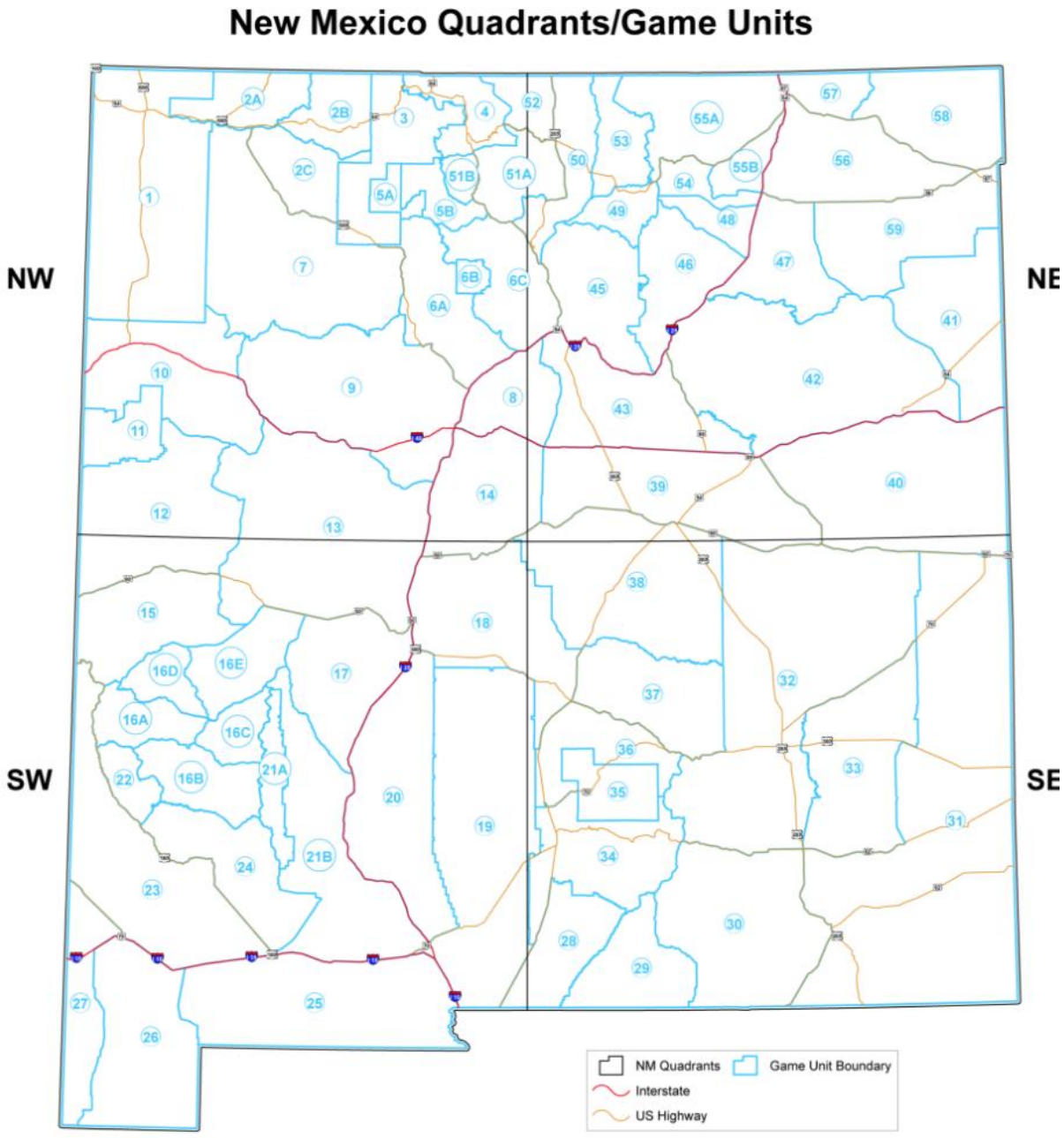


BLM Hunting Maps

Jeremy Zimmerman

www.blm.gov/nm/huntingmaps

The BLM NM Hunting/Recreation Maps program provides free mobile maps for Android, iOS and Windows PC's through an app called CarryMap. These maps are fully offline once you download them, and are great for hunting, hiking, and most anything else. We updated the map files yearly in the past, but are going to do so quarterly this year and in the future.

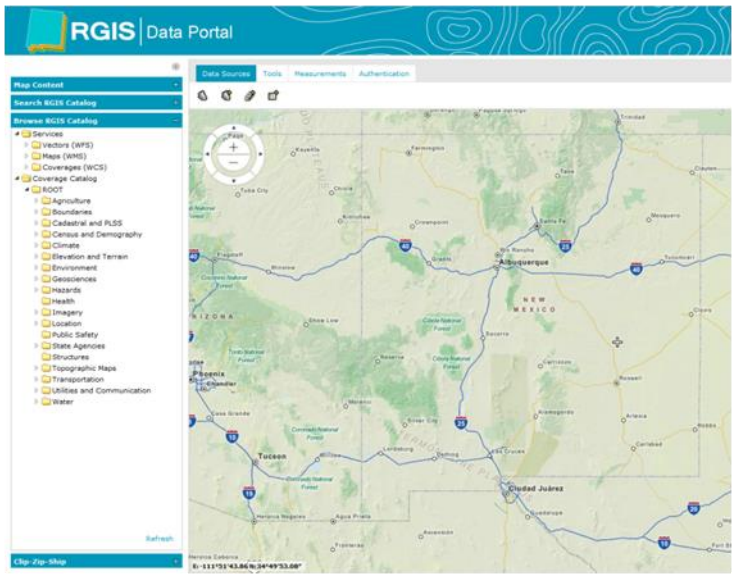


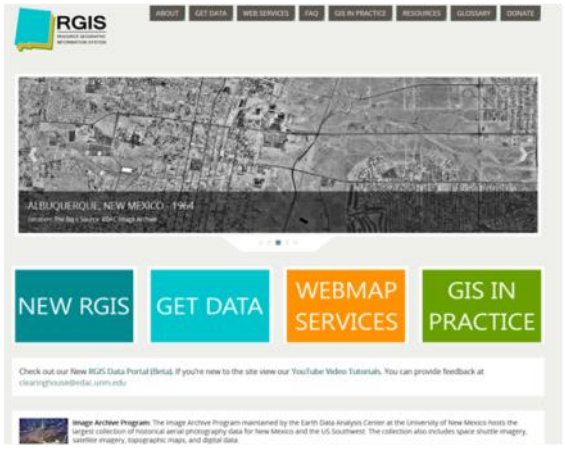
NM RGIS—The State Digital Data Clearinghouse

The Resource Geographic Information System (RGIS) is New Mexico's statutorily designated (2013) State Digital Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. RGIS is the state's primary source for geospatial data and information, technologies, and services.

Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) develops and enhances NM RGIS. The UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) provides Census and socioeconomic data, and numerous state and local agencies share their data and data services.

Check out our New RGIS Data Portal. We have added **YouTube Video Tutorials** for assistance in using the new features of the new portal.





RGIS Website: http://rgis.unm.edu

Contact: Laura Gleasner

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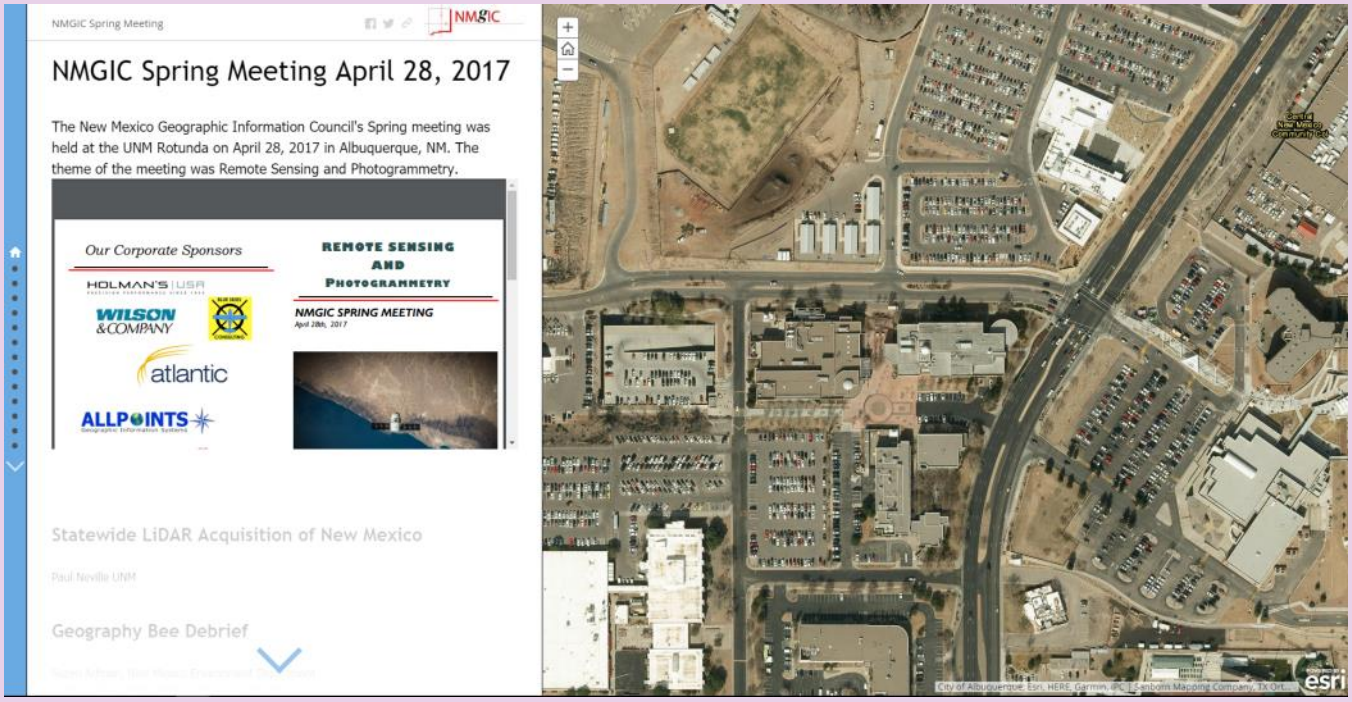
EDAC | EARTH DATA ANALYSIS CENTER

Meeting Story Maps!

Daniel Estrada

We had another successful year of meetings and workshops! The board is working towards creating an ESRI story map, showcasing vendors and speakers for each meeting.

Take a look! http://arcg.is/1KC4LX



NMGIC Socials

Veronica Lopez

This year NMGIC continued its new tradition of inviting members and potential members to a social night of networking and food at a local family-friendly restaurant. The locations this year were the Canteen Brewhouse and Kactus Brewing!

Those who attended enjoyed the event and expressed interest in attending future events. Considered a success even if the wind was a slight deterrent, expect this type of social event to happen on a more consistent basis throughout the year.

One of the reasons we state for joining our organization is for the networking opportunity, and we would like to expand that opportunity outside of the spring and fall meetings. Be on the lookout for an invite to another local family-friendly restaurant in early 2018!

For questions or comments on this event or upcoming events, please contact Veronica Lopez. Stay tuned to the NMGIC website and email notifications for future event info.

NSGIC Update

Leland J. S. Pierce

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) has been undergoing a structural change from contracting management services toward having paid staff. Last year an executive director, Molly Schar, was hired and, starting in July, a membership and communication coordinator, Michelle Jones, was hired. The offices of NSGIC will be moved from Baltimore, MD, to New Orleans, LA as well. NSGIC now has a new website, hosted by MemberClicks, that is more social media in structure and will serve as a massive content resource for its members. Among the items there is a recent discussion of the Geospatial Data Act, a bill before the current Congress, specifically over concerns that the GDA would only allow for licensed GIT professionals to be employed by the federal government, essentially expanding the Brooks Act; NSGIC worked with the bill sponsors to refine the language of the GDA to alleviate those concerns.

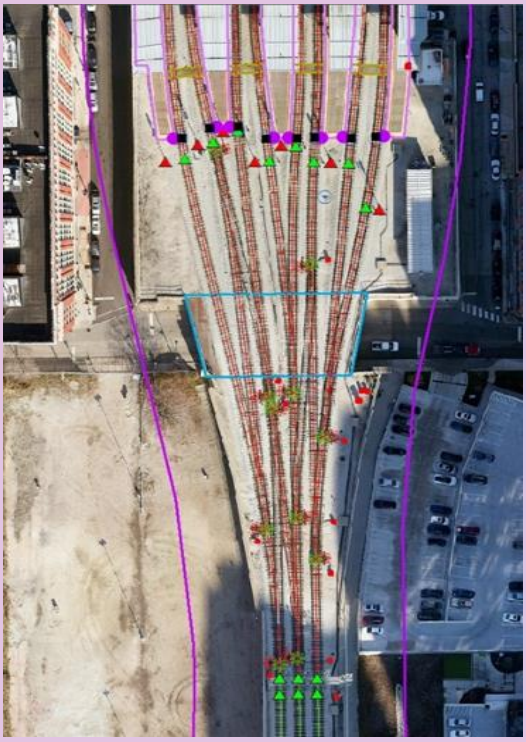
-Leland Pierce

For more information on NSGIC, visit: http://www.nsgic.org

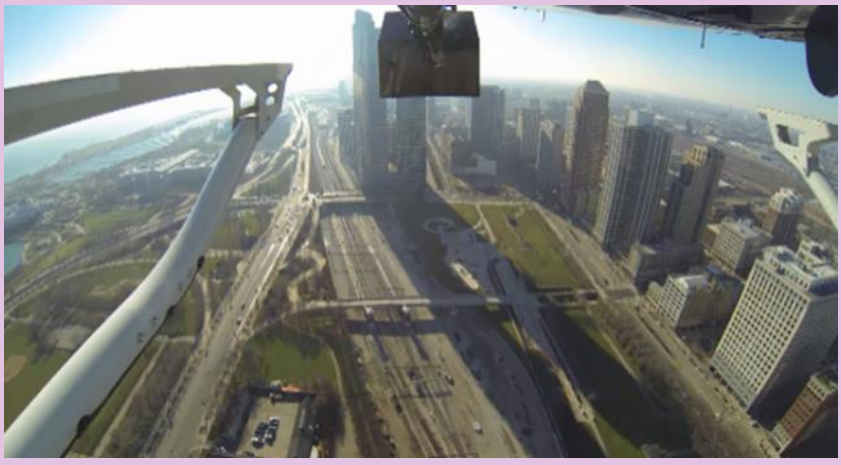
Positive Train Control (PTC)

Merrick

Merrick & Company is currently working on an exciting new program throughout the US called PTC (positive train control). PTC is a system that can manage and control train movement to avoid train-to-train collision or maintain separation, enforce speed and restrictions, improve rail work zone safety. Several high profile accidents in the early 2000's have shown the need to improve rail safety by adding Electronic Train Management Systems (ETMS) to assist in daily operations of trains. This implementation by carriers and operators became a Federal mandate in 2008.



Merrick &Company has been involved in the development of geographic databases that work within the PTC system. These databases work in conjunction with onboard sensors and the ETMS system to provide an added layer of safety when trains are operated. Merrick & Company has utilized Helicopter airborne LiDAR, aerial ortho imagery, mobile LiDAR and ground and GPS survey techniques to populate these databases. Typically, a helicopter is flown over a rail line, collecting LiDAR, aerial imagery, GPS and inertial information for post processing. Planimetric features are collected and augmented in tunnels or LiDAR obscured areas with Mobile LiDAR. After delivery of the database a test vehicle will utilize the sensors and database for a real-world test of the system for a final quality check. Merrick is providing this service in a number of high traffic urban areas.



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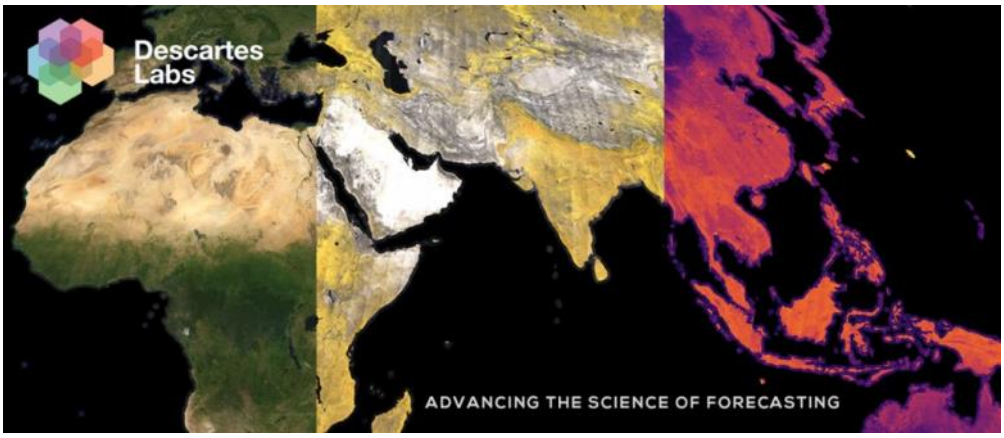

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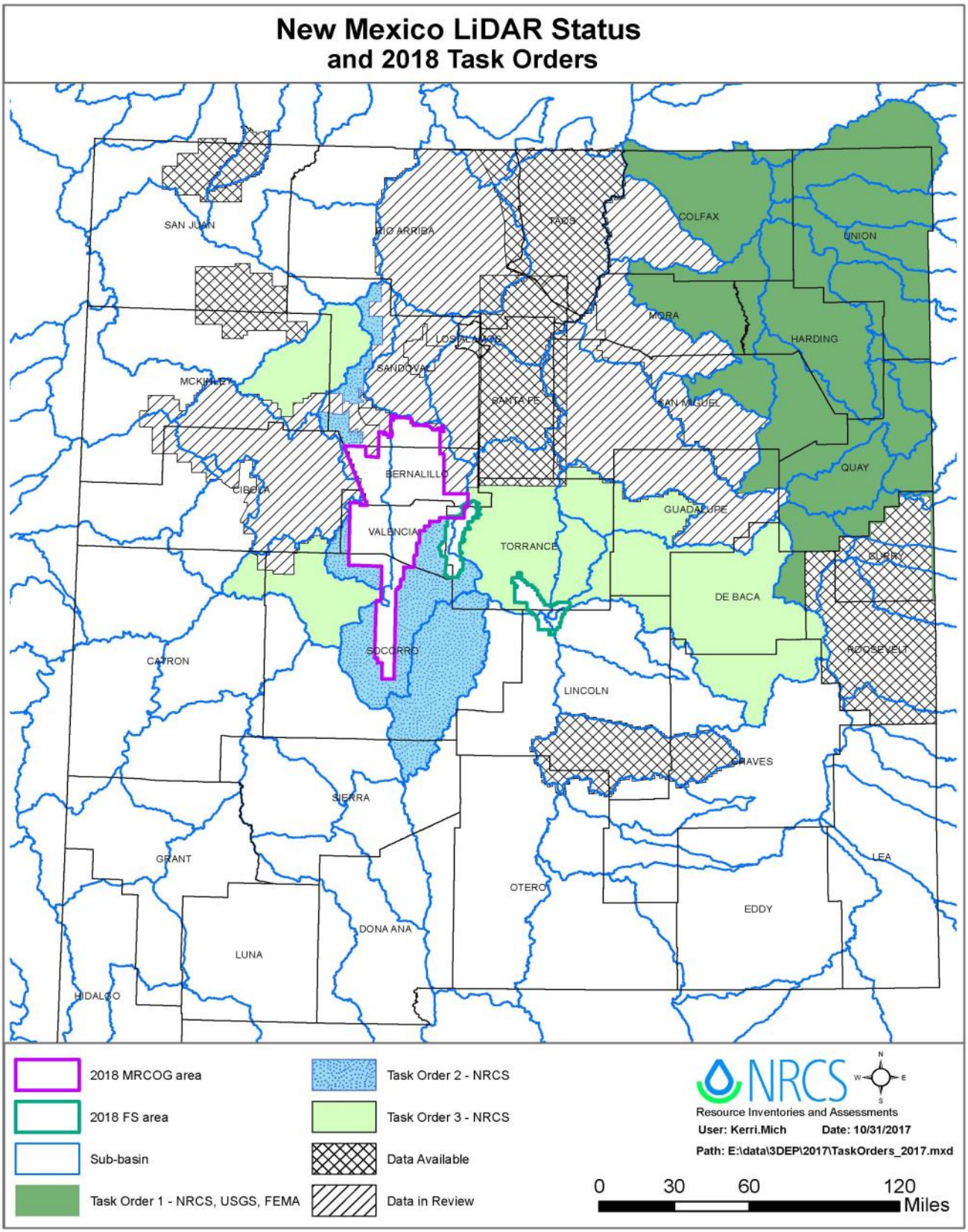

NMGIC Awards 2017

Green Chile - Outstanding Service Award - Kerri Mich

Thank you so much for this honor, I am very happy to accept!

I moved to NM after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1993. This was before the internet was everywhere, so I was calling agencies mostly straight out of the phone book. Someone took pity on me (and I wish I remember who it was!) and told me I should attend a NMGIC meeting, and they gave me the info on where and when.

That meeting really changed the course of my life, although it seems like an exaggeration. I met such nice people, such a community! I started volunteering for Jessie Rossbach, of the Soil Conservation Service. And through meeting Shirley Baros of EDAC, I eventually got a job working there on the GPS collection of state roads of NM. What a great introduction to the state, we drove to places you probably would never get to otherwise! And since it was so early in GPS life (1994) we had a lot of down time that we used to explore ghost towns, hike, and generally enjoy all NM has to offer! It was fantastic. That job lead to working for the National Park Service, and then the US Forest Service. (Albuquerque is wonderful, instead of moving from place to place to get promoted like most feds do, I could just change agencies!) And eventually that volunteer work I did for the SCS turned into a paying job about 15 years later….

The other thing that happened at NMGIC to change me is in 2001, the fall after the big fire in Los Alamos that spring. There was a speaker, Dave Wilson, from the BLM in Arizona who was the GIS specialist for the Type 1 Incident Management team who was in charge of that fire. At the end, he said if there were any federal employees who were interested he could really use some help. This lead to me being with him on the Type 1 team for 5 years, which was an amazing experience.

So thanks to NMGIC for all I have received from you!

-Kerri

NMGIC Awards 2017

Red Chile - Outstanding Service Award - Chandra Bales

Chandra was looking for a career change when she walked into Prof. Stan Morain's office at UNM and saw a framed Landsat image. She knew immediately that working with satellite imagery would satisfy both her scientific and artistic sides. While studying for an M.S. degree in geography, Chandra worked at EDAC as a graduate research assistant, doing image processing and analysis. She joined EDAC as a staff member in 2000, worked with imagery, and eventually moved into project design and technical writing. As a way to contribute to the community, Chandra served four years as coordinator for the state-level geographic bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. She notes that NMGIC support and participation made all the difference to the success of the geographic bees, and she appreciates that Amy Ballard and now Suzan Arfman continue to make the bee a success and a part of the "NMGIC family."

Membership Form

New Mexico Geographic Information Council, Inc.

Name: _____

Organization/School _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____-____

Phone (____)-_____-_____ Fax (____)-_____-_____

Email _____

Invoicing/Billing Address if different from above:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____-_____

Enclosed is my: Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Make Check or Money Order payable to: NMGIC, Inc.

Membership Dues:

Individual: $30.00

Student: **FREE!** (Must show valid Student I.D.)

Corporate: $250.00 - Includes two seats to each meeting, discounted exhibit fees, and an ad in each Map Legend

Payment should be mailed to: NMGIC, Inc. , PO Box 92712 Albuquerque, NM 87199

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