

Intermountain GIS Users Conference
Billings Sheraton
April 19-23, 2004

November 1, 2003

Dear Vendor:

Please join us in the most widely attended, two-state GIS conference held in the United States! The **2004 Intermountain GIS Users Conference, sponsored by the Montana GIS Users Group and the Northern Rockies Chapter of URISA, will be held April 19-23, 2004 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Billings, Montana.** We are offering commercial exhibitors the opportunity to exhibit their products to a large segment of the GIS market from Montana, Idaho and other neighboring states during this conference. The theme of this year's conference is: **"GIS – Tools of Discovery"**.

This will be the eighth consecutive year that Montana and Idaho have combined forces. Each year the conference has been extremely successful due to the cooperative efforts of GIS practitioners in Montana and Idaho, with attendance typically exceeding 300 registrants.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Billings, Montana. Pre-conference workshops and Public Night will be held on April 19th and 20th, with concurrent conference sessions on April 21st and 22nd. Post-conference workshops are scheduled for April 23rd. The gathering will feature a keynote address on the mapping methods and instruments used by Lewis and Clark from Ralph Ehrenberg, past director of the Library of Congress Map Division. Former Wyoming Governor, Jim Geringer, nationally acclaimed as an advocate of GIS technology and its critical role in formulating and implementing sound public policy, will also be a featured speaker. Please visit our conference web page at: www.intermountaingis.org for more information.

Commercial exhibitors will display their products in a large room on the third floor, adjacent to the registration, banquet and conference presentation areas. Vendors should plan to arrive on Monday, April 19th and be set up by 5:00 P.M. Monday night. The cost for exhibitors is \$575 per each 8' by 10' booth, which includes registration for two people and their conference meals. The vendor display area is directly adjacent the reception area for our conference breaks which will feature food and beverages.

In addition to inviting you to attend the conference, there are a number of other activities and programs we would like to encourage you to participate in or contribute to, including:

- Sponsor a break at the conference! The mid-morning break will feature muffins, tea and coffee. The mid-afternoon breaks will feature cookies, sodas and coffee. The cost to sponsor a break is \$500. Vendors who sponsor breaks will be acknowledged at the plenary sessions as well as noted in the conference program.
- Participate in Public Night! Public Night will be held on Tuesday, April 20th. Public Night is an opportunity to reach out to and provide information to the non-GIS public in lay terms about GIS hardware, software, and concepts about which they have little or no former knowledge. All members of the public will be welcome,

and activities and festivities will focus on kids and local officials. A special mailing will target K-12 schools, libraries and public officials.

- If you have software that may be of interest to K-12 students, librarians, teachers or public officials, please bring it along to set up at your booth. Also, we would appreciate any contributions of prizes for students who complete all of the activities. In the past student prizes and door prizes have included atlases, hats, pins, mugs, T-shirts, buttons and balloons.
- Contribute an item for our auction and/or raffle. Proceeds go to support various GIS programs and scholarships.
- Give a New Technology presentation! We would love to hear from you! As was the case last year, this year's conference will include a vendor track during the concurrent sessions to allow vendors to present new technologies. If you would like to share your information and experiences, fill out the attached Abstract Submission Form on the back of the Vendor Registration Form.
- Present a technical software workshop. Pre- and Post-Conference workshops will be held on Monday, Tuesday morning, and Friday. This would be an opportunity to connect with your user community to offer hands on training. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, contact Bob Holliday at 406-444-0770, rholliday@state.mt.us or Stuart Challender at 406-556-0544, stuartc@bridgergeoplan.com.

Booths are available on first come, first served basis. Therefore, return your registration form with your booth preferences noted (see enclosed chart) and appropriate fees as soon as possible to ensure your participation. If you have any questions, please contact:

Janet Cornish, Conference Coordinator
CDS of Montana
406-723-7993
JanAllyce@aol.com

Thank you in advance for helping to make this year's conference a success and we look to seeing you in Billings!

Sincerely,

Alex Philp, Vendor Chair

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