

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

February 17, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
Via Zoom: Alan Rodriguez, Azam Badiie, Candice Butts, Canserina Kurnia, David Bustillo, Dylan Skrah, Elizabeth Perez, Gerald Winkel, Gideon Kinzie Hawver, Hoori Ajami, Jenny Chen, Jonathan Young, Joseph (Jay) Spencer, Katheryn Rodriguez, Luciane Musa, Lynn Sweet, Maite Zabala-Alday, Mariana Reyes, Maxine Wu, Mike Cohen, Phillip Boan, Rey Castillo, Shanon Langlie, Steve Ries

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The access passcode to view is 3B8ixd^S

The announcements below for upcoming events are in chronological order.

On February 22 at 11:00, [Planet Labs](#) is providing a “getting started” **training session** for UCR affiliates interested in using their high-resolution satellite imagery. For Zoom meeting information contact Elia Scudiero (elia.scudiero@ucr.edu) or Janet (janet.reyes@ucr.edu).

- See last month’s meeting notes for more information about our Planet license.
- Hoori shared that in Spring 2022, Environmental Sciences will offer a graduate course using Planet data taught by a team from Planet Labs.

The [GIS @ UCR Virtual Panel](#) will take place from 4:30 - 6:00 pm on February 24. This will be the first in what’s hoped to be a series of events connecting UCR students who are interested in GIS with Esri staff who are UCR alumni, parents, or friends.

Katheryn Rodriguez, program manager of the Center for Health Disparities Research, invited everyone to attend the Center’s **2021 Annual Symposium** on February 25-26. Some of their graduate student researchers will be hosting a story mapping workshop from a community engaged research perspective on February 26. To learn more, visit the website at: <https://healthdisparities.ucr.edu/2021-symposium>

The [Los Angeles Geospatial Summit](#) will be on February 26. While the all-day event is virtual, there is a cost for attending. In addition to presentations, there will be an opportunity for attendees to meet with representatives from industry, academia, and organizations.

On the weekend of Feb 27-28, the **R’Geospatial Club** plans to hold a treasure hunt event for students and other UCR affiliates who have an ArcGIS Online account. The event will involve the use of Collector or another Esri field app. The club’s meeting this Friday is in support of the Esri certification process.

The next [GIS in Higher Education Chat](#) on March 2 at 9:00 a.m. will focus on ArcGIS Urban. Recordings and resources from previous presentations can be found on the site.

A [tweet](#) from the Center for Geospatial Sciences shows that in Spring 2021, three **GIS related courses** will be offered at UCR: GEO157 and PBPL010 for undergrads, and PBPL280(001) for graduate students.

Janet watched a webinar on **Ethical Spatial Analytics** hosted by the Association of American Geographers and found it very thought-provoking; a recording can be found [here](#). Geospatial ethics may be a topic for discussions in future meetups.

First-time Attendees

First-time attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

Phillip Boan is a second year MS student in Earth and Planetary Sciences who does work applying spatial analytics to early animal communities excavated in South Australia.

Candice Butts is an MS student at Georgia Tech.

For the other first-time attendees: thanks for joining us, and we hope you'll return in the future!

Presentation

Gerald Winkel is with the American Red Cross and is one of the Disaster Program Managers for Riverside County. The Red Cross recently implemented the **National Shelter System**, built on an ArcGIS platform. It replaces an earlier version that was much less interactive. In a six-month period, more than 1000 volunteers were trained on how to use the new system.

The new website can be accessed by the public as well as the Red Cross and other agencies. Internally, information about shelters is categorized by the five basic functions of the shelter lifecycle.

The Shelter Status Manager is an interactive map that shows the location of current incidents and the shelters involved with them (whether they are run by the Red Cross or other agencies, such as FEMA). Shelters are color-coded on the map according to current status (active, recently closed, on standby).

The Shelter Facility Manager is an interactive map that shows locations of shelters that could be used if an incident requires opening shelters.

Survey123 (branded as RC Collect) is used to streamline capture of information about the shelters.

Data about shelters is shared with the public [here](#).

Discussion

Attendees were invited to share links to maps they found interesting.

Shanon shared a map for #YardiGras - since Mardi Gras parades and other celebrations have been cancelled, folks have been decorating their homes (so fun and creative).
<https://www.kreweofhousefloats.org/map> NPR also featured a [story](#) about it with some great photos.

Canserina shared the site CA Safe Schools for All, which is based on ArcGIS Hub:
<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

Janet shared three links:

- Regarding extinction: <https://www.whatismissing.net/>
- An [article](#) on the relative merits of oblique satellite imagery
- An [article and map](#) on COVID vaccine acceptance rates by county

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Other discussion topics:

Janet shared that she recently helped a student who was trying to capture the raster data value (from the [National Land Cover Database](#)) for points representing field observations. The student had been collecting the land cover by visiting each point and entering the underlying land cover in a spreadsheet, but wondered if there was a tool in GIS that could capture the information.

The answer is yes! In ArcGIS Pro, the student could load the point layer and the NLCD layer, then use the [Extract Multi Values to Points](#) tool.

The student wanted to end up with the land cover names rather than their numerical codes, which is what the tool captured. Janet suspected that could be done within ArcGIS but couldn't find the way; however, using Find and Replace in Excel would be one way to go about it.

Hoori commented that the Extraction toolset (in the Spatial Analyst toolbox) are among her favorites. For capturing the land cover names, she recommended joining a table that contains the names to the attribute table (now populated with the feature class codes), and then using [Calculate Field](#).