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## **7<sup>th</sup> Biennial West Virginia GIS Forum and Workshops Announced**

The date and preliminary schedule for the 2006 West Virginia GIS Forum and Workshops have been announced by the event's organizers. The conference will be held May 15-19, 2006 in Morgantown, WV and will feature hands on training, workshops, presentations and notable speakers.

This conference provides a forum for users of geographic information systems in West Virginia and Appalachia. This year's conference will be a celebration of 10 years of GIS in the Mountain State – 2006 is the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the West Virginia State GIS Coordinator's Office, a division of the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey.

Past conferences have featured presentations and keynote addresses on a variety of topics, from resource and environmental management to internet mapping and other emerging spatial science applications.

“The West Virginia GIS Forum is a chance for GIS users of all levels and backgrounds to convene and learn about emerging technology, the activities and efforts of their peers, and of course, establish new contacts and institute collaborations,” said Craig Neidig, GIS Coordinator for the State of West Virginia.

Several training seminars will be held May 15-16 and May 19, including a half-day course on better utilizing GPS technology as well as an introductory remote sensing seminar. Wednesday, May 17, “West Virginia GIS Activities Day,” will feature presentations and posters from a variety of public agencies that implement GIS in their day to day activities. Thursday, May 18 is “GIS in the Appalachians” day and will give prominence to researchers throughout Appalachia doing cutting edge work in GIS, remote sensing and internet mapping.

Both days will feature lunchtime keynote speakers as well as refreshments. Wednesday evening's catered social will be held at the Clarion Hotel Morgan.

The training seminars will be held in various locations throughout downtown Morgantown, and all presentations will be held in the Mountainlair, on the campus of West Virginia University. Several exhibitors and sponsors from the private sector will also be in attendance to demonstrate their products and services.

The conference is jointly organized by three entities. The West Virginia GIS Technical Center, established in 1995, is charged with the development, maintenance and dissemination of geographic information in the state. Its counterpart, the West Virginia State GIS Coordinator's Office, works to organize and enhance GIS within and among state agencies. The West Virginia University Department of Geology and Geography is a leading entity in education, research and development of spatial technologies.

To find more information, register as an exhibitor or sponsor, or register to attend the conference, visit <http://www.wvgis.wvu.edu/conference/2006/> or contact the West Virginia GIS Technical Center via phone, at (304) 293-5603, extension 4338.