



PRIDE Status Report March, 2005

PRIDE is a project originating in the Natural Resources Stewardship and Science (NRSS) directorate of the National Park Service for the purpose of developing a strategy to improve the use of NRSS information technologies to support its business functions.

During a May 2002 meeting, the Natural Resource Advisory Group (NRAG) decided to undertake a project for the purpose of conducting a structured assessment of the Service's natural resource business requirements and their associated information needs. Conducting this assessment was deemed essential to the long-term success of the Natural Resource Challenge effort because it would help to ensure that information generated through the NRC would be useful to managers. Following the NRAG meeting, a contractor-facilitated workshop was held on September 17-19, 2002, in Denver to formulate a strategy for conducting the assessment service-wide. The strategy formulated during that workshop has come to be known as PRIDE (**P**rotecting **R**esources through **I**nformed **D**ecision-making and **E**ducation).

The basic approach for the PRIDE project includes five major tasks: 1) identify major NRSS business requirements/functions, 2) document information needed for each requirement, 3) assess existing information systems and applications, 4) identify gaps and holes in information availability, and 5) develop a modernization blueprint to guide the evolution of Natural Resource IT to a desired future state..

A PRIDE Workshop was held in Denver, Colorado in September, 2004 to address the first two goals: identify business requirements, and document the information needed to implement each requirement. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 NPS staff representing park, region and WASO decision-makers. Workshop participants reviewed NRSS mission and goals, and then defined the business processes/functions of NRSS and the information needed to support each function.

The next phase of PRIDE will be to document in further detail each business function, using as the source of business functions a combination of NRSS policy/guidelines and the functions determined in the 2004 workshop. Data Flow Diagrams (DFDs) will be prepared to provide a conceptual model for each process, depicting the sequential steps that must be taken in order to implement the process, along with the information needed for each step. Interviews will be conducted to verify the validity of each DFD in accurately depicting a given business process, and to document the existence and format of the information needed for each process. The methodology employed for DFD validation will be a combination of phone interviews, in-person interviews and small group meetings with NRSS stakeholders. NRSS stakeholders are all employees (NPS, partners, contractors, cooperators) at the park, network, regional and national levels who are directly involved with natural resource stewardship and protection activities.

Following validation of NRSS business processes, the PRIDE project will then assess existing information systems and applications, and begin to identify gaps and holes in information availability. The major product of this phase is a Modernization Blueprint, a report that will document three critical groups of information: 'As-is' business functions and related data, target business functions and related data, and a transition plan to get from 'As-is' to target. 'As-is' and target data will be related not only to business functions but also to NRSS mission and goals. A Gap Analysis Report will identify gaps in the availability or accessibility of information needed to perform decision-making and planning.

Throughout the 2004 workshop, participants emphasized the overriding NRSS mission to protect, restore and understand the natural resources and ecosystems. When this mission is drilled down to its basic components (business functions) and the associated information needs, it is apparent that there are several obstacles: resource information is not available, is not accessible, is not integrated with other

resource information into an ecosystem format, or is not directly related to the decision that must be made. PRIDE is attempting to document the specific impediments in a very organized, top-down approach that views NRSS information systems in their entirety, and in direct relationship to the decisions managers make to support NRSS mission and goals.