

Dear colleagues/past Wisconsin Ramona reviewers,

As the old saying goes, better quality than quantity and better now than never. While not at all in the original time frame I had envisioned, the time has come to give one last look (if you're so inclined) at the final appearance of the draft final form of a set of custom questions to be published to the Wisconsin profile of the national **Ramona GIS Data Inventory Survey**, sponsored by the National States' Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) - <http://www.nsgic.org/hottopics/ramona.cfm>

Wisconsin Ramona Resources: <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisclinc/survey/>

Wisconsin Ramona Survey: <http://wi.gisinventory.net/>

These questions are slated to be published by **July 1**, followed by a concerted effort by our Office to promote widespread and comprehensive survey participation by GIS data custodians in Wisconsin.

These questions (valid until at least the next Survey review) will serve to provide an updated snapshot of information collected in the former WLIP Survey, provide a more in-depth information to various state programs and task forces (and a forthcoming Geographic Information Coordinating Council) that require inventory-level information and should be seen as a dynamic section of the survey that can be reviewed annually and modified according to current trends and needs.

In order to make this review as painless as possible and at the suggestion of various working group reviewers, we have provided .pdf documents of both the core Ramona questions (which we cannot modify) as well as those worked on by our 4 working groups in addition to outside reviewers. <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisclinc/survey/>  
Any and all feedback will be taken and vetted against existing needs and survey system capabilities.

Please send your feedback by **June 29th** to [sco@wisc.edu](mailto:sco@wisc.edu) and feel free to pass this review invitation along to anyone you think might have a vested interest.

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**Wisconsin Ramona Update**

Based on statistics as of yesterday, Wisconsin is now the fourth most involved state in Ramona Survey participation with ~ 20 GIS data custodians documenting 134 "framework layers" and 103 "Other" data layers over discreet geographies. This represents over 10% of counties participating as well as some Regional Planning Commission and private sector participation as well. While there are quite a few states at similar levels of participation, the three states with most involvement are Iowa, Indiana, and North Carolina.

Once released, the Wisconsin-specific questions will be available as an additional tab on the left-hand side of the survey and we will broadcast a message to existing survey participants announcing the new section of questions. We are also working on the first of a series of User Guides that will emphasize specific elements of the survey in support of

specific programmatic or task force needs - as well as a general User's Guide with helpful hints. We'll also be working hard this Fall to provide custom reporting from the survey to Wisconsin users in general as well as specific stakeholder groups with articulated business needs.

In addition, I continue to serve on the Ramona Working Group under NSGIC's Technical Issues Committee (<http://www.nsgic.org/committees1/committee.cfm?cid=106>) which continues to advocate for improvements to the core survey structure and function. Near-term changes we can expect include: addition of a field for persistent URL to FGDC metadata for any later inventoried; and vastly improved User Report to provide formatted summary of participant's data back to participants - useful for annual reporting and other needs.

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Thank you all for your involvement in pulling this together. I sincerely appreciate your time and expertise.

Kind regards,  
- AJ Wortley

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