

# Southern Appalachian Regional Information System SARIS

## Project Plan June 2000–September 2001

### SARIS Goals

- 1) Enhance and expand SAMAB's cooperative data collection and sharing activities, which slowed upon completion of the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) in 1996.
- 2) Make data more readily accessible and useful not only to Federal and state agencies, but also to local governments, private businesses, and the general public.
- 3) Provide tools to access and integrate data from multiple Federal, state, local, and private sources to facilitate decisions that are more cognizant of the natural boundaries of ecosystems rather than based entirely on political and other artificial delineations.

### Implementation Objectives

- Use open interoperability standards to facilitate access to distributed data sources and to minimize the implementation costs of interactive web-based applications
- Develop a modular system architecture that will make it easy to adapt to future needs
- Choose hardware and software products that are readily scalable to increasing user demand
- Use the rapid prototyping approach of system development to assure user satisfaction and minimize the risk to implementation mistakes

### System Components

- 1) Data warehouse for the SAA data, plus new and enhanced data sets
- 2) Communications services and tools integrated with a knowledge base about regional data sources, data sets, and their use
- 3) Web-mapping interface that will let anyone generate custom thematic maps within a standard web browser

### Funding

**FY'00:** \$90,000 — Budget for \$52,000 remaining at the end of May 2000

**FY'01:** Budget for minimal expected allocation of \$50,000 from SAMAB members

Hardware	7,000	7,000
Software	3,000	5,000*
Technical support	3,000	2,000
System development	25,000	18,000
SARIS operational management	14,000	18,000

Pending USGS grant application for \$62,952 in FY'01 to use SARIS as a web-mapping testbed.

Pending USDA grant application for \$17,500 in FY'01 and \$7,500 each of the following three years to develop and operate a major SARIS focus area on invasive exotic plants.

### Milestones

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|---|-------------------|
| • SARIS node of the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse registered                   | 6/15/00           |
| • Core SARIS communication services operational   | 6/30/00           |
| • Tire-kicker group activation  | 7/01/00           |
| • ArcIMS** and ArcSDE operational, support for generic SAA overlay maps in web browsers | 7/31/00           |
| • Rapid prototyping of enhanced browser-based mapping interface features starts         | 8/01/00           |
| • SARIS knowledge-base operational  | 8/31/00           |
| • First SARIS custom map interface features and first batch of new datasets available   | 9/30/00           |
| • Additional map interface features move from prototyping to production                 | 10/15/00–11/30/00 |
| • Second batch of new datasets become available   | 11/30/00          |
| • Enter SARIS maintenance mode (unless additional funding becomes available)            | 12/01/00          |

\* support for a small number of concurrent users only    \*\*assuming we receive delivery of ArcIMS by 7/15/00