

# REGIONAL LAND COVER DATA SOLUTION PRIORITY BUSINESS INFORMATION NEED POLICY SUMMARY

## *Regional Data Specifications*

January 26, 2000: The MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed the following specifications for the regional land cover data solution:

1. A hierarchical land cover classification system with 5 levels. Each level offers further refinement for land cover interpretation. Level 1 has 9 major classes, level 2 has 29 classifications, level 3 has 72 classifications, level 4 has 168 classifications, and level 5 has 339 classifications, for a total of 617 possible classification codes.
2. Land cover interpretation with the classification system is adaptable to a wide range of data sources and map scales. The classification system will accommodate everything from LANDSAT images to detailed ground surveys, allowing interpretation to whatever level of detail the project requires.
3. The most common implementation methodology for the MLCCS is through the use of a combination of high-resolution infrared aerial photographs, digital orthophoto quadrangles (DOQs), and ground truthing. Using these data sources, the minimum mapping unit is 2 acres, with a 1-acre exception made for wetlands and native prairies. Delineation is conducted at a 1:3,000 scale.
4. An implementation manual for the system has been produced. The manual includes a dichotomous key to aid in interpretation, a glossary of the terms, appendixes of related classification systems, and a bibliography.
5. Spring 2000 was the completion date for all supporting documents, and the pilot mapping projects (MNRRA Corridor, Minnesota River Corridor, Chub Creek)

## *Regional Roles and Responsibilities*

January 26, 2000: MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed the following roles and responsibilities for the regional land cover data solution:

1. DNR will be lead regional custodian for all land cover dataset development.
2. DNR has clearly demonstrated the ability to compile land cover data through their pilot projects around the metro region.
3. DNR has clearly stated that they will provide technical data assistance and training throughout the land cover development projects in the metro region.
4. DNR has defined and demonstrated that the land cover dataset layer integrates well with other adopted MetroGIS data layers.
5. DNR will create and maintain metadata compliant with state guidelines and distribute the dataset via the Internet.