

Date: 7/4/2010

To: Beth King, Doug Miller

From: Kimberly Pettit

Re: Capstone Idea Proposal: Idaho Department of Lands Solar Potential Analysis

My employer, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), has expressed a need to analyze which state-owned properties (IDL 2010) have the highest potential for solar development. This will enable IDL to market those properties to potential developers for long-term leases.

This solar potential analysis will involve researching criteria for solar farm or power tower site suitability. Potential sources of site criteria information will include previous written reports or analyses, and contact with solar professionals such as Avista Corporation, Idaho Power, Utah Power and Light, Idaho Office of Energy Resources, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Idaho National Laboratory. The results of this project will include a geodatabase of IDL-owned property with ranking attributes for solar potential on a proposed scale of 1-5, with 1 being no solar potential and 5 being excellent solar potential. Furthermore, there will be a detailed write-up of the top ten sites.

Other ideas for potential capstone projects include developing a toolbar to assist in Land Records processing. This toolbar could include such tools as a township, range, section zoom function, a fixed snapping tab environment that does not become inactive with version reconciliation, and/or a buffer tool that does not create rounded ends so that lines can be buffered only on the long axis.

While this is the extent of my current ideas for capstone projects, I am happy to take any suggestions you may have or revert to ideas from previous jobs such as a dam removal priority analysis tool that estimates upstream miles of salmonid habitat available due to dam removal. Please feel free to contact me at 208-288-2687 (home) or 208-334-0204 (office) or via email if you have any questions or concerns. As always, thank you in advance for your well-considered feedback and guidance.

References

Idaho Department of Lands. (2010). Land Records Database Viewer. Retrieved from <http://gis1.idl.idaho.gov/DLR/> on June 9, 2010.