

## Open Source GIS and Environmental Modeling Systems

Recent years have witnessed a growth in the quantity and quality of free and open source software (FOSS) tools for use in environmental data analysis and modeling. Such developments have significant potential to aid environmental managers, scientists and stakeholders in both developed and developing countries by reducing initial acquisition costs and providing a level of transparency that is often critical for regulatory, administrative, and on-going code development purposes. While commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) environmental software tools play an important role in the environmental community, the concept of FOSS continues to attract interest among software developers, sponsors and end-users alike.

The goal of this session is to encourage a dialogue on the use of FOSS tools in environmental modeling and data analysis software systems, and papers are invited that explore this general theme. In particular, we seek papers that demonstrate the use of open source GIS tools such as GRASS, MapWindow GIS, Quantum GIS, MapServer, Mapbender, GDAL, OpenJUMP, O and others as platforms for environmental data analysis and modeling systems. We also encourage papers that present open source tools that may or may not have a GIS element, that describe open source models built upon commercial software platforms (i.e. free extensions for commercial software), or that argue against the use of FOSS tools for particular applications.

Chair: Daniel P. Ames, Idaho State University

Co-Chair: Gerry Laniak, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency