Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

**ArcGIS:** Suite of GIS software products developed by Esri corporation. Some of these products are ArcMap, ArcCatalog and ArcSDE.

**ArcSDE (Arc Spatial Database Engine):** Server software developed by Esri that spatially enables a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS). The spatial data may then be used as part of a geodatabase.

**Attributes:** Information about a geographic feature in a GIS, generally stored in a table and linked to the feature by a unique identifier.* They are contained in database columns and represent properties such as acreage, name, GNIS ID, length, perimeter, etc.

**Attribute Domain:** The range of values allowed for a column in a database.*

**BARS (Boundary Adjustment Reporting System):** Docket database maintained by Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) staff. Developed and administered by MnGeo staff and resident of their servers.

**COGO (COordinate Geometry):** Automated mapping software used in land surveying that calculates locations using distances and bearings from known reference points.*

**Control Point Generated PLS (PLS-40):** Geographic data created by MnDNR that represents the boundaries of the Public Land Survey (PLS) System divisible to quarter-quarter sections (e.g. NW ¼ of the SE ¼). The layer was created using the most accurate information available at the time, including Government Land Office plat drawings and survey notes, official resurveys, and PLS control points from the DNR's Control Point Inventory database. (MNDNR- http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/metadata/pls_fortyp3.html)

**CTU (City, Township, Unorganized Territory):** The definitive local government boundary dataset maintained by MnGeo. Beside existing boundaries this dataset also includes municipal boundary change information.

**Digitize:** To convert the shapes of geographic features from media such as paper maps or raster imagery into vector x,y coordinates.* This is usually accomplished by clicking the computer mouse along the shape of a given feature on screen.

**FCODE (Feature CODE):** 5-digit number used in CTU data to designate type of local government geographic unit (e.g. township = 61348).

**FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard):** Standards for encoding data developed by the U.S. federal government for use in computer systems by all non-military government agencies and by government contractors. The FIPS 55-3 database includes 5-digit numeric place codes for cities, towns, and villages, or other centers of population. It is being replaced by the GNIS system. (Wikipedia- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Information_Processing_Standard)

**Geodatabase:** The common data storage and management framework for ArcGIS. It combines "geo" (spatial data) with "database" (data repository) to create a central data repository for spatial data storage and management. (Esri- http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/geodatabase/index.html)

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** A collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, storing, updating, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.*

**Georeference:** To assign coordinates from a known reference system, such as latitude/longitude, UTM, or State Plane, to the page coordinates or an image or a planar map. *

**GNIS (Geographic Names Information System):** The national standard for geographic nomenclature that is maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). It includes place names and corresponding unique numerical codes. ([http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/](http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/))

**Map Scale:** Scale is the relationship between distance on the map and distance on the ground. A map scale usually is given as a fraction or a ratio—1/10,000 or 1:10,000. ([USGS- http://egsc.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs01502.html](http://egsc.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs01502.html))

**Metadata:** Data about data. Metadata describes how and when and by whom a particular set of data was collected, and how the data is formatted. ([WEBOPEDIA- http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/metadata.html](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/metadata.html))

**Relational Database Management System (RDBMS):** A type of database management system (DBMS) that stores data in the form of related tables. ([WEBOPEDIA- http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/metadata.html](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/metadata.html))

**Traverse:** A method in the field of surveying to establish control networks. Traverse networks involved placing survey stations along a line or path of travel, and then using the previously surveyed points as a base for observing the next point. ([Wikipedia- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traverse_%28surveying%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traverse_%28surveying%29)) A traverse may be input into a geodatabase by using the COGO Traverse tool which allows the user to enter data in the form of directions and distances, angles or curves from known points.

**UT (Unorganized Territory):** A geographical area that is not part of any city or township.

**Version:** A “snapshot” in time of geodatabase data. It allows multiple users to edit the same data in an ArcSDE geodatabase at the same time. The default version of a data or "parent" of all "child" versions. It can only be altered by the "Administrator".  ([ArcGIS Desktop Help 9.3](http://tinyurl.com/arcgisdesktophelp93))

**Web service:** Methods of presenting information online in such a manner that applications and other automatic processes can query and access data directly as opposed to via a human readable web interface. Allows data from one organization to be integrated into third party systems.

**WFS (Web Feature Service):** An Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard that provides an interface to allow users to query, create, delete and update geographic features of an online map. ([Wikipedia- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_Feature_Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_Feature_Service))

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