Product Title: EnviroAtlas: Incorporation of EnviroAtlas as a major component of EcoInforma.

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Project Lead: Anne Neale

Matrix Interface: Jennifer Cashdollar

ORD Task (as listed in RMS): SHC 1.2.3.1 through 1.2.3.9

Suggested ORD Partner Contact/Intended audience for product: Multiple Program Offices including Air, Water, Sustainable Communities, Environmental Justice, OSWER, OPPT, and all EPA Regions

Brief Description:

EnviroAtlas is a collection of interactive tools and resources that help inform decision-making and allow users to explore the many benefits people receive from nature, often referred to as ecosystem services. EnviroAtlas was publicly released in May 2014.

Ecoinformatics-based Open Resources and Machine Accessibility (EcoINFORMA) is an initiative recommended by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) in their 2011 report to the President on Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society and the Economy. This initiative is aimed at sustainably expanding the availability and interoperability of Federal and non-Federal biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services information for use by researchers, the public, and government decision-makers. EcoINFORMA implementation is proceeding under the guidance of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems (BioEco) Informatics Working Group, a working group of the Subcommittee on Ecological Systems (SES) under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS). The EnviroAtlas Team worked with BioEco to ensure EnviroAtlas resources would be compatible with EcoINFORMA.

The primary implementation focus of EcoINFORMA are its resource hubs. These central resource hubs consist of focused and comprehensive communities of practice that encourage increased participation by data providers and users, and facilitate data interoperability through common standards, efficiencies of scale, and enhanced data curation. EnviroAtlas became one of three resource hubs that make up EcoINFORMA in early December 2014. Another of the resource hubs is the Land Cover hub to which EnviroAtlas also contributes. EcoINFORMA was officially released by Interior Secretary Sally Jewel at the ACES (A community on Ecosystem Services) conference held in December 2014.

EnviroAtlas was featured in a Town Hall at the ACES conference along with other components of climate.data.gov and ecosystems.data.gov. Anne Neale presented the EnviroAtlas at the Town Hall. EnviroAtlas was also prominently featured at a booth in the exhibit hall throughout the conference.

The URL for EcoINFORMA is https://www.data.gov/ecosystems/ecoinforma/

EnviroAtlas was peer reviewed by a panel of experts in 2014. This peer review was addressed prior to EnviroAtlas becoming part of EcoINFORMA, no additional peer review was required to fulfill this deliverable.

It was a significant accomplishment to design and build EnviroAtlas in such a way as it could serve as the ecosystem services resources hub of EcoINFORMA. The incorporation of EnviroAtlas as an EcoINFORMA resource hub highlights the innovate design of EnviroAtlas which allows it to be interoperable with other data resources. As an EcoINFORMA resource hub the visibility, credibility, and subsequent utility of EnviroAtlas is enhanced.