



Federation meeting visioneering WG

Survey on meeting places, agendas, and
preferences

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Attractive Cities

- Washington, DC nice locations that aren't too hard to get to but will draw people.
- Areas that have been affected by disasters that can benefit from stimulating discussion and realize the benefits that ESIP Federation members can bring to their states, local govt's, etc.
- Downtown Washington DC once a year is valuable because of the many federal agency contacts who are able to attend. Spreading the other meeting between other regions of the US is a fair approach, I think (one year west coast, one year midwest, one year southeast...)
- Suggest holding next winter mtg. in Maui (or Hawaii)... Other cities - San Diego (nice weather, good food, sightseeing, etc.); Denver (ditto); DC in spring/fall but not summer/winter
- Portland, OR / Portland Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel: best conference facilities i've ever encountered. cheap reliable public transport direct to pdx or downtown portland.
- Boulder CO - easy to get to, lovely town, good weather
- San Diego Washington DC Baltimore San Francisco These cities all have hotels that are easy to get to by light rail or metro.
- San Francisco, Washington DC, Boston - good hotels, multiple airport options, entertainment opportunities and meeting facilities
- Washington DC - excellent air and ground transportation. Hotels can be expensive. But, location allows for doing additional business with government agencies before or after the meeting. Good trails for running rather than navigating concrete streets. St Louis - mid-continent, excellent ground transportation from airport to downtown, affordable. Smaller cities might include Tucson, Albuquerque, San Antonio, Portland, Charlotte etc with lower costs and adequate access and good weather.



Cities to Avoid

- Chicago in the winter, Los Angeles, anywhere that is only served by puddle jumpers or long travel times such as Alaska (although that was a great place!) I think because the meeting is short, keeping travel distance to a minimum is helpful.
- Very remote locations that are difficult to get to. It is a waste to spend an entire day getting to a meeting then getting back.
- NYC proper - too expensive and hard to get around In general would avoid meeting at an airport hotel (too confined with limited atmosphere)
- Orlando - blah.
- Cities that require 3 hops are a real drag. Washington - really expensive.
- I'd avoid any city that has no direct public transportation between airport and downtown. Taxi cabs and limos do not count.
- 1. suburban Chicago - despite central location, congested and bland 2. Washington DC area - overused as meeting site
- New York City (too crowded) Los Angeles (hard to get around) San Francisco
- Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, Denver (although Denver is picking up). Difficult big city sites... hard to get in and out of a hotel.
- Chicago Hilton.
- NOTE... looks like Chicago is a least favorite...



Good Past ESIP Activities

- Activities that brought people together, such as outings (hikes, visits to laboratories/museums, special meals, etc.).
- Narrowly scoped and scripted breakouts. Keynote speakers (e.g. Director of NOAA)
- Poster sessions, visits to local "facilities" (NASA Centers, University Centers, etc).
- Social things where people can cross lines without sitting through long presentations that really are not in their area. These provide a way to talk about those same things, but without the yawn factor.
- None. They might be fun, but I travel too much as is and if I am going to travel for fun, I'd rather do it with my family. The tours and whatever in the middle of the meetings are simply distractions.
- Networking with similar projects. Exchanging ideas and approaches to common problems. Learning of available services and data that are important to my project.
- trip to the SDSC center, other labs. The precision farming farm and breakfast was great, to see how people use remote sensing data in real life.
- Breakout meetings and impromptu gatherings.
- Have working sessions in the morning and the evening, but use the afternoons for free time. This allows attendees time to get together for an afternoon walk or shop or visit a museum together, while those facilities are open. And it also makes the evenings a lot better: instead of retreating to your hotel room after eating too much, you get together for an evening session. This schedule has worked well for other groups, and there's no reason it wouldn't work for the Federation's meetings.



Future Activities

- networking party to introduce companies that use or may use our data to the providers, scientists and educators in ESIP. Real hands-on technical workshops in which you actually leave with something useable such as code to put up a web service. Get industry leaders to give these workshops, such as SUN, or someone from Google to work with us on ways to utilize Google Earth. If we can do joint meetings with other organizations or slightly overlap with them, and/or hold a session at their meeting, that could be beneficial to us. We need exposure!
- A social event with music perhaps, a short trip to a location with a reception and a speaker or tour.
- Field trips to points of local interest are always attractive as an add-on option.
- interoperability fair: BYO systems, chain the services together (like the network hardware folks used to do...)
- Museum or zoo visit
- Use [field trips on] one or two of those free afternoons for group visits to nearby attractions that were part of the reason for choosing that particular city in the first place. But not for breakouts--those would be in the mornings or evenings.
- Some sort of hands-on Earth Science lab. Or even not directly Earth Science related, like a Web Services 101 or something.
- Physical version of Federation marketplace/datamart with real transactions and user scenarios to process data, develop, defend and apply models, engage and create confidence on the part of a decision tool provider. Or a formal blacktie dance might be nice...
- More of the same. We need to keep the meetings from becoming too formal or regulated by a strict agenda. Creating activity-based clusters (like the golf cluster) adds a community sense to the event.



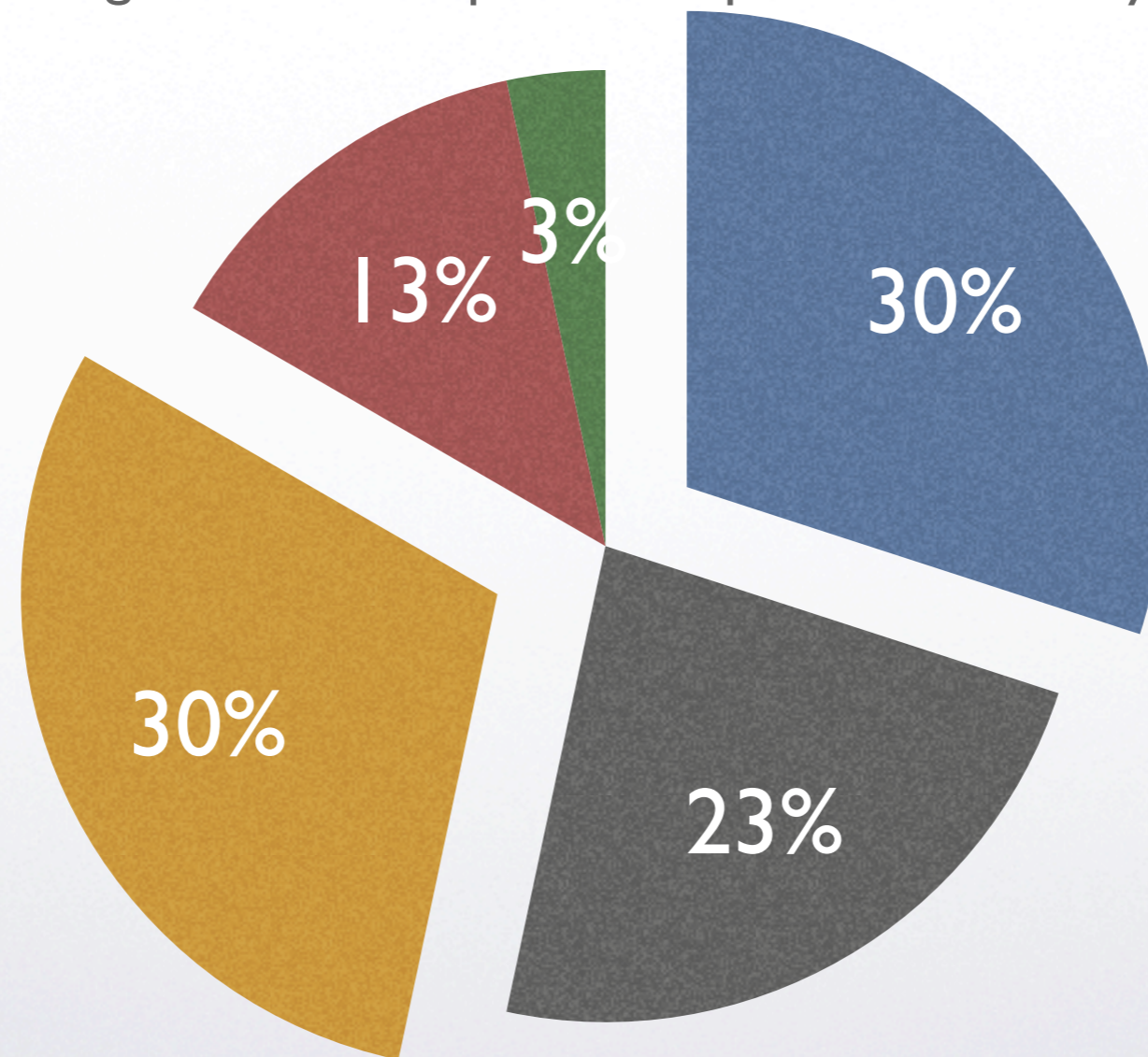
Agenda Musings

- I'm not sure the lectures by NASA / NOAA big whigs is that great.
- I believe the breakout sessions on each of the topics such as natural disasters, air quality, pub health, etc. will grow to become very useful. Also I find that the poster session social portion is also very valuable and should be longer.
- Reception and poster session is valuable time.
- The current mix on the agenda (breakouts, tech workshops coupled with plenary/keynotes) is good. The only issue I have is deciding which overlapping session to miss out on. I normally don't attend the pre-meeting training sessions because of the extra day of travel. Squeezing those in elsewhere might increase attendance (perhaps overlapping with one hour of the poster session?).
- Talks by movers and shakers about where national programs are headed.
- Most valuable: brainstorming / open mike / guided discussion
- Technical sessions are great... the big luncheon is usually interesting and informative... least valuable is the business parts: perhaps more and more of that can be accomplished online in advance of the meetings? I think there is a trend toward this already?
- Plenary sessions are very valuable because that's where you get the Big Picture. Poster Sessions seem to be poorly attended, so maybe they're not so valuable.
- Most valuable: Time to interact with other ESIP members Technical discussions/sessions Workshops - depending on the topic and presenter Least valuable: Evening sessions or workshops;
- The most valuable are times/places where people start sharing their resources and planning new collaborations: poster sessions, technical workshops, the standing committee meetings. The business meetings are valuable, as they keep the governance viable. The least valuable are the plenary showcases by series of ESIPs... if people want to report out, they should do this in a POSTER... or hand out something with a URL.



Meeting Times

● Jan/July ● Feb/Aug ● Mar/Sept ● Apr/Oct ● May/Nov ● June/Dec





Interpreted Survey Findings

- 22 respondents; 10 ESIP IIIs, 9 ESIP IIIs, 3 ESIP Is;
- Most wanted meetings in cities with good transportation (to/from, and also airport to hotel)
Examples: Portland OR, Washington DC, Boulder CO, San Diego CA;
- Split between a meeting in a hotel, and a meeting at a university near the hotel (depends on how convenient the travel is to/from university);
- Most wanted activities that improved NETWORKING and new information flows; and social meetings that create interpersonal connections (from golf to dancing);
- Least favored activities are reporting out sessions by members or committees... suggest posters as an alternative;
- Findings suggest that a Fall/Spring meeting schedule would improve DC as a meeting location;
- A minority preferred a hotel meeting with NO extra activities.
- An idea was raised to open up afternoons for activities and have evening sessions...