

Northern Region Project 615 News - Regional Office

July 1993

Introduction

The purpose of this update is to share with you the status of some of the planning and implementation activities for Project 615 in the Regional Office.

What is Project 615

Project 615 is the name that has been given to the Forest Service activities to migrate to an entirely new distributed processing computer system in the next 3 to 5 years.

Over the next 3 to 5 years the technology from the Project 615 procurement will replace our Data General mini computers as the Forest Service distributed processing system. Project 615 will utilize a graphical user interface and provide office automation, database capabilities, and the general computer environment that we have available today. In addition, it will provide geographic information system (GIS) technology for the Forest Service.

Status of Project 615

The proposals from vendors in response to the Project 615 Request for Proposals (RFP) have been received and are going through a validation phase. When the validation is complete, evaluation and benchmarking will be done. This will be followed by the contract award. The target date for awarding the contract is in the December, 1993/January, 1994 time frame.

Preparation Activities

The preparation for this new technology is underway in the Region. One part of this preparation involves the Regional Office local area network (LAN). Project 615 will use a LAN for terminals/workstations to communicate with the servers (computers).

To meet the needs of Project 615, the Regional Office LAN will receive a major upgrade. The planning for this upgrade has been in progress over the last year. The initial phase of installation should begin in the next few weeks. This phase will involve the installation of over 2 miles of fiber optic cable to handle the communications between 28 hubs in the Regional Office and the LAN backbone in the computer room.

Other phases of this LAN upgrade will involve: terminating the individual fibers, installing the backbone, routers and associated electronic equipment and wiring from the hub locations to individual work locations. When complete, this LAN will have the capability of moving information at 100 million bits per second.

Other Activities

Other activities underway related to Project 615 implementation include the development of a Region-wide implementation plan, preparing for the pilot year (first year of implementation) and working on the technical policy and procedures required to implement this technology across the Forest Service.

Questions

If you have questions or would like more information on Project 615 don't hesitate to contact us.

Management Systems Staff