

Great GIS Training Opportunity!

Aloha, my name is Brian Tucker, I've been living and working in conservation on Big Island for about 7 years now, focusing on GIS and data management. I recently had the opportunity to receive some GIS training on the mainland. I found the teaching style both practical and effective, and certainly let my appreciation be known to the instructor.

We got to talking story and I spoke about the Big Island's lack of technical support when it comes to this. Turns out he is a big fan of our aloha and is looking for a good excuse to come over. I am helping to facilitate that because I think we could all benefit from a greater understanding of GIS, and especially working around all of the ArcGIS software intricacies (a.k.a. frustrations). I'm a busy man, and am doing this on my personal time, so if you know me already, you are probably like, "Wow, this must be great!"

So, I am here to garner interest is enabling him to come out here and teach. Here are some details to consider in planning for this.

- The instructor is John Schaeffer, who has been teaching GIS for 18 years, and classes qualify for GISP certification.
- He has a business, Juniper GIS, out of Bend, Oregon, and teaches GIS classes with a natural resource/conservation emphasis. They are willing to come over here and do a series of GIS classes, ranging from basic to advanced. More information can be found at <http://www.junipergis.com/training/class-descriptions/>. Also, check out their Destination Training section.
- My goal is to set up a "GIS Camp" style training, which is proven more effective and enjoyable than a computer lab training.
- Classes would cost about \$1750 per week, which is \$700 less than a week of ESRI classes. The goal is 2 weeks of training classes. You can sign up for both for around \$3000.
- John is willing to work with us to potentially cut costs, like if we can provide our own computers (he has available ArcGIS evaluation software if needed). This would save him over \$1000 to not ship his mobile computer lab. There are other considerations as well.

If this is of serious interest to you or your organization, please contact me. My email is brian.tucker@rams.colostate.edu. In order to benefit from his services, we will need to have at least 8-10 seriously interested folks in each week of class to make it worth his time and effort, with a maximum class size of 12. Please email me your level of interest so that I can tally up the numbers and hele them on to John. If there is enough serious interest, further planning for facilities and dates will begin, and if we mobilize and support this great opportunity, we could potentially be looking at December for the trainings. It's up to us really.

Mahalo!