Using Side Scanning Sonar to Map Bottom Substrate Features in North Dakota Rivers

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Introduction

- The primary goal of this research is to map the substrate composition of a stretch of the Sheyenne River using side imaging sonar
- Using hands on inspections of 40 sites to confirm composition of the substrate
- Using ArcGIS to process the data
- Why?



- Consumer grade side scanning sonar has made it more affordable to access this technology
- Safer and faster than traditional substrate composition analysis
 - Due to debris, depth, and turbidity
 - Can cover ~6 miles per hour, in comparison to ~1 mile per day







Equipment

- Humminbird 1199ci HD SI
 - Receiving power supply from 12v deep cell marine battery
- Garmin GPSMap 78
 - Connected to Humminbird via NMEA connection
 - Margin of accuracy ~3-5 meters
- Porta- bote
- Outboard motor



Equipment









Equipment





Methods

- Maintaining river center to gather the best depth data and to get the best coverage of both banks
- Using the snapshot feature on the sonar, logging images every three seconds
- Gathering quality images that overlapped



Methods

- Uploading to excel for formatting and data entry
- Pebble counts at 37 of the waypoints to compare substrates to the side scanning images that were gathered
- Inputting pebble count











Summary





Summary

- Geospatial analysis in ArcGis is ongoing
 - Working to create effective shapefiles that represent differences in the substrate
- With this data we can now observe how the substrate changes over time



Thank You

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Sources

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