



Rensselaer

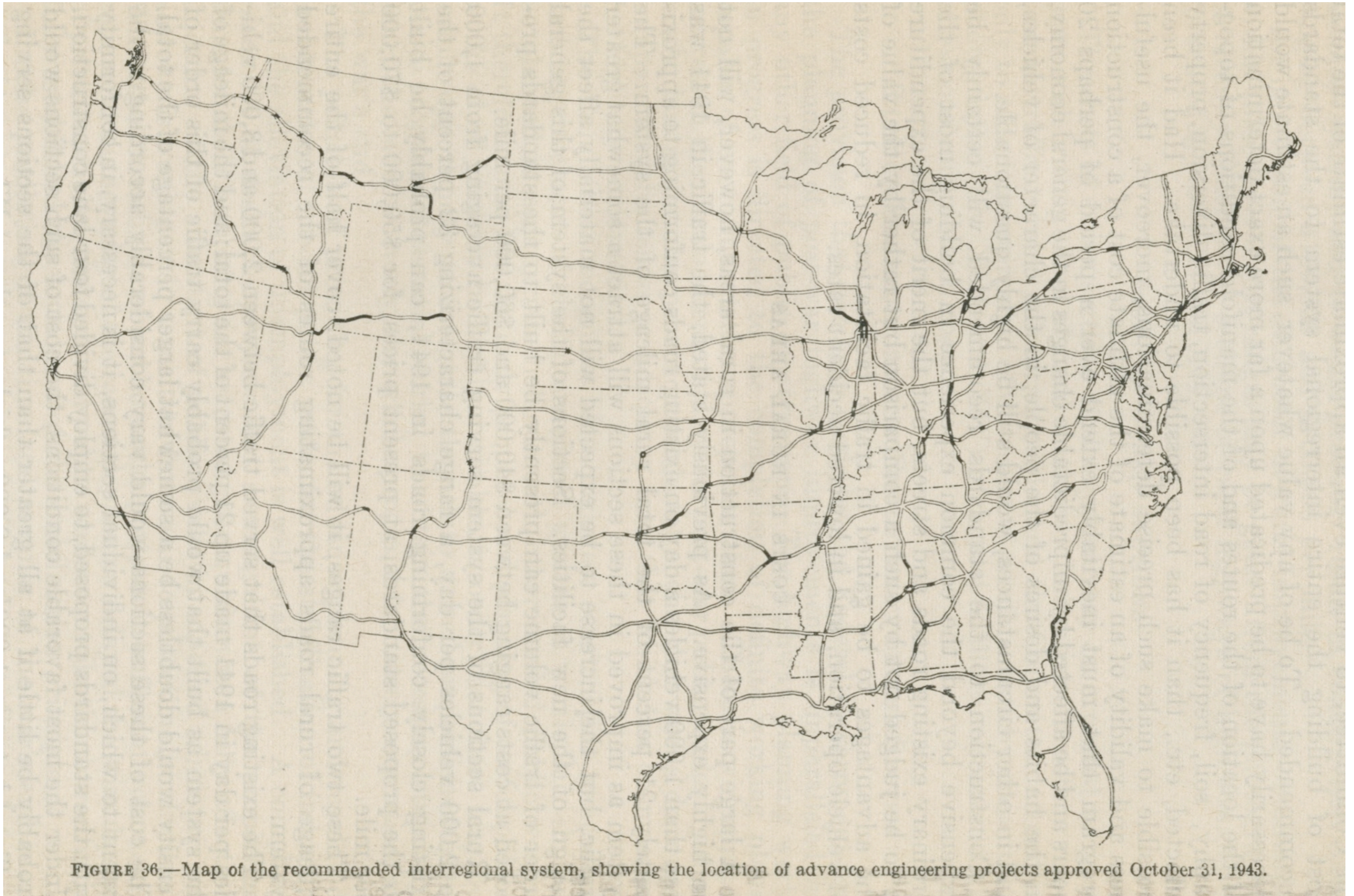
# Infrastructure, Curation, and Metadata

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NSF Workshop on Cyberinfrastructure for Polar Sciences  
10 September 2013





From *Interregional Highways: Message from the President of the United States Transmitting a Report of the National Interregional Highway Committee, Outlining and Recommending a National System of Interregional Highways*, 12 Jan. 1944.  
CC-BY Eric Fischer <http://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/8270270785/>



<http://www.shockblast.net/aerial-photographs/urban-sprawl-by-christoph-gielen-arizona/>

**Infrastructure** is

Relationships, interactions, and connections  
between humans, technologies, and institutions



Interchange

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Ranch Exit

CC-BY-SA Ken Lund <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kenlund/2381991900/>

# **Understanding Infrastructure: Dynamics, Tensions, and Design**

2007

Paul Edwards, Steven Jackson, Geoffrey Bowker,  
and Cory Knobel

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/49353>







Budget

ONE WAY

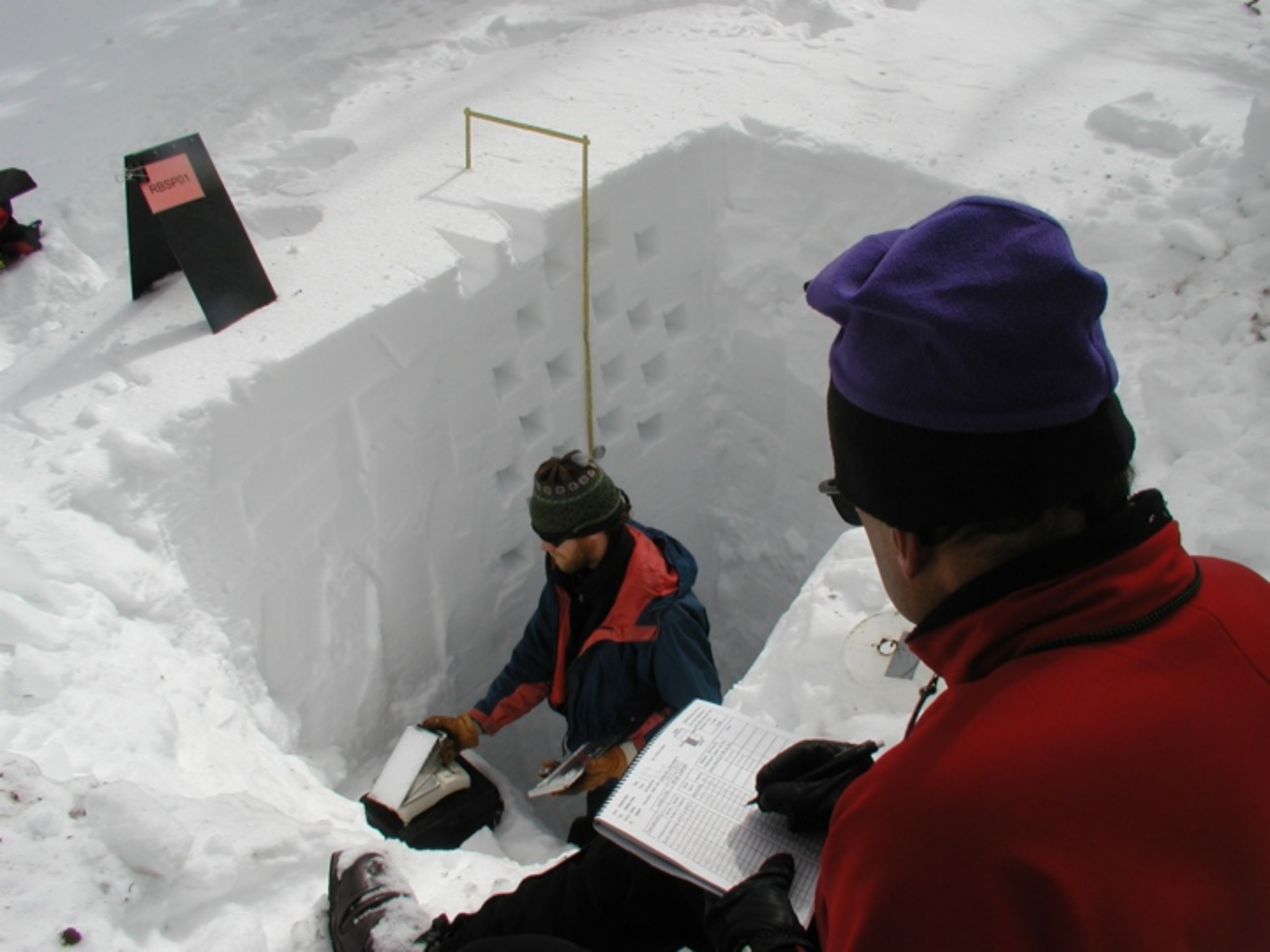
Car and Truck Rental

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JACK'S TIRE SERVICE GOODYEAR













The Nordic Lodge

Pool Area

CA









**Budget**

ONE WAY

Car and Rental

homeStore.com  
Buy. Sell. Build. Rent. Improve.



data  
wrangler

Budget

ONE WAY

Car and Truck Rental

homeStore.com

Buy Sell Build Rent Improve



# Example of Snow Pit Data

We start with this:

**MSA:** Rabbit Ears      **Date:** 2-25-03      **ISA UTM Boundaries:** 4,488,891  
**ISA:** Buffalo Pass      **Time:** 10:54  
**Sector:** Bravo      **Surveyed By:** HYMSTRA/MULLER/ELDER 357,076 4,487,891 358,076  
**Pit:** RBSP5      **Description:** Black pole, orange top - N end of large clearing

*mult*

Location (UTM):		UTM - E	UTM - N
		357,414	4,488,859

*20M ACCURACY ON GPS*

**Total Depth (cm):** 270 7451 8873

Ht above ground top (cm) - bottom (cm)	Density		Height above ground (cm)	Temperature °C
	Profile A kg m-3	Profile B kg m-3		
270 - 260	71	64	270	-3
260 - 250	76	75	260	-8
250 - 240	86	88	250	-10
240 - 230	93	109	240	-10
230 - 220	110	112	230	-10
220 - 210	117	118	220	-10
210 - 200	142	138	210	-10
200 - 190	154	154	200	-9
190 - 180	178	183	190	-8
180 - 170	214	224	180	-8
170 - 160	263	249	170	-7
160 - 150	273	275	160	-7
150 - 140	297	291	150	-6
140 - 130	291	296	140	-6
130 - 120	320	320	130	-5
120 - 110	327	310	120	-4
110 - 100	338	320	110	-4
100 - 90	364	356	100	-4
90 - 80	369	376	90	-3
80 - 70	380	363	80	-3
70 - 60	340	347	70	-3
60 - 50	333	344	60	-2

Stratigraphy Ht above ground top (cm) - bottom (cm)	Axis type	Grain Size (mm) nearest 0.1 mm			Grain Type	Comments
		Sm	Med	Lg		
270-223	short	.1	.2	.2	N	NEW SNOW
	long	.1	.3	.5		
223-170	short	.1	.2	.2	R	THIS WEEK'S SNOW
	long	.1	.3	A		
170-142	short	.1	.2	.2	R	PREVIOUS SNOWS MELT (TRUST @ 142)
	long	.2	.2	.4		
142-80	short	.2	.3	.5	R	TENDING TOWARD FACETS
	long	.2	.5	.8		
80-35	short	.4	.7	.6	M	95% ROUNDED 5% FACETS
	long	.6	.6	1.0		
35-0	short	.4	.6	1.2	M	15% ROUNDS 15% FACETS
	long	.4	1.0	2.0		

**DIRECTIONS:**

Surface Wetness	D	<b>Wetness:</b> Dry (D), Moist (M), Wet (W), Very Wet (VW)
Surface Roughness	Y	<b>Roughness:</b> Photo Taken? Yes (Y) or No (N)
Soil Sample A	18	<b>Soil Samples:</b> Depth of Core (cm)
Soil Sample B	18	2 samples, label as RBSP5A and RBSP5B
Canopy	N	<b>Canopy:</b> Point underneath canopy? No (N), Yes/Coniferous (YC), Yes/Coniferous with snow (YCS), or Yes/Deciduous (YD)

**Comments:** PIT BETWEEN 2 ROWS OF TALL TREES.

# Example of Snow Pit Data

And create this:

## Summary Table

PIT	IOP	SECTOR	DATE	TIME	UTME	UTMN	SWET	SRUF		CNHT	DEPTH	SWE	DNS_LYRS	DNS_AVG
										cm	cm	mm		kg/m <sup>3</sup>
rbsp01	iop1	alpha	20020224	1115	357156	4487926	d	y		-999	214	637	22	298
rbsp02	iop1	alpha	20020224	930	357211	4488306	d	y		-999	200	587	20	293
rbsp03	iop1	bravo	20020224	928	357197	4488466	d	y	...	-999	180	514	18	286
rbsp04	iop1	bravo	20020224	1330	357188	4488887	d	y		-999	225	667	23	298
rbsp05	iop1	bravo	20020224	1528	357414	4488859	d	y		-999	212	679	22	320

## Stratigraphy Table

PIT_NAME	IOP#	TOP	BOT	SM-SHT	MD-SHT	LG-SHT	SM-LNG	MD-LNG	LG-LNG	GRN-TYPE	COMMENT
		cm	cm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm		
rbsp01	iop1	214	205	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	n	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	205	163	0.4	1	1	0.5	1	1.5	m	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	163	119	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.3	m	QC(000) Ice lens @119 cm.
rbsp01	iop1	119	19	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	1.2	m	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	19	0	0.4	0.5	2	0.5	0.8	2	f	QC(000)

## Density Table

PIT_NAME	IOP#	TYPE	TOP	BOT	DENSITY-A	DENSITY-B	DENSITY-AVG	QC
			cm	cm	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	
rbsp01	iop1	C	214	204	104	101	102.5	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	C	204	194	147	140	143.5	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	C	194	184	142	143	142.5	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	C	184	174	161	158	159.5	QC(000)

## Temperature Table

PIT_NAME	IOP#	HEIGHT	TEMPERATURE	QC
		cm	deg-C	
rbsp01	iop1	214	-2	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	204	-6	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	194	-6	QC(000)
rbsp01	iop1	184	-7	QC(000)

**Curation** is

continual and conscious improvement of data.

# Curation matters

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- Embedding “data wranglers” in the field significantly improved data quality and completeness. (~20% of the data sheets had issues corrected in the field that would not have been correctable later).
- Reveals and documents tacit knowledge. Can even uncover science questions.
- Integrated much more than the field data with common grids and formats
  - “Standard” formats often do not exist and need to be created by the community. Sometimes you need multiple formats.
- A mediated relationship between user and collector.
- Need to include curators in data collection even if they are not in the field.
- Get to know your local curator.

**Metadata** are

Everything necessary to make data independently understandable by a designated community.



Infrastructure is comprised of relationships.

Curators create and enhance relationships.

Metadata is often the information shared (often tacitly) in those relationships.

# A standard sensor format?

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- Temporally varying sensors (e.g. a borehole)
- Spatially varying sensors (e.g. a transect)
- Temporally and spatially varying sensors (e.g. a drifting buoy)



Thank You  
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