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Advancing  
Environmental  
Solutions



# Environmental Data Management Best Practices (EDM-1, 2022)

## Data Exchange

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# EDM Training Catalog



Overview Video

ROUND  
TABLE  
#1

*(Archived)*

Data Management Planning  
and Field Data Collection

ROUND  
TABLE  
#2

April 6, 2023  
Data Exchange

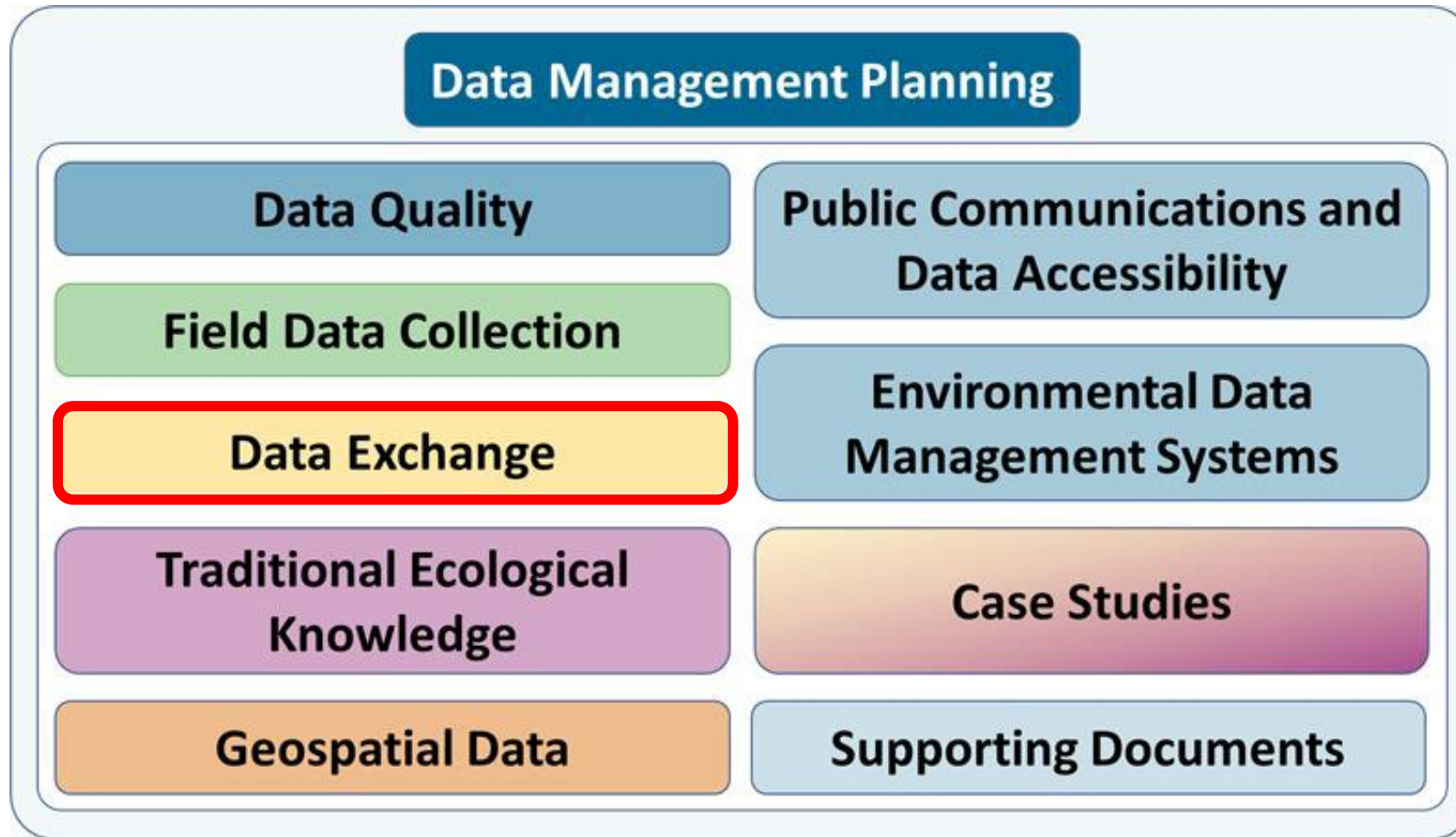
ROUND  
TABLE  
#3

May 2, 2023  
Data Quality

Discussion

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

# Environmental Data Management Best Practices



# Questions

Please use the Q&A Pod to ask questions for the Expert Panelists.



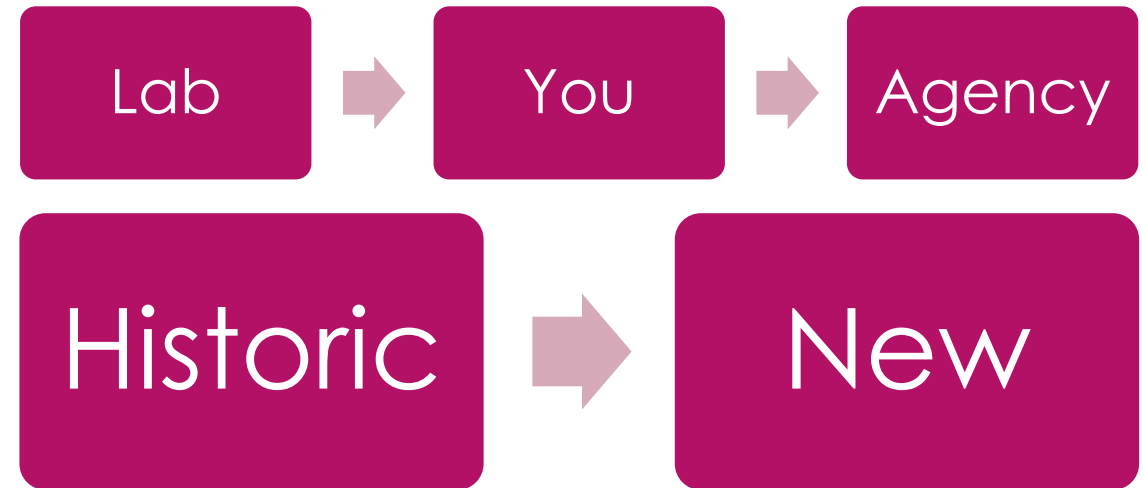
# Question Index

- ▶ What is Data Exchange?
- ▶ Receiving Laboratory Data
- ▶ Receiving Unstructured Data
- ▶ Negotiating Unclear Data Request
- ▶ Should I Migrate This Data?
- ▶ Starting Migration
- ▶ When to Automate
- ▶ Migration Cost Containment
- ▶ MPCA Case Study Historical Data Migration Case Study
- ▶ Establishing Valid Values
- ▶ Valid Value Refinement
- ▶ Risks of Data Exchange



# What is Data Exchange?

- ▶ The process of transferring structured data between parties.



# What is Data Exchange?

<b>Data Exchange</b>	<b>Data Migration</b>
Existing data export/import process	NO existing data export/import process
EDD established	NO EDD established
Planned in advance	Conducted as needed
Occur with regular frequency	One-time event
Active data source and target	Data source usually isn't active

Table 3-1 from Data Exchange Overview Fact Sheet

# Receiving laboratory data

- ▶ Establish EDD format and valid values to be used
- ▶ Understand any structural differences between source and target systems
- ▶ Document system specifications and transformations or translations required.

# Receiving unstructured data

- ▶ Understand and document
  - ▶ Structural differences
  - ▶ Transformations and translations
- ▶ Cost and time constraints may require prioritizing data extraction

# Negotiating unclear data request

- ▶ Cooperate to clearly define requirements
  - ▶ Content
  - ▶ Format
- ▶ Decide who should reformat data

# Should I migrate this data?

## Cost

Acquisition  
Integration  
Amount  
Complexity  
Tools / Tech



## Benefits

Usability  
Quality  
Need

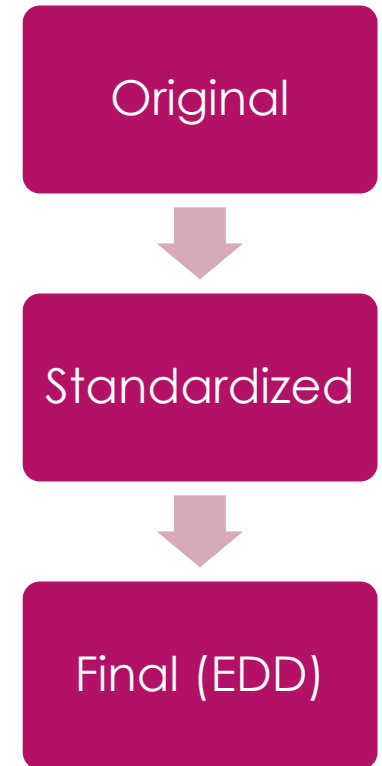
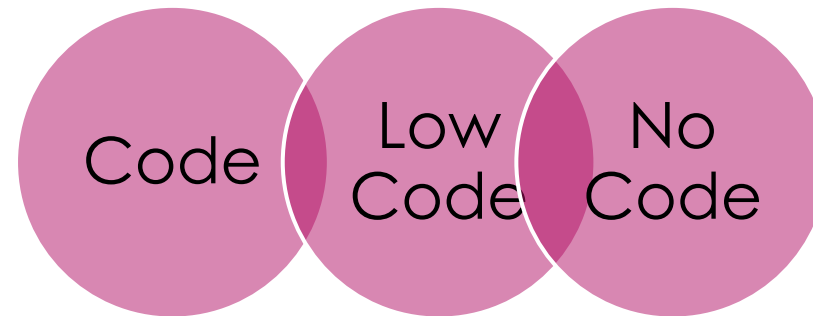
- ▶ Involve data users and project managers in discussions
- ▶ Data migration does not automatically improve the quality of data

# Starting Migration

- ▶ Audit or inventory the data
  - ▶ See ICEDM white paper: <http://www.icedm.net/s/ICEDM-Historical-Data-Migration-Audit-Final.pdf>
- ▶ Develop a strategy and assign priorities (e.g., based on data uses)
  - ▶ Beware: incomplete data can be incorrect data
  - ▶ See Data Quality: [Best Practices for Environmental Data Quality – EDM \(itrcweb.org\)](http://itrcweb.org)

# When to Automate

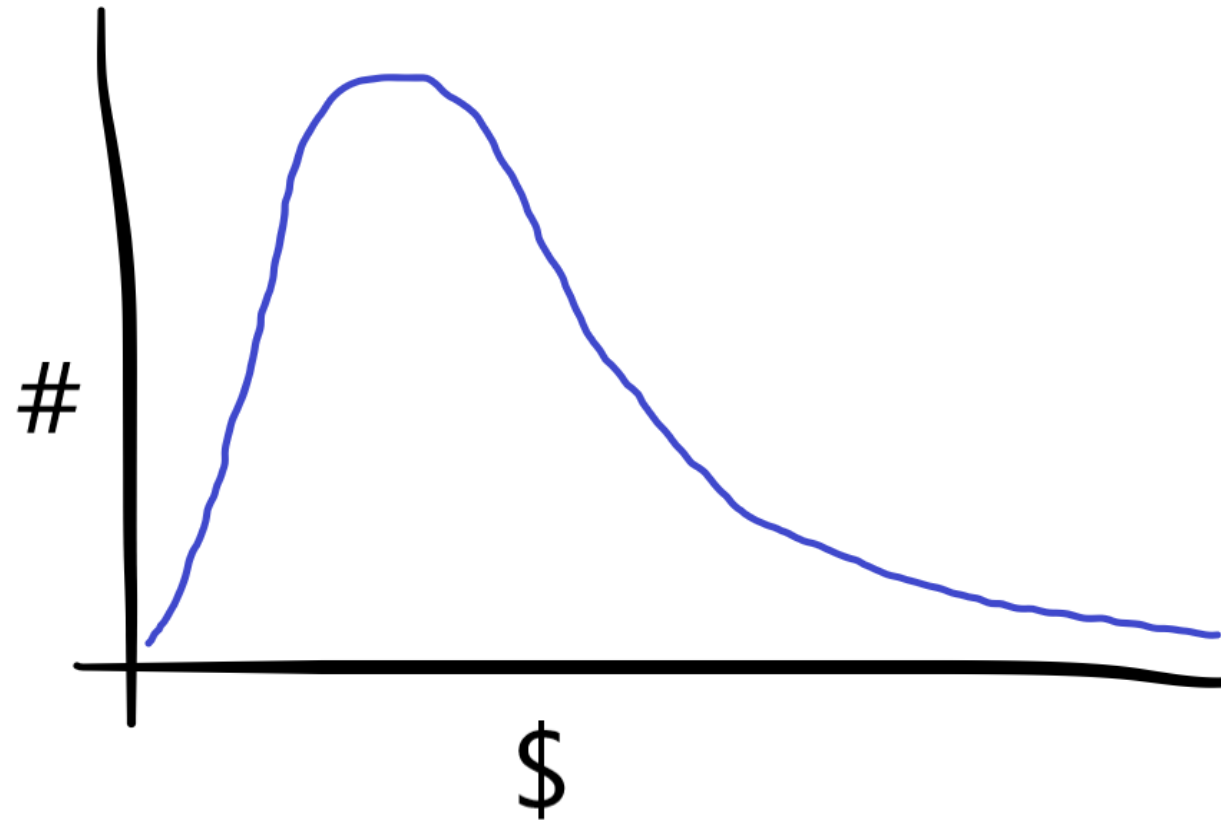
- ▶ QA/QC
  - ▶ EDD before upload
  - ▶ Summary tables/figures of migrated data
- ▶ Document decisions, assumptions, and QC
- ▶ Automation
  - ▶ Reduced cost, increased efficiency
  - ▶ Documentation
  - ▶ Increased reproducibility
- ▶ Software/tools vary by organization





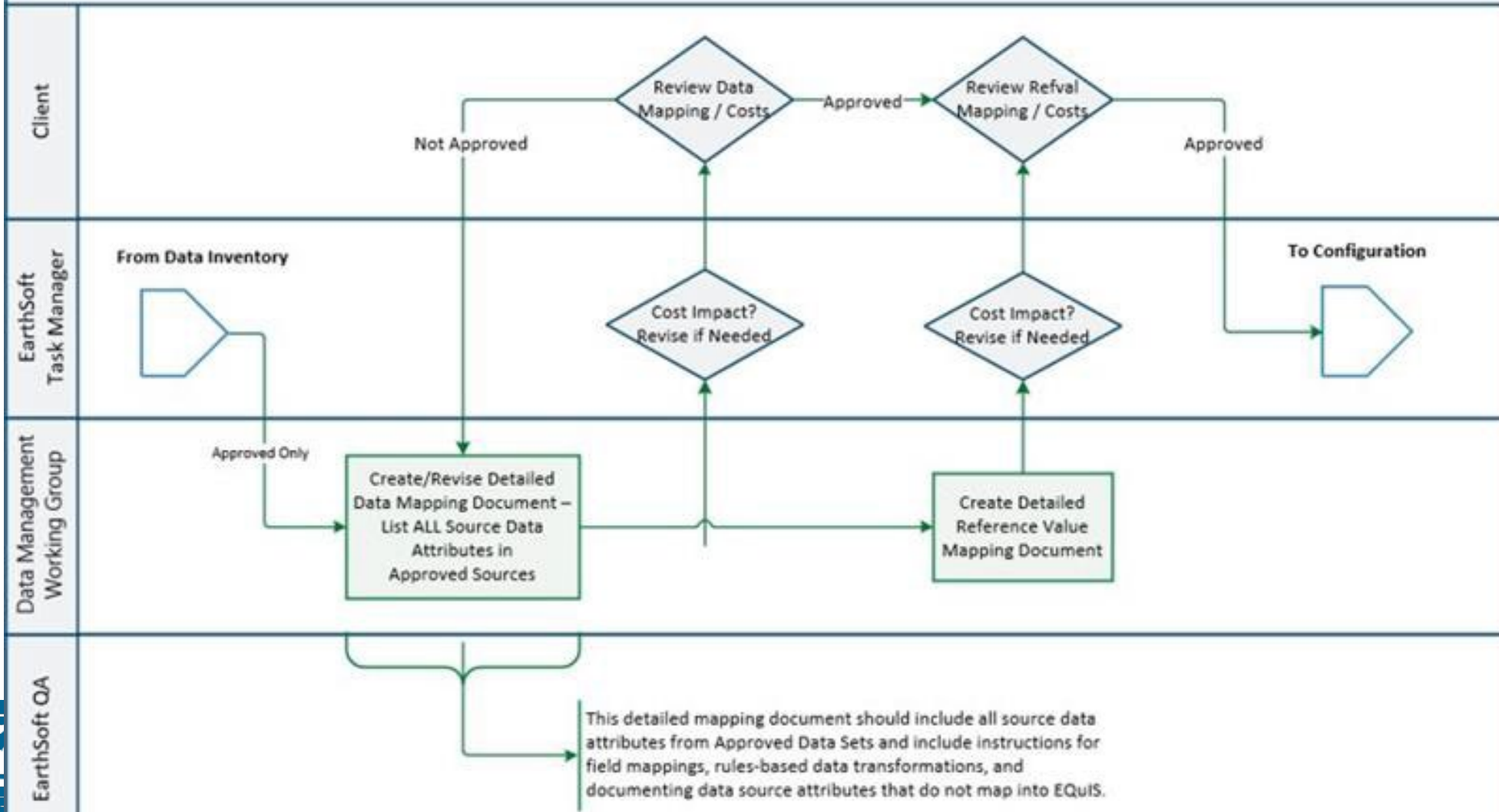
# Migration Cost Containment

- ▶ Migration costs
  - ▶ Highly variable w/ long right tail
  - ▶ Hard to predict in advance
  - ▶ Automate as much as possible
  - ▶ Don't muddle costs of correcting historic errors with costs of migration
- ▶ Apply traditional project management principles
  - ▶ Prioritize order
  - ▶ Track progress

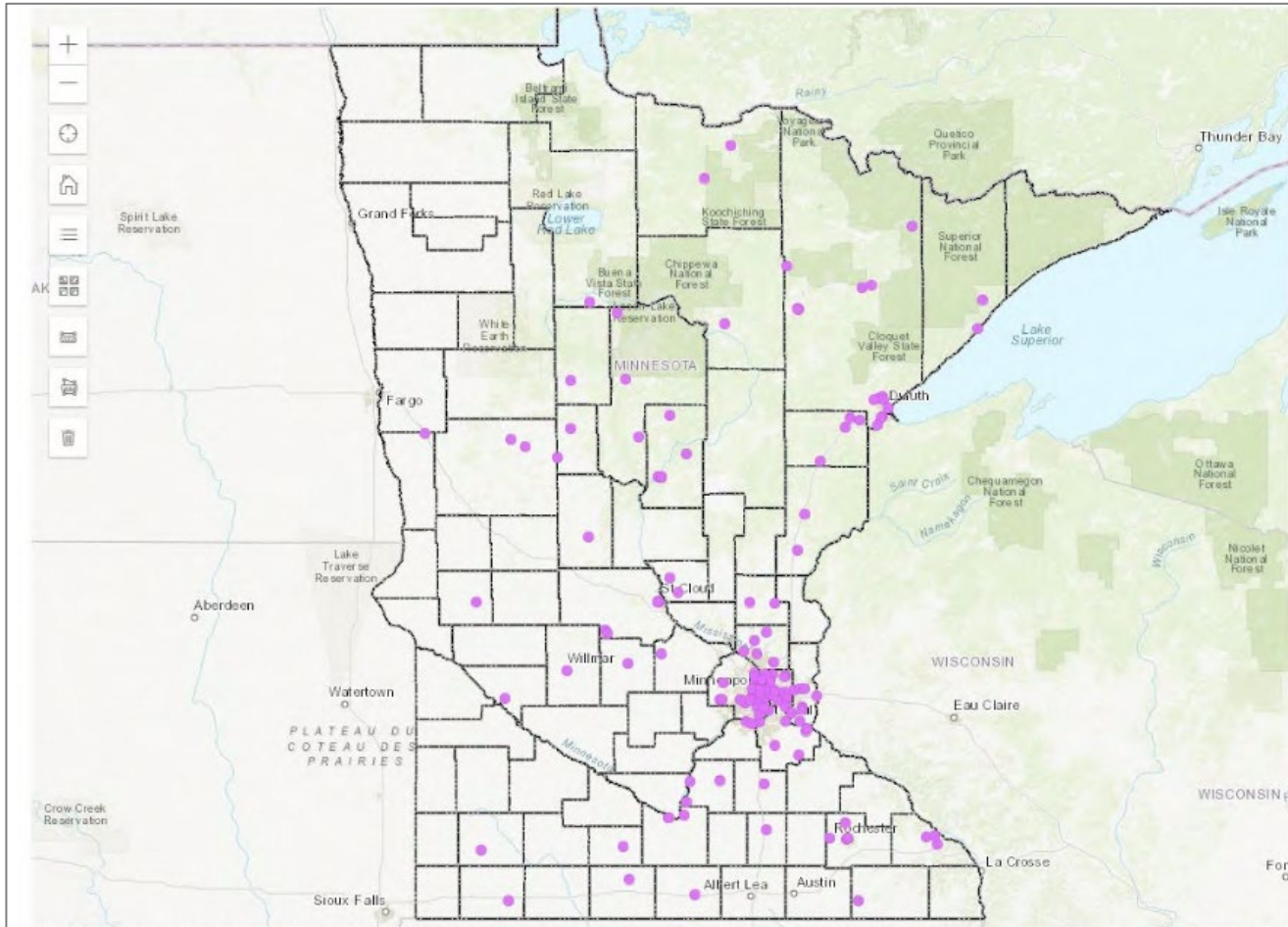


# Migration Cost Containment

## Task: Data Mapping – Per Data Set



# MPCA Historical Data Migration Case Study: Filling Minnesota's Superfund Groundwater Data Accessibility Gap ([itrcweb.org](http://itrcweb.org))



## Links

- Case Study
- Atlas:  
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/data/minnesota-groundwater-contamination-atlas>

# Establishing valid values

- ▶ Ambiguous or duplicate values can result in problems
- ▶ Compilations are available from a variety of sources. See Data Exchange and Valid Values under Supplemental Resources – EDM ([itrcweb.org](http://itrcweb.org))

The Valid Values fact sheet discussed these points and provides suggestions

## *Example of Redundant Versions Without Control of Value*

Location types:

- monitoring well
- well-monitorign  
(*Note: misspelling*)
- well-monitoring
- observation well
- wells-monitoring

# Valid value refinement

- ▶ Cascading effects
- ▶ Document and communicate any changes

Case Study: USGS Challenges with secondary use of multi-source water quality monitoring data – EDM ([itrcweb.org](http://itrcweb.org))

# Risks of Data Exchange

## Risks

- ▶ Liability for incorrect data transformation
- ▶ Lack of data accessibility and lack of data security

## Mitigation

- ▶ QA'd automated processes
- ▶ Review by data users and data generators
- ▶ Document data changes from migration