A key REACCH partner for data management and the public web interface
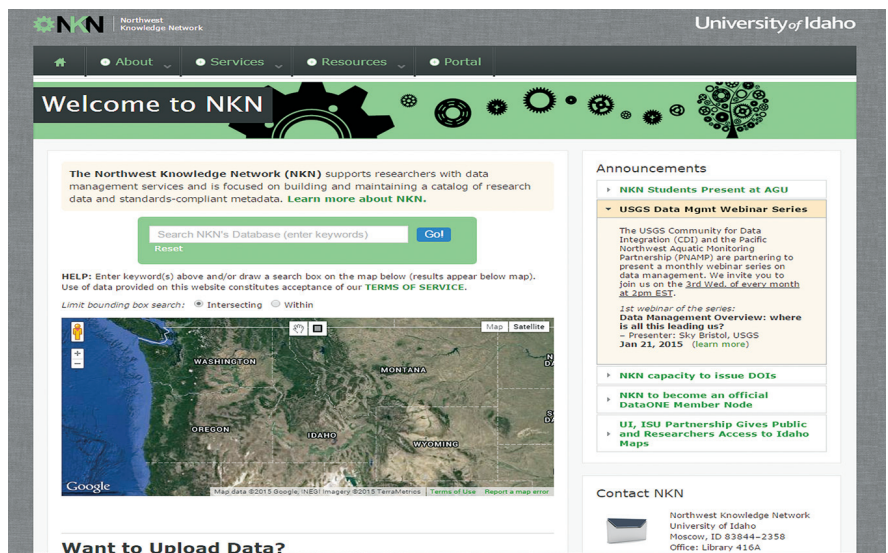
Northwest Knowledge Network team (paulg@uidaho.edu)
For more information, visit www.northwestknowledge.net

The Northwest Knowledge Network (NKN) is a unit in the University of Idaho's Office of Research and Economic Development that provides support for data management and cyberinfrastructure requirements for research projects (Figure 1). The REACCH project depends heavily on NKN support for all of its data storage, software applications, data security, and website and content. Although the REACCH research teams and project scientists typically use the website only for presenting active content to the world, NKN operates behind the scenes to support these efforts and to help things run smoothly. Along with hardware and software components, NKN also provides personnel support via access to programmers and web developers that help the REACCH environmental data manager and project scientists manage and distribute information via the REACCH website (www.reacchpna.org).

IMPACT

The data, products, and science of the REACCH program depend heavily on a partnership between REACCH and the University of Idaho's Northwest Knowledge Network (NKN). NKN ensures the smooth and secure functioning of the REACCH website and data portal and will play a key role in preserving all the outcomes of the REACCH effort.

Other support elements that NKN provides to REACCH include login and password management for REACCH team members and implementation of basic security protocols for the REACCH data-sharing policy that all REACCH researchers must sign. NKN maintains all the REACCH resources in a data center that is located in the University of Idaho library, where the NKN team resides. NKN also provides regularly scheduled automated backup of all REACCH servers, data, and web content to a mirrored site at the Idaho National Laboratory data center in Idaho Falls, ID. This ensures that if any sort of natural disaster, power outage, or computer hacker breach were to affect the REACCH servers, we would be able to restore them and continue functioning with little or no impact to the REACCH website and associated applications.

Finally, NKN is working hand in hand with the REACCH environmental data manager and the REACCH data management team to plan for the eventual transition of the REACCH website and all associated REACCH data at the end of the five-year project. This will ensure that the research publications, presentations, bulletins, communications, and supporting data will continue to be accessible beyond the end of the project. Likewise, the field data, derived products, and applications that have been developed to access and use REACCH data will continue to be available to both scientists and the public. These data, products, and publications will become a critical legacy of the REACCH effort that can continue to be accessed and developed in association with current and future projects within the region. This strategy, which depends heavily on the NKN-REACCH partnership, will help ensure that the outcomes of the REACCH initiative are not the end but the beginning of efforts to bring the best data and science to bear on the potential impacts of climate change and mitigation strategies to help Pacific Northwest agriculture.

The Northwest Knowledge Network (NKN) supports REACCH and other researchers with data management services and is focused on building and maintaining a catalog of research data and standards-compliant metadata.