BENEFICIAL DESIGNS, INC.

UPDATES TRAIL ASSESSMENT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

Minden, Nevada – October 10, 2015 – Beneficial Designs, Inc. has now released improved High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process - HETAP 3 software and Wheeled Instrumentation Sensor Package - WISP 3.0. Both the rolla-wheel and three-wheeled cart systems have been re-designed to be more durable and user friendly. The three-wheeled cart has stronger 1” tubing construction, solid “no flat” tires, and a complete upholstery upgrade that provides greater storage for gear, water bottle pockets, and a clipboard pouch.

The hardware and software have many improvements including the following:

• New Excel automation makes it easier to create Trail Access Information (TAI) reports;
• Metric data is now fully supported, along with queries for specific design criteria;
• Sound alert notification that the sensor box is offline is removed unless the data collection screen is active;
• Improved camera connection and functionality allows any connected camera to be chosen and provides access to that camera’s settings from the HETAP software;
• Fully digital low power sensor box technology with an avionics grade three axis accelerometer and improved accuracy to 0.12 degrees;
• Faster settling time and increased measurement range for grade and cross slope, to plus/minus 180 degrees;
• New wheel encoder technology with solid state Quadrature logic wheel encoder accurate to plus/minus 2 inches.

The Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (ABAG) are now the law for Federal lands as of November 26, 2013. Defined in the new law are trailhead signage requirements to display data that needs to be collected for each outdoor developed area. HETAP is the only automated assessment process that processes the required data to meet the new guidelines for trailhead signs.

HETAP use continues to expand and succeed. State and national agencies are using the system to improve safety and limit litigation liability. There was a death in a state park on a trail system that is narrow and steep, receiving an abundance of rain. Using HETAP-collected data, Trail Access Information (TAI) signage was created and posted at the trailhead and at strategic locations to inform state park visitors of the risks and hazards and to improve wayfinding in the trail system. A national park incorporated HETAP to assist in the mediation of access litigation brought upon their park. HETAP was implemented to help identify areas where access improvements can be made and inventory the entire trail system to improve maintenance and management within the national recreation area.

Fast and efficient equipment is available to assist organizations in the assessment and inventory of trails, access routes, and shared-use pathways. To purchase HETAP or WISP please visit http://www.beneficialdesigns.com/services/trails-shared-use-path-assessments/hetap-wisp or contact Beneficial Designs, Inc. at (775) 783-8822.