Chapter 7

Point Data: Site List Files

This section describes how point data is currently accommodated in the GRASS database.

7.1. What is a Site List?

Point data is currently stored in ascii files called *site lists* or *site files.* These files are used by the *s.menu*[1] program, which was developed as an application within GRASS to aid in archeological site predictive modeling. The *site list* files were designed for use by this program, but have since become the principal data structure for point data.[2]

7.2. Site File Format

Site files are ascii files stored under the **site_lists** database element.[3] The format of a site file is best explained by example:

name|sample
desc|sample site list
728220|5182440|site 27
727060|5181710|site 28
725500|5184000|site 29
719800|5187200|site 30

name

This line contains the name of the site list file, and is printed on all the reports generated by the *s.menu* program. The word **name** must be all lower case letters.

It is permissible for this line to be missing, since the *s.menu* program will add a name record using the name of the site list file itself.

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[1] The *GRASS User's Reference Manual* contains a complete description of the *s.menu* capability.

[2] Other GRASS programs which read site lists include *s.out.ascii, d.sites* and *p.map*.

[3] See *§4.5.2 Elements* [*p. 18*] for an explanation of database elements.

desc

This line contains a description of the site list file, and is printed on all the reports generated by the *s.menu* program. The word **desc** must be all lower case letters.

It is also permissible for this line to be missing, in which case the site list will have no description.

points

The remaining lines are *point* records. Each site is described by a *point* record. The format for this record is:[4]

```
east|north|description
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The *east* and *north* fields represent the geographic coordinates (easting and northing) of the site. The *description* field provides a one line text description (label) of the site, and is optional.

comments

Blank lines, and lines beginning with #, are accepted (and ignored).

7.3. Programming Interface to Site Files

The programming interface to the site list files is described in *§12.12 Site List Processing* [*p. 126*] and the programmer should refer to that section for details.

[4] The pipe character ("|") is sometimes used to separate the fields in the records, but sometimes blank spaces are used.