Hello and welcome to the online resource Introduction to Recreational Grade GPS Receiver. My name is Aaron, and working with me is Carl _____, and we're the GPS guys. I work for the State of Arizona Forestry Division as a GIS analyst and have been an on-the-ground firefighter for the past eight years. I've been using GPS technology for the past 10 years in education, fire, and research applications.

Hi. My name is Carl _____ and I work for the Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff, Arizona as a GIS, GPS, and database specialist. I've been pushing buttons on GPS receivers since about 1995, and Aaron and I have both been teaching GPS classes nationally for quite some time.

We hope to share some of the insights we've learned about GPS in general and the Garmin 76CSX in specific.

We'll be using this king-sized GPS receiver right here behind us to help demonstrate for you how to do many of the basic tasks associated with using your GPS.

Over the years, Garmin GPS receivers have been released with a variety of functionality in many structures that makes the preparation of a one size fits all resource difficult.

We'll be demonstrating use of a Garmin GPS map 66 with the 76CSX receiver, but our choice of this make and model should not necessarily constitute an endorsement.

While we'll be using and talking about the Garmin GPS map 76CSX, the information should be quite compatible with the most recent model Garmin receivers. The Etrex HC series, the GPS map 60C series, or the GPS map 76C series all share the same menu structure similar to the one we'll be using to demonstrate our lessons.

If you have a different receiver, never fear. The concepts and the journal work flows presented here relate to most recreational GPS receivers, so if your menu looks and works differently, it's just a matter of learning your menu structure and then figuring out how to find and to do the same operations we're demonstrating here.

As mentioned, we'll be covering some of the basic and not-so-basic background information regarding GPS systems; how they work, their accuracy, what WAAS is, coordinate systems, and datums. We'll do this in a lecture format where you'll hear us talking while you'll see some slides demonstrating some of the key points. This will take us about an hour, but if you stay with us we think you'll gain some important knowledge that will make you a much better GPS user. We'll try

and break this section up in some manageable sections so that you can easily work your way through them as you see fit.

Once this background material is covered, we'll be back onto the screen with our king-sized GPS receiver and we'll explore the tasks that we can perform with that GPS. For instance, we'll review keypad layout, receiver pages, and menu structure; we'll discuss how to create, average, edit, project, and update waypoints; we'll show you how to configure and capture and save track logs; and finally how to navigate to waypoints.

The second portion of our presentation, the button pushing segment, will take a little more than an hour to cover, but again, we'll cover this material in logical segments, which will allow you to select the topics and the information you're most interested in.

These materials and presentations are the result of a combined effort by a group of dedicated individuals from many different federal and state agencies who have been teaching and sharing their passion for GPS for over a decade. New GPS users will find this material to be a good, solid introduction to the use of Garmin GPS and also a good refresher for experienced users. We hope that you will return to these resources in the future to revisit some of the sections as your proficiency progresses.

At the end of this resource, we've provided you with some possible exercises that you can use to practice with your GPS receiver. While some can be done by yourself, some others can best be accomplished by finding another GPS user. After all, the best way to learn and use your GPS is to get out there and practice. We can't emphasize enough the importance of getting outside with your GPS unit and practicing some of these exercises.

Finally, we'll provide some information and links where you can gain further knowledge. So let's get started and learn how these GPS receivers work.