



Perry R Nolan/R5/USDAFS

07/07/2006 03:45 PM

To: Reynaud Farve/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc: Robert Nykamp/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES
bcc:
Subject: Ike

I found the Ike very useful for the work we are doing. The combination the camera, gps, pda and range finder would limit all the equipment we bring into the field. It is bulky, but durable and I did not find it any heavier then the units we are currently using. I was very impressed with its durability. One day when we were out in the field it rained pretty hard and the Ike had no problem with the rain. We were able to use the Ike to act as a base station while mapping and recording a sketch map for historic and prehistoric sites. One person can stay in one place with the Ike while others can go to each artifact. The one with the Ike can take a point and photo of the location the others are and write the description of the feature. This is also useful if there are noticeable landmarks from the site. Not only could we take a picture with a bearing for reference, we also had a distance to the landmark. This is all very helpful for future work on a site and the relocation of the site. It took a little bit to get used to the camera, but once you did you could take very good site overview photos. I liked that we could get a GPS point of a location far away. This is useful in are attempts to relocate sites that are inaccessible we can at least take a photo of the supposed site and a point to where it is supposed to be. Another great feature was the IkeSync software. I like the fact that it would download all the data for the day and put it in the correct folders for you. The first day I did this it worked great. I was able to open and ArcPad project on my PC and all the points had a hyperlinked photo associated with it. It was not always successful with the links.


Now that I have talked it up so well there are always the cons of a new toy. The first day that I used the Ike I began using it on the hour drive in the truck to the project area. By the end of the day I had run out of battery power on the Ike. Once this happens there was no use for the Ike. It would be nice if you could somehow make a longer running battery or the possibility of replacing the battery with a freshly charged battery in the field. The toolbar in ArcPad is limited. I am not sure this was so no one could change the settings, but I would prefer more options on the toolbar. Once in a while the gps would not receive satellites, I am not sure what was causing this, but on the last day that I used the Ike it would not pick up any satellites. The camera on the Ike was good for site overview photos, but I was not able to use it for close up photos of artifacts. The only other thing that I found was a problem was when trying to use the usb port to connect to a PC using ActiveSync it did not always connect. Sometimes after I would unplug the usb and do a soft reset it would finally connect. Maybe the IkeSync software and ActiveSync would collide.

For being a test unit it worked wonderfully for archaeology. There were far less cons then pros and once these bugs are worked out you could be a one man crew with the capability of collecting a large amount of data for each gps point taken. I look forward to using the Ike again in the future.

Thanks

Here is the tracking number for FedEx. I sent it two day delivery.

790490285847



Perry Nolan
Archaeologist
Office: (970) 221-9083
Cell: (559) 920-6597
Fax: (970) 221-9083
prnolan@fs.fed.us
www.fs.fed.us/teams

TEAMS Planning Enterprise – USDA Forest Service