

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (OIT)

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Michael Locatis
State Chief Information Officer

January 5, 2008

Cy Smith, President
National States Geographic Information Council
2105 Laurel Bush Road, Suite 200
Bel Air, MD 21015

Dear President Smith:

The Colorado Geospatial Coordinating Council (CGCC) is writing in support of the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative. The CGCC is currently a collection of geospatial information professionals in Colorado committed to enhancing the use of geospatial technologies to benefit all of the citizens of the State of Colorado. It represents a variety of stakeholders in the geospatial information arena including federal, state and local government entities, private corporations, universities, and the general community of geospatial technology users in the state.

At present, it is not feasible for the State of Colorado or its political subdivisions to acquire aerial photography over the entire state without assistance. There are several regional efforts that have achieved economies of scale demonstrating the demand for this type of approach, but the large area contracting methods of this program will provide this data across the whole state for many different levels of users and uses.

At the state level, the recent state-wide NAIP photography has supported management of wildlife, water diversions, noxious weeds, and mine land reclamation efforts. It has also been used for responding to emergencies and large scale weather events. At the local level, parcel identification and cadastral mapping as well as response to wild land fires and other threats such as pine bark beetle infestation have benefited from such imagery. Many of the stakeholder groups represented by the CGCC cannot obtain this data on their own, so the IFTN program would assist these groups in obtaining this critical data.

We support the IFTN option of one-foot resolution for the entire state with flights occurring on a three-year rotation (with buy-up options for enhanced products). We would also echo the concerns of the Western Governors Association regarding areas in the rural west with lower population densities that would not have one-foot resolution imagery under the original program plan. Detailed imagery for exurban areas, that may be in the path of development, need this level of detail, as do areas with forest health and other agricultural issues that would not otherwise be included at the same resolution as more populated areas. That being said we fully support this initiative and will strive to partner on funding solutions to meet all of these needs.

Sincerely,

Michael Locatis
State Chief Information Officer

Jon Gottsegen,
State GIS Coordinator,
For the Colorado Geospatial Coordinating Council