Spatially Speaking

FGDC Monthly Update

**For more information on
FGDC events view the
calendar at:**

http://www.fgdc.gov/calendar

Draft Wetland Mapping Standard approved by FGDC Standards Working Group

A National Wetland Mapping Standard is being developed by a multi-agency workgroup under the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

Historically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had the responsibility of mapping wetlands for the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Currently USFWS only has funding to complete 1% of the map per year. Consequently, the national wetlands map is out of date and no digital wetlands maps are available for much of the country.

As more states, tribes, counties, and non-governmental organizations have become interested in mapping wetlands, it has become important to develop a standard that everyone can use to map and share wetland data. It is also important for wetland data to mesh with other water features such as in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), so that wetlands can be integrated and understood in a holistic context, whether at the watershed, ecosystem, or regional level.

The Wetland Mapping Standard in development specifies minimum requirements for inclusion of wetland data into the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

Once the FGDC has approved the draft standard (the final vote is currently scheduled for August 2007), a Notice of Availability for public comment will be placed in the Federal Register.

Further information on the standard can be found on the FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee website <http://www.fws.gov/nwi/fgdcwet.html>.

A multi-agency funding proposal is also in development.

The 2009 National Wetlands Mapping Initiative, addresses the need for funding to complete the national wetlands digital map, implementing the standard. Part of this funding would be allocated for upgrading the NWI database and facilitating data exchange, while the larger portion would be used as grant money to the states, tribes and local communities to map wetlands, with a goal of increasing wetland mapping by at least 10% per year.

View the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov

Highlights

- **FGDC linked added to USA.gov Cross-Agency Collaboration webpage.** (http://www.usa.gov/Federal_Employees/Collaboration.shtml#vgn-interagency-groups-vgn*).

- **The 2006 FGDC Annual Report has been printed and is available upon request.** *To request copies, please contact Alison Dishman (adishman@fgdc.gov).*

- **On June 13, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held it's 2006 National Honor Awards Ceremony.** At the Ceremony, the National Geospatial Program Team received a Siler Medal for providing the leadership, collaboration and talent to institute the National Geospatial Program that optimizes EPA's geospatial capabilities to support EPA's core business. *For more information contact George Brilis (**Brilis.George@epamail.epa.gov**).*

- **Julie Maitra gave a presentation on the policy for FGDC recognition of external standards to representatives of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Department of the Interior, and its partners in Portsmouth, Virginia on Tuesday, June 26.** OSM and its partners are developing standards for coal mining boundaries for approval by ASTM International (formerly the American Society for Testing and Materials), a voluntary consensus standards body, with subsequent endorsement by the FGDC. These standards will be used to develop and maintain a nationwide data set that might serve as a layer in The National Map. *For more information contact Julie Maitra (jmaitra@usgs.gov)*

- **Framework Base Standard Training On-line!!!** The Framework Base Standard establishes common requirements for data exchange for across all basic data themes and are of critical importance to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), as they are fundamental to many different Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications. Now learning how to implement the base standard comes to your desktop. This training opportunity comes to you through a partnership between the FGDC, Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC), and USGS Central Region's Office of Employee Development, (OED). WyGISC developed the content, composed Microsoft PowerPoint, and migrated the module to OED's learning management system - Micromedia Breeze. USGS OED provided manuscript services and will host the module. USGS employees will access the module through DOI Learn and non-Interior entities gain access through contacting the program lead TJ Lane at tjlane@usgs.gov or 303-445-4677. The course title and number are: Framework Data Content Base Standard Course (ID245-TEL). *For more information contact Sharon Shin (sshin@usgs.gov).*

- **The June 2007 release of the National Elevation Dataset (NED)** represents the 41st update of the 1-arc-second NED layer since the bi-monthly maintenance schedule began in June 2000. This release includes existing source data and all new 7.5-minute digital elevation models (DEMs) available in the USGS DEM Database as of April 15, 2007. Nonstandard (non-USGS) source data are also included in this release. NED metadata are developed with the assembling of the elevation dataset. The complete spatial metadata as shapefiles or as an ESRI Interchange file are available for download at: http://ned.usgs.gov/Ned/metadata.asp

NIST Acknowledges FGDC Standards Development Process

- FGDC-endorsed standards are "validated" for E-Gov -

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has decided that "FGDC-endorsed" standards are "validated" for use in the E-Gov initiatives and Lines of Business.

Standards that are "FGDC-endorsed" have successfully completed the 12 steps in the FGDC Standards Reference Model. The Standards Reference Model provides guidance and structure for organizations or groups interested in developing standards. The 12 steps include proposal, draft and editing stages, public reviews, and votes in FGDC bodies such as the Standards Working Group, Coordination Group and Steering Committee.

Since the FGDC is part of the larger geospatial standards development community, the FGDC standards process in the Standards Reference Model was developed to be similar and compatible with the procedures in other standards developing organizations such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS).

The FGDC participates in the standards development activities of these organizations and actively promotes elevation of selected Federal (FGDC-endorsed) standards to the National (ANSI/INCITS) and International (ISO) levels.

For the E-Gov process, the Office of Management and Budget/General Services Administration policy mandates the use of validated E-Gov standards for the acquisition and deployment of E-Gov services. NIST has been assigned to the project to validate E-Gov standards. NIST performs an analysis of the standard before verification is issued. For the FGDC standards, NIST states that, "Because the FGDC standards already undergo an extensive public/private sector review process, NIST has decided to declare the FGDC standards as already validated by the FGDC process without having them go through an additional NIST evaluation panel process."

The validated FGDC-endorsed standards will be listed on the NIST E-Gov Standards Resource Center Web pages at http://ts.nist.gov/standards/e-gov/.

Links to the FGDC Standards Reference Model, standards and other information can be found at: http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/.

For more information contact Billy Tolar (btolar@usgs.gov)

What's Happening