



# Introducing NOAA's National Geodetic Survey

## NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS)

is responsible for defining, managing, and providing public access to the **National Spatial Reference System (NSRS)**, a consistent national coordinate system that provides the foundation for mapping and charting; state boundaries; transportation, communication, and land records systems; and numerous scientific and engineering applications. NSRS provides an extremely accurate geographic framework throughout the United States and its possessions; without it, bridges and tunnels might not meet in the middle, planes might land next to—rather than at—airport runways, and trains might speed toward one another on the same track at the same time. NGS develops standards and guidelines for conducting field surveys and helps to coordinate surveying methods among federal government agencies.

### NGS also:

- **locates obstacles** and aids air travel;
- **defines the national shoreline**;
- **conducts training workshops and information forums** throughout the United States;
- **provides technical advisors** to improve local surveying capabilities;
- **helps to improve** precise positioning instruments and procedures;
- **conducts research** in geosciences, including earth orientation, absolute gravity, satellite geodesy, and related fields;
- **monitors grants, contracts, and transfers of funds** to universities, private organizations, and other agencies for cooperative research projects;
- **maps the coastal zone and waterways** of the United States and its possessions, providing a vital service to the marine transportation industry and the stewards of the coastal environment;
- **publishes and distributes** earth science data and technical publications; and
- **maintains a website** that provides a wealth of free information.

### Learn more about NOAA's National Geodetic Survey by contacting NGS:

- **On the Web**  
www.ngs.noaa.gov
- **By e-mail**  
info\_center@ngs.noaa.gov
- **By phone**  
301-713-3242, or fax 301-713-4172
- **By mail**  
National Geodetic Survey, N/NGS12  
1315 East West Highway, Station 9202  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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