

Federal Geographic Data Committee

2012 Guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

April 2012

The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and identify specific issues on which the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) would benefit from advice and recommendations from the NGAC during 2012. This guidance is the charge to the Committee from the Department of the Interior and the FGDC.

The FGDC views the NGAC as an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the Administration's geospatial goals. This set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through coordination with Interior leadership, FGDC agencies, and the NGAC leadership. The goal in providing this guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues related to the management of Federal and national geospatial programs, and provide the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the tasks it is being called upon to address.

Key issues for initial NGAC review during 2012 are as follows:

Geospatial Platform

The NGAC has provided thoughtful input and feedback that has had significant impact on shaping the development of the Geospatial Platform, including comments on the *Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform* and the *Geospatial Platform Value Proposition*. As the Platform moves into the implementation phase, the FGDC requests continuing input and feedback from the NGAC on opportunities to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental collaboration, including the following topics:

- Provide feedback and comments on the *Geospatial Platform Business Plan*, particularly the sections dealing with governance and metrics.
- What are the incentives that the Federal government should consider providing to encourage non-Federal participation in the Platform?
- What are the best mechanisms for identifying ongoing requirements for the Platform and encourage participation in the Platform from our State/Regional/Local/Tribal partners? How can we best engage the private sector in the Platform?
- Provide suggestions on particular applications or services that should be implemented on the Platform

Landsat

The NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) will provide advice to the Federal Government, through the NGAC, on the requirements, objectives and actions of the Landsat Program as they apply to continued delivery of societal benefits for the Nation and the global Earth observation community. The LAG is requested to provide advice and recommendations on Landsat-related issues for consideration by the NGAC, including the following:

- Current and future Landsat data and information product definitions and methods for accessing and distributing these products.

- Future Landsat Program plans and efforts in coordination with the National Earth Observations (NEO) Task Force.
- Priorities and communication of the Landsat Program.
- Review and comment on the National Research Council report on implementing a sustained Land Imaging Program.

Geospatial Data Issues

The FGDC seeks advice and feedback on the following data issues:

OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance

Provide feedback and comment on the revised Circular A-16 data themes that were approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in 2011. The FGDC is requesting that the NGAC provide its perspective on these revisions, including the following questions:

- Are there significant gaps or omissions in the revised data themes and associated datasets? Are there gaps in the initial groups of core datasets recommended by Federal agencies under the 17 data themes?
- How can State, local, and tribal governments, as well as other stakeholders, contribute most effectively to implement the development of the revised data themes and associated datasets?
- How can stakeholders and communities of interest contribute to the development of sustainable models for data theme and dataset development and maintenance?

Development of a National Enhanced Elevation Program

The National Enhanced Elevation Assessment, conducted by the USGS on behalf of the members of the National Digital Elevation Program, is complete and provides a comprehensive picture of the needs for and benefits of LiDAR and IfSAR data nationally. Based on the results, the USGS has developed a national program recommendation for which it is seeking NGAC review and input. Additionally a preliminary, high-level governance strategy and prioritization model will be provided for review by May, 2012.

National Address Database

Numerous stakeholders have identified a critical need for a National Address Database. A complete, current, and accurate address list, along with the associated geocodes and x, y coordinates are essential for a variety of government and non-government functions, including emergency response, planning, routing, and many others. Currently, several agencies and organizations either collect, purchase, or lease address information in a non-coordinated fashion. The FGDC is requesting that NGAC develop a white paper addressing the following points:

- The need for a National Address Database and the benefits and potential savings and efficiencies that will be realized
- Potential concerns about a National Address Database, including privacy issues
- Possible approaches for development of a National Address Database, including the roles of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, as well as other stakeholders

National Hydrography Dataset – Advancing the Nation’s Hydrography Infrastructure

The National Hydrography Dataset is a successful model of a national dataset that is collaboratively maintained across levels of government and managed by a Federal agency. A host of resource management challenges pose the need to advance the data model, including integration of the human-made water infrastructure with natural systems, and integration of surface and groundwater models. Success in geo-enabling decision making will require accelerated development and population of the NHD. In spite of the high level of collaboration and communication within the NHD community, multiple hydrography datasets still exist in some states, and the pace and success of stewardship is uneven across the nation. The USGS is seeking review and strategic advice on the current NHD stewardship and funding model in order to position it for meeting the growing needs. Specific questions include:

- What are the barriers to greater standardized use of the NHD? How can implementation of a single nationwide, and multi-agency, hydrography dataset be improved?
- Is the current stewardship model the optimal strategy for engaging partners and improving the data? What improvements can be made or incentives leveraged to strengthen stewardship and funding?
- What are the administrative/policy, technical and coordination best practices for maintaining NHD data across multiple sectors and levels of government?

NGAC Points of Contact

It is requested that the NGAC designate members as Points of Contact (POCs) for selected geospatially-oriented Federal programs or initiatives. The NGAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO) will contact the appropriate Federal program leads to introduce the NGAC POCs and explain their roles. The role of the POC will be to coordinate with the DFO and Program leads to: 1) Keep the NGAC members updated on key program activities, and 2) Notify the NGAC Chair and DFO if the program or initiative would like to solicit feedback or bring an issue to the NGAC for review. NGAC POCs should keep the DFO and FGDC staff apprised of their activities to coordinate with the Federal programs and initiatives. POC will report back to NGAC members as needed. The selected programs or initiatives may include the following:

- Broadband Mapping
- Geolocation Privacy
- Geospatial Workforce Development
- National Geologic Mapping
- National Parcel Data
- The National Map
- Transportation for the Nation
- Tribal Geospatial Activities and Issues

The issues identified above reflect the initial priorities for the NGAC for 2012. However, these issues may be augmented over time. The FGDC looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with the NGAC membership to refine these issues and develop a Plan of Action to address these topics. The FGDC will continue to coordinate with the NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and membership on the planning and implementation of the NGAC’s activities.