Federal Agency Report Summary

Out of 17 Agency responses:

- **Subcommittee/Working Group Participation – 88%** participate on an FGDC Subcommittee or Working Group, which they do not lead.
- **Strategy – 82%** have prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into their business process.
- **Compliance – 94%** have spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards.
- **Redundancy – 88%** ensure that data is not already available prior to collection.
- **Collection – 65%** of contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards.
- **Clearinghouse – 47%** have data and metadata published on the NSDI Clearinghouse.
- **E-Gov – 88%** use geospatial data in their mission activities to provide better services.
- **Geospatial One Stop – 94%** are involved in the Geospatial One Stop Initiative.
- **Enterprise Architecture – 88%** have geospatial data as a component of their enterprise architecture (or are building an enterprise architecture that will include geospatial data)
- **Partnerships – 100%** coordinate data and build partnerships for data collection and standards development.

Areas of Concern:

- Funding - Without sufficient funding, Agencies cannot implement GIS into mission activities effectively, thereby limiting the ability to fully integrate E-Gov capability. Agencies need funds for standards development.
- Funding – Homeland Security funding, not DOI funds, should be used to map cities.
- Non-funded mandates – The sheer volume of the directives and data calls far exceeds agencies' ability to adequately respond with existing resources.
- Standards – There is a need for additional standards expertise within the FGDC office. Existing staff resources are not adequate for standards development and GOS support.
- Partnerships – A new business model for partnerships is needed so that they are no longer hampered by federal contracting regulations and difficulty transferring funds between agencies.
- Performance Measures – Alternative performance measures are needed for long-term data development strategies.
- Classification – A clear, concise, comprehensive and enforceable policy regarding the classification, privacy and the proprietary nature of certain types of geospatial data must be developed.
- Limited FGDC authority – FGDC can merely encourage agency coordination without authority to do more. There is no institutionalized method within agency operations for geospatial coordination.
- Few incentives for cross-agency cooperation – Budget allocations don't allow for cross-agency cooperation as they are specifically linked to agency accomplishments.

- Difficult FGDC metadata requirements – Metadata collection requires a great level of effort and commitment. FGDC needs to promote easy mechanisms for developing metadata collection at the time of data collection and let developers know these tools exist.
- Volumes of data - NASA's Earth Science data holdings were doubled in less than a year.

Lessons Learned:

- Partnerships are the essential element of success.
- It is difficult to make one set of data conform to all user needs.
- Collaborative funding strategies need to be developed to facilitate the agencies to work together towards NSDI goals.
- Departments must overcome stovepipes regarding the coordination of data collection and use strategies.
- Private sector and Federal data warehouse/portal activities should be explored to minimize non-complimentary activities.
- The correct identification of facilities according to type and location is critical for data management and sharing.
- The ability to achieve high levels of positional accuracy is improved by GPS techniques.