Subcommittee Report Summary

9 of 13 Subcommittees responded:

- **Current Plan or Charter - 89%** have a current plan or charter for collection.
- **Performance Measures – 56%** have performance measures.
- **Metadata – 89%** have metadata in the FGDC Clearinghouse
- **Data Sharing Policy – 67%** have a data sharing policy in place.

Recommended for Discontinuation:

- **Base Cartographic Data Subcommittee**
- **Soils Subcommittee**
- **Spatial Water Subcommittee**

No Response From:

- **Base Cartographic Data Subcommittee**
- **Ground Transportation Subcommittee**
- **International Boundaries & Sovereignty Subcommittee**
- **Spatial Water Subcommittee**
- **Wetlands Subcommittee**

Areas of Concern:

- Lack of Guidance – Lack of overall guidance (such as criteria for standards compliance and/or business drivers for standards and the publication of data) have resulted in many inconsistencies and variance in standards. For example, the themes standards for Geospatial One-Stop vary greatly in the level of detail within each standard because each theme used different criteria to determining the scope of what was in the respective standard. This lack of common ground or business need has resulted in a proposed standard and is inconsistent in scope and ultimately its use. This is also true of compliance with standards for which we do not have a common definition. Some themes do not have criteria for compliance or the criteria differ from theme to theme and may not be documented. The result is an inability to determine where we are in regard to compliance and implementation of standards within the federal government or any organization.
- Duplication of Effort – The duplication of effort between many framework, clearinghouse/portal efforts needs to be addressed. This duplication has resulted in confusion and wasted time/resources and has frustrated potential participants at the local level. In addition, we have duplicate standards (e.g., FGDC metadata standard and the Geospatial One-Stop Standard which are not the same).
- Definitions Needed – Definitions for terms and inconsistent use of terminology such as framework and framework data remains and issue that causes confusion.
- Local Resources Needed – NRCS has the lead for the development of soil data. OMB Circular A-16 emphasizes the coordination responsibility of lead agencies to work with all theme data developers to integrate multi-scale data to support national, multi-resolution, multi-temporal products. NRCS presently lacks the local resources to fully integrate multi-source, multi-resolution soils data to the extent implied by the circular. Telecommunications and data integration tools

may resolve this issue in the coming years and allow multi-partner networks/servers to share and integrate data real-time at the user's desktop.

- Coordination Needed Between Subcommittees – Coordination will be essential with other FGDC entities, e.g., Wetlands, Earth Cover, and Forest Sustainability Data. What mechanism exists to ensure compatibility among standards promulgated by these entities relative to vegetation?

Lessons Learned:

- Financial Incentives – The lack of the financial incentives needed to implement standards, especially in cases where data already exists is an issue that has gone unaddressed for a number of years.
- Standards – We need to focus our efforts, dollars and energy on testing and implementation of the standards we already, have rather than developing more standards. In addition, all standards should be tested and proven before they are finalized and recommended for ANSI status. The development of standards on paper is only the first step and it seems as if the entire FGDC and Geospatial One-Stop efforts have ignored or just not addressed the other steps such as testing, maintenance and implementation.
- Base Funding – Most funding for spatial climate activities has been via special projects, without substantial collaboration between departments and agencies. In general, funding has been inadequate to meet the significant demands for these products within and outside the Federal government. This will be a goal of the subcommittee—to help ensure that adequate funding for these projects can be obtained, and that cooperation between agencies is realized. The updating of precipitation frequency map products by the National Weather Service, in collaboration with many other Federal agencies, and other public and private entities, serves as a prime example of this issue.