



Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/>

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. This nationwide data management effort is known as the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\)](#). These coordination activities are facilitated by the FGDC Secretariat, hosted within the U.S. Geological Survey.

Purpose: The FGDC provides leadership and facilitates coordination between agencies, governments, academia, industry and professional organizations in developing geographic information and technology critical to managing the nation.

Authority: The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) established the FGDC in 1990, and re-chartered the committee in its August 2002 revision of Circular A-16, "Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities." Executive Order 12906 assigns NSDI implementation responsibility to the FGDC.

- FGDC Chair: Secretary of the Department of the Interior
- FGDC Vice-Chair: Deputy Director for Management, OMB
- FGDC members include the Executive Office of the President, Cabinet level and independent Federal agencies
- Numerous stakeholder organizations participate in FGDC activities representing the interests of state and local government, industry, and professional organizations.

Value Proposition:

- Foster cross agency and government-wide collaboration including Federal, State, local, and Tribal government, professional organizations and industry partners
- Promote information sharing and use of standards related to geospatial information
- Promote collaboration in developing and sustaining the NSDI
- Identify and coordinate efforts, to reduce

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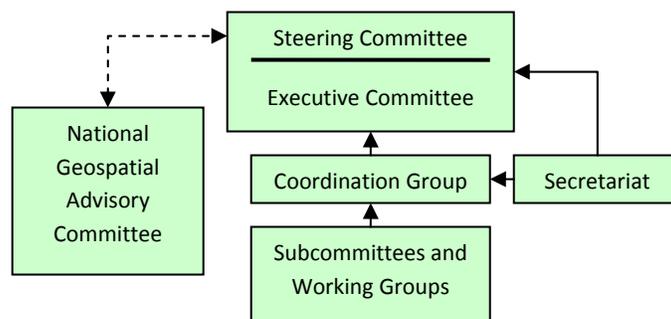
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redundancies, increase data access/use, and best leverage resources to manage and utilize geospatial information investments.

Governance:

- The [Steering Committee](#) sets high-level strategic direction for the FGDC and is led by a subset of [Executive Committee](#) members
- The FGDC [Coordination Group](#) advises on the day-to day business of the FGDC
- Agency-led [Subcommittees](#) and [Working Groups](#) address specific geospatial issues
- Non-Federal constituents provide advice through the [National Geospatial Advisory Committee](#).



FGDC Membership: <http://www.fgdc.gov/participation/>

NSDI Components:

- Clearinghouse Network: a community of distributed data providers who publish searchable collections of metadata describing their geospatial data resources through the Geospatial Platform data portal and clearinghouse.
- Metadata: data about data used to determine fitness-for-use and leverage data investment.
- Framework: geospatial data themes of national significance.
- Standards: NSDI is built on the universal use of geospatial data standards and protocols.

FGDC Initiatives, Programs, and Activities Web Resources

- **Federal Geographic Data Committee:** <http://www.fgdc.gov>
Authorities: OMB Circular A-16: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a016_rev/
Executive Order 12906: http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/executive_order
E-Government Act 2002, Section 216: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/e-gov/>
- **Geospatial Platform:** <http://www.geoplatform.gov/> The partner agencies of the FGDC are developing a Geospatial Platform to more effectively provide place-based products and services to the American public. The Geospatial Platform will be a managed portfolio of common geospatial data, services, and applications contributed and administered by authoritative sources and hosted on a shared infrastructure, for use by government agencies and partners to meet their mission needs and the broader needs of the Nation.
President's Budget, Fiscal Year 2011, "Analytical Perspectives, Special Topics, information Technology" (p. 325): <http://www.cio.gov/pages.cfm/page/Chapter-19-Information-Technology-Page-3>
- **OMB Circular A-16**, revised Aug. 19, 2002: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a016_rev/, provides direction for federal agencies that produce, maintain, or use spatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their mission. The circular establishes a coordinated approach to electronically develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and establishes the FGDC.
- **OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance**, Nov. 20, 2010: <http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning>, further defines and clarifies selected elements of Circular A-16 to facilitate the adoption and implementation of a coordinated Federal geospatial asset management capability. The focus is on geospatial data as a capital asset and provides the foundation for a portfolio management approach to a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Portfolio.
- **Framework Data:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/framework/>, provide the core, most commonly used set of base data; are part of a larger set of data themes of national significance; are important part of the NSDI, and must be available to share with others. (OMB Circular A-16)
- **FGDC Standards:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/> The FGDC develops geospatial data standards for implementing the NSDI, in consultation and cooperation with State, local, and Tribal governments, the private sector and academic community, and, to the extent feasible, the international community. (OMB Circular A-16)
- **FGDC Metadata:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata> The FGDC is tasked by Executive Order to develop procedures and assist in the implementation of a distributed discovery mechanism for national digital geospatial data. Geospatial metadata are critical to data discovery. (OMB Circular A-16)
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Federal agencies will promote and fully utilize partnerships that promote cost-effective data collection, documentation, maintenance, distribution, and preservation strategies, and that leverage Federal and other resources. New collaborative efforts and partnerships are encouraged. (OMB Circular A-16). **NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants>. **NSDI Training:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/training>
- **International Spatial Data Infrastructure:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/international> The NSDI supports and advances the building of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI). International compatibility is an important aspect of the NSDI. (OMB Circular A-16)
- **National Spatial Data Clearinghouse:** <http://www.fgdc.gov/dataandservices> is an electronic service providing access to documented spatial data and metadata from distributed data sources. All spatial data collected by Federal agencies or their agents will be made available through the Clearinghouse. (OMB Circular A-16)