

# Federal Geographic Data Committee

## 2011 Guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

March 2011

The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and identify specific issues for the NGAC to address during 2011. This guidance is the charge to the Committee from the Department of the Interior and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (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 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, including issues within the list presented below, while still providing 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 2011 are as follows:

### 1. Innovative Strategies for Geospatial Programs and Partnerships

- Provide feedback and recommendations on how FGDC partner agencies can take the use of geospatial data and technology to a new level in the future by:
  - Strategically leveraging and influencing technologies, policies, and trends
  - Fostering a data integration environment that facilitates better decision-making and supports place-based policies
  - Utilizing public-private partnerships and other innovative solutions to develop geospatial data, fill critical data gaps, and leverage scarce resources.

### 2. Geospatial Platform

- The NGAC provided thoughtful and helpful feedback in 2010 that helped shape the development of the Geospatial Platform concept and the *Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform*. As the Platform moves into the implementation phase, the FGDC will request continuing feedback and advice from the NGAC on opportunities to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental collaboration, including the following topics:
  - Are there specific offerings (data, services, applications) available from State/Regional/Local/Tribal governments that should be pursued for integrating with the Federal Geospatial Platform in the short term?
  - What are the incentives that the Federal government should consider providing to encourage non-Federal contributions to the Platform?
  - What are the best mechanisms for identifying ongoing requirements for the Platform and potential contributions to the Platform from our State/Regional/Local/Tribal partners?

### **3. Geospatial Workforce Development**

- Provide recommendations on approaches to develop intergovernmental and public-private strategies to facilitate the development, training, and retention of a highly skilled workforce to meet the expanding geospatial needs of public and private-sector organizations.
  - Examine opportunities for synergies with the Administration's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives.

### **4. Emerging Technologies**

- Provide analysis, advice, and recommendations on the impacts that new and emerging technologies are likely to have on the management and use of federal geospatial data and programs. A primary focus in this area will be to identify opportunities to utilize cloud computing technology and resources in innovative ways to support geospatial programs.

### **5. Geospatial Partnerships with Tribal Governments**

- Provide advice and recommendations on innovative approaches to develop collaborative nation-to-nation partnerships with Tribal governments to foster effective development and use of geospatial data and capabilities.

### **6. Feedback on Specific Programs/Initiatives**

- The FGDC partner agencies will ask the NGAC to provide feedback and recommendations on key Federal geospatial initiatives, programs, and issues as needed. Specific requests for feedback on these programmatic issues will be conveyed to the committee through the NGAC's Designated Federal Officer. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Broadband Mapping
  - National Parcel Data
  - Geolocation Privacy
  - Transportation for the Nation
  - National Elevation Data

The issues identified above reflect the initial priorities for the NGAC for 2011. 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. Ivan DeLoatch, the Executive Director of the FGDC Secretariat, serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the NGAC. Mr. DeLoatch and FGDC staff will continue to coordinate with the NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and membership on the planning and implementation of the NGAC's activities.