

FGDC/NGAC Comments submitted to Bureau of Labor Statistics on 7-21-2014 in response to Federal Register Notice #2014-11913, "Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)—Revision for 2018; Notice"

To: soc@BLS.gov

Subject: 2018 SOC

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Secretariat offers the following comments in response to the May 22, 2014 Federal Register Notice, "*Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) – Revision for 2018.*"

The FGDC is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. 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. The FGDC Secretariat is located within the U.S. Geological Survey, a bureau of the Department of the Interior.

The FGDC sponsors the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), a Federal Advisory Committee that provides advice and recommendations on national geospatial policy issues. The NGAC includes members from all levels of government, the private sector, non-profits, and academia.

The FGDC has sought ongoing advice and recommendations from the NGAC regarding geospatial education and workforce activities. The ability of the Federal government to procure quality geospatial products and services, secure a well-trained and professionalized workforce for the delivery of governmental products and services, and successfully manage a national portfolio of geospatially-based information are central to our mission. As a part of this role, the NGAC met with staff from the Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration in June 2014 and discussed the revisions to the SOCs. The FGDC and NGAC have also been involved in previous workforce development efforts with DOL, including the development of the Geospatial Competency Model. We appreciate DOL's efforts to collaborate with our community to revise and update the SOCs related to the geospatial field.

The following comments are being submitted by the FGDC Secretariat in collaboration with the NGAC. The comments address two subjects: 1) Addition of Four New SOC Occupations, and 2) Review and Update of Surveyor Related Occupations .

1. Addition of Four New SOC Occupations

The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) system has added several geospatial occupations as detailed O*NET breakouts, which are not represented separately in the SOC system. Upon review, the FGDC Secretariat and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee recommend that the following O*NET geospatial occupations be added to the SOC system:

15-1199.04	Geospatial Information Scientists and Technologists
15-1199.05	Geographic Information Systems Technicians
19-2099.01	Remote Sensing Scientists and Technologists
19-4099.03	Remote Sensing Technicians

Addition of these SOC occupations will significantly boost the geospatial industry's ability to understand and manage workforce needs.

2. Review and Update of Surveyor Related Occupations

The FGDC Secretariat and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee suggests formal review and updates to the following surveyor related occupations:

17-1022.00 Surveyors
17-3031.01 Surveying Technicians
17-1021.00 Cartographers and Photogrammetrists
17-1022.01 Geodetic Surveyors
17-3031.00 Surveying and Mapping Technicians
17-3031.02 Mapping Technicians

As we have discussed with DOL staff, the FGDC looks forward to collaborating with DOL to engage the geospatial community in the 2018 revision to the SOCs. We look forward to providing additional feedback as this process proceeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Submitted by:

Ivan DeLoatch
Executive Director
Federal Geographic Data Committee
July 21, 2014