

**National Geospatial Advisory Committee
Summary of Key Decisions/Recommendations from NGAC Meetings
(Updated November 2009)**

April 15-16, 2008 NGAC Meeting

DECISION: The NGAC adopted an initial Action Plan for the Committee

June 3-4, 2008 NGAC Meeting

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC Bylaws as revised

DECISION: The NGAC approved the NGAC Mission Statement as revised.

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC recommends that the FGDC Staff Director establish a target date to resume the data call process to be included in the annual reporting process

RESOLUTION: The NGAC approved the following resolution regarding Imagery for the Nation:

Whereas seamless coverage orthoimagery has been demonstrated to have crosscutting utility;

Whereas all levels of government are currently investing in orthoimagery, often without coordination or leveraging of the investment;

Whereas the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative:

- provides financial incentives for all levels of government to cooperate in creation and
- publication of public domain data
- saves taxpayer money by achieving national economies of scale
- sets minimal technical standards ensuring that cohesive national data is created, while
- allowing buy ups so that varying state, local and regional requirements can be met
- establishes a regular schedule for delivery so customers and partners can plan
- effectively
- is the model for the development of other critical national geospatial data layers;

NGAC fully endorses the concept of Imagery for the Nation. However, before it is authorized and implemented, the following issues need to be resolved:

Procurement strategy

- Including small business participation
- Use of best practices models (e.g., IDIQ & QBS for procurement)
- Licensing vs. ownership – public domain
- Analysis of capacity and production capabilities

Integrated strategy for funding and implementation of NSDI data initiatives

- Relationship between and among other geospatial data initiatives

Rationalization with National Land Imagery Program

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Management of IFTN within the federal government

- Continuous strategy or plan for customer-driven input
- Analysis of cost avoidance or savings
- ROI validation – data, methodology, frequency
- Analysis of cost/benefit

Competition with private sector

- Address acquisition and production issues (no IFTN funding to Federal, State or local initiatives to use “their” assets to produce IFTN products)

The NGAC would like to stay engaged with FGDC as the community works through these issues.

October 15-16, 2008 NGAC Meeting

DECISION: NGAC approved draft Changing Landscape White Paper in concept

DECISION: NGAC approved recommendations in draft Transition Paper.

VOTE: The NGAC voted not to add specific information related to the role of the private sector in the recommendation to “Evaluate and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, local, regional, and Tribal governments; academia; and the private sector in the creation and maintenance of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.”

DECISION: NGAC endorsed recommendations in NRC report, and identified a set of comments related to the recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: NGAC recommends that immediate action be taken on Recommendation #1 in the NRC report (review of authorities; designation of land parcel coordinator)

RECOMMENDATION: NGAC recommends that FGDC, through the Cadastral Subcommittee, convene a stakeholder group to address parcel data issues related to the mortgage crisis.

DECISION: NGAC agreed upon a revised set of subcommittees. Chair/Vice-Chair/DFO will work to finalize subcommittee membership and designate chairs. All subcommittees will develop project plans in consultation with Chair/Vice-Chair/DFO. The revised subcommittees are as follows:

- Vision
- Governance/A-16
- Transition
- Changing Landscape
- Parcel Data
- The National Map
- Partnerships - Public/Private; Public/Public
- Outreach & Communications

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February 4-5, 2009 NGAC Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC approved the following recommendations to the FGDC regarding Economic Recovery:

1. Implementation Recommendations

To ensure transparency and accountability NGAC strongly recommends that:

- FGDC agencies and OMB fully utilize geospatial technology to effectively implement and manage the enacted economic recovery legislation.
- The proposed Recovery Board should develop a geospatial strategy and requirements that apply across the different components of the economic recovery legislation, including:
 - Health IT
 - Broadband
 - Wildland Fire/Emergency Response
 - Alternative Energy
 - Global Climate Change
 - Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Conduct of the 2010 Census
 - Education, Training, and Workforce Development
- The Recovery Board should ensure that the Recovery.Gov website is geospatially enabled to manage and track economic recovery investments.
- OMB should issue clear, enforceable guidance to agencies working on stimulus-funded activities to ensure that geospatial investments are made in a strategic and coordinated manner, consistent with the standards-based development of the NSDI, as a required component of any geospatial data or application development. The existing Geospatial Line of Business provides the operational framework from which to execute this recommendation.
- Federal grants and contracts guidance language requiring reporting and documentation of geospatial data development should be completed and implemented.

2. Geospatial Data Recommendations

- As described in the NGAC Transition Recommendations, the NGAC supports investments in nationally important geospatial data, including the following priority areas:
 - Imagery
 - Parcel Data
 - Elevation

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC approved the following recommendation to the FGDC regarding Governance:

- Whereas Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A-16 designate geospatial data themes and assign federal agency stewards for those themes;
- Whereas most agencies have not been provided designated resources to meet stewardship responsibilities;

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- Whereas some agencies have not produced plans to accomplish stewardship responsibilities;
- Whereas OMB has not been able to assemble consistent and accurate budgetary crosscuts for geospatial activities to implement stewardship responsibilities;
- Whereas agencies have not been held accountable for meeting stewardship responsibilities; and
- Whereas the coordination, duplication avoidance, and partnering requirements of Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A16 remain unsatisfied not only among Federal agencies, but also with non-Federal stakeholders:

Now Therefore; Be It Resolved:

- That the NGAC recommends that the FGDC encourages and supports the Administration in the use of geospatial data and technologies to transform government operations and provide accountability and savings across geospatial activities, by:
- Reaffirming Executive Order 12906 and revising it to increase accountability;
- Strengthening direct OMB enforcement of the reporting requirements in Circular A-16;
- Implementing performance measures
- Coordinating and working in partnership with Federal, State, Tribal, and local government agencies and the private sector, and building upon non-Federal data wherever practical; and
- Strongly considering the role of geospatial data and technology in transforming government operations while implementing the President's management agenda and formulating and executing the President's Budget.

DECISION: The NGAC approved the NGAC Strategic Vision as revised.

August 26-27, 2009 NGAC Meeting

DECISION: The NGAC approved the following resolution:

“The National Geospatial Advisory Committee endorses the outcomes documented in the August 2009 FGDC Executive Committee Record of Decision (ROD) on Imagery for the Nation (IFTN). The NGAC strongly encourages the FGDC and the Administration to seek authorizing legislation for IFTN, develop a Fiscal Year 2011 budget initiative to support IFTN, and move aggressively to implement the IFTN program as described in the ROD.”