

Cultural Resources Subcommittee Update to Coordination Group

*Deidre McCarthy, Chair
Chief, Cultural Resource GIS Facility
National Park Service
12 June 2018*



Introduction

The Mission/Purpose of the Cultural Resource Subcommittee is: to identify, prioritize, implement, coordinate and oversee the strategies and tasks required to support the national cultural resource data theme and to coordinate Federal, Tribal, state and local geospatial programs to that end.

Members include:

- ❖ Deidre McCarthy, National Park Service, Chair
- ❖ Deidre McCarthy, National Park Service, Theme Lead
- ❖ 20 Federal land holding agencies
- ❖ 10 State Historic Preservation Offices
- ❖ 10 Tribal governments, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- ❖ Membership has been updated since our last report (July 2017)

NGDA Data Themes and Data Sets

- ❖ The following data themes and data sets fall under the purview of the Cultural Resource Subcommittee:
 - Cultural resource data theme, National Park Service, theme lead: Deidre McCarthy
 - National Register of Historic Places data set, National Park Service, Matthew Stutts
 - National Map-Geographic Names Information System, USGS, Lou Yost

Recent Meetings

- ❖ The Cultural Resource Subcommittee met on 24 Oct. 2017, and will meet on 31 July 2018. The topics discussed at this meeting include:
 - Finalization of a draft of a set of feature level metadata fields and domain values that compose the working draft of the proposed cultural resource spatial data exchange standard
 - Summarize tests conducted with working draft data model
 - Agreement that creating a guideline document to describe the standard is next step

Some of the outcomes arising from this meeting include:

- Development of a working draft GeoDatabase template to help organize the draft transfer standards, and a draft set of menu values for the associated fields
- Agreement to begin drafting a guidance document to describe the working draft standard contents and purpose
- Development of test data exchange from 2 states and 3 Federal agencies

Recent Developments/Projects

- The Cultural Resource Theme Executive Champion, Stephanie Toothman retired in June 2017. Joy Beasley, NPS Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science agreed to be the new Executive Champion
- The Subcommittee has committed to constructing a cultural resource spatial data transfer standard to facilitate sharing data between Federal agencies. Federal, State and Tribal agencies all maintain inventories of cultural resources and are heavily involved in the standard creation process in anticipation of using the FGDC standard created. The Subcommittee developed a working draft standard in 2017.
- The draft guideline document was distributed for review and comment to the Subcommittee participants on 17 May 2018

Recent Developments/Projects, Cont'd.

- The Subcommittee continues to work with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers to gain consensus on security of the data being exchanged. This resulted in the development of new collaboration with the NCSHPO technology committee, which continues to work with the Subcommittee.
- The Subcommittee is working toward identifying additional data sets that will fall within the cultural resource theme and identifying data set stewards for them. One potential data set, currently in development, has been identified and is being explored for inclusion in the theme: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey
- The theme lead and data set stewards continue to participate in the regular theme lead meetings, the most recent in May 2018.

Recent Developments/Projects, Cont'd.

- The data set stewards have completed the 2017 life-cycle maturity assessments requested and the theme lead completed the theme strategic plan, as well as the theme implementation plan. All are now available on GeoPlatform.
- The Subcommittee is coordinating with the NGAC Cultural Resource Subcommittee to provide background information, support and assistance in the current survey being performed by the NGAC Subcommittee
- The Subcommittee chair participates in the NGAC Cultural Resource Subcommittee meetings, coordinating between the two groups

Coordination Group Vote

- ❖ No Coordination Group action is requested at this time

Next Meeting

- ❖ The next meeting of the Cultural Resource Subcommittee will be held on 31 July 2018. It will take place via conference call.
- ❖ Some of the topics to be discussed at the next meeting include:
 - Review of the guidance document, comments from Subcommittee members and changes needed
 - Next steps in the standard approval process

Next Steps

- ❖ In the coming months, the Cultural Resource Subcommittee hopes to accomplish/discuss:
 - Continued development of a guidance document to describe the standard elements and purpose
 - Continue to perform tests of data exchange between agencies via the data model
 - Pursue the next steps in formal approval of the working draft standard
 - Continue to explore the possibility of adding more data sets to the Cultural Resource theme

Questions?

Deidre McCarthy, National Park Service

202-354-2141

Deidre_McCarthy@nps.gov