

The Challenge: Federal agencies and their partners collect and manage large amounts of place-based (geospatial) data – but it is often not easily found when needed, and sometimes data is collected or purchased multiple times. In short, the best government data is not always organized and managed efficiently to support decision making in a timely and cost effective manner. The Geospatial Platform is designed to provide that service and capability.

What is the Geospatial Platform?

The Geospatial Platform will be an **Internet-based capability providing shared and trusted geospatial data, services, and applications** for use **by the public and by government agencies and partners** to meet their mission needs.

Examples of National Geospatial Data

- Climate and Weather
- Cultural Resources
- Governmental Units
- Land Use-Land Cover
- Elevation
- Imagery
- Geology
- Real Property
- Transportation
- Utilities



What does the Geospatial Platform Offer?

- A “one-stop-shop” to deliver trusted, nationally consistent data and services
- Authoritative data to support informed decision making
- Problem solving applications (services) that are built once and used many times across multiple Federal agencies and other organizations
- A shared cloud-computing infrastructure to host data and applications
- A National and Federal focal point where governmental, non-governmental, private, and public data and applications can be visualized together to inform and address national and regional issues

Why is the Geospatial Platform Needed?

The ability to use visualization and mapping to help understand the impacts of events and how they affect citizens and government missions are very powerful. Whether it is a response to a natural disaster or viewing patterns of economic impact to our communities; visualizing where, when, and how these events occur lays a foundation for action and can help us:

- **Put events in context of location, environment, and people affected**
- **Discover trends and relationships we might otherwise miss**
- **Communicate more effectively through maps**
- **Streamline geospatial data collection, delivery, visualization, and analysis**
- **Distill large amounts of complex tabular and spatial information into user-friendly formats**



Aerial photographs of Halstad, Minnesota in the Red River Valley along the Minnesota-North Dakota border, before and after flooding of the Red River in April 2011.

Examples of Shared Services

- Mapping wildfires and evacuation routes
- Mapping natural disasters, e.g. floods, hurricanes, earthquakes
- Broadband mapping
- "Let's Get Moving" Initiative – childhood obesity mapping
- Mapping commuting routes and traffic patterns

What are the Benefits of the Geospatial Platform?

The Geospatial Platform will significantly expand access to high quality data; **enabling users to improve problem solving and streamline mission critical operations.** We expect that **increased sharing and reuse of resources** facilitated by the Geospatial Platform will **reduce costs, result in savings and wise investments, and improve decision making while stimulating innovation.** On balance, the integrated approach of the Geospatial Platform will mean that the federal portfolio of geospatial data will be better managed, service a broader audience, and be easier to use.

How is the Geospatial Platform Being Developed?

The Geospatial Platform is being developed by the member agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) through collaboration with partners and stakeholders. This multi-year effort represents the federal government's on-going commitment to:

- **Shared Leadership:** Actively engaging State, local, and Tribal governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, and citizens;
- **A Business Orientation:** Defining the scope and scale of the Geospatial Platform via a customer-focused business model;
- **Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability:** Adhering to the principles of ease of use, maximizing access, increasing efficiency, and reducing redundancy;
- **Supporting Place-based Policies:** Implementing place-based policy-making, planning, and budgeting.

Who are the Geospatial Platform's Customers?

Everyone. The target **customers** for Platform offerings are Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

For more information about the FGDC visit: www.fgdc.gov

"In 2010 and 2011, Federal data managers for geospatial data will move to a portfolio management approach, creating a Geospatial Platform to support Geospatial One-Stop, place-based initiatives, and other potential future programs. This transformation will be facilitated by improving the governance framework to address the requirements of State, local and Tribal agencies, Administration policy, and agency mission objectives. Investments will be prioritized based on business needs. The Geospatial Platform will explore opportunities for increased collaboration with Data.gov, with an emphasis on reuse of architectural standards and technology, ultimately increasing access to geospatial data."

President's Budget, Fiscal Year 2011

For more information visit www.GeoPlatform.gov