



# The National Imagery Summit:

## *Proceedings, Outcomes, and Possible Next Steps*

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**FGDC**

FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC  
DATA COMMITTEE

# National Imagery Summit

- Hosted by USGS/National Land Imaging and USDA/Farm Service Agency\* on September 20-21 in the USGS HQ Auditorium
- Meeting Purpose
  - To address challenges in today's dynamic ortho-imagery marketplace
  - To chart the future path for agencies' civil-operational land imagery collection in the United States
- Topics Covered
  - The status of agencies' overhead land imagery programs
  - Issues and gaps in agencies' current and projected future imagery needs
  - Promising approaches to leverage future land-imaging technologies and business models to achieve agencies' objectives
  - Needs and requirements for a future national overhead imagery architecture
- Desired Outcomes
  - Enhanced community awareness of civil-operational land-imaging needs
  - Development of a national civil land-imaging collection strategy to address Fed/State/Local needs

\*Federal Geographic Committee Imagery Theme Co-Leads

# Invited Summit Participants

- A broad cross-section of leaders and technical experts from the Federal land imaging community, including:
  - The Federal Commercial Remote Sensing Policy and Licensing Communities
  - The U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) member agencies
  - The Steering Committee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)
  - Civil Applications Committee (CAC) Representatives
  - The Steering Committee of the FGDC National Digital Ortho-imagery Program (NDOP)
  - Civil, Defense, and Intel Agencies with commercial GEOINT interests
- More than 550 participants (in-person and virtual)
  - A/V recording of the Summit and all presentations will be made available to registered participants (password-protected site)

# Topics Addressed

- Civil Land Imaging Initiatives (satellite, aerial, UAV)
- Civil agency use of commercial GEOINT data
- State and regional imagery programs
- Assessing the impacts of land imaging
- Future technologies and trends
- User needs
- Potential ways forward for civil agency coordination

# Themes which Emerged

- Changing technologies and business models require new approaches to data acquisition and distribution
- Need for enhanced civil agency coordination (“jointness” in a manner similar to DoD’s joint services approach)
- Agencies must better document and communicate the value of land remote sensing information to decision-makers and funding authorities
- Agencies must also better document and communicate civil user needs to data providers
- Full, free, and open data policies for civil agencies’ imagery maximize the return on Federal investment
- The Federal Government should buy commercial data/imagery once, and use it many times across DoD/IC/civil agencies

# Next Steps

- Communicate civil agencies' data needs and impact of data lost from specific programs to responsible agency leadership and to the Executive Office of the President (OSTP and OMB)
- Develop a civil agency forum to address continued land imaging needs
  - Can draw upon existing mechanisms (FGDC, USGEO, Civil Applications Committee)
  - Routine, structured interactions with DOD/IC agencies
  - Work toward a national land imagery framework
- Define needed data/imagery portfolio for civil agencies
  - To include U.S. civil systems, commercial systems, and foreign systems
  - Common/compatible user needs process(es)
  - Enhanced common definitions and metadata
  - Standardized quality assessment mechanism