

National Digital Orthoimagery Program Subcommittee Charter

(October, 2010)

BACKGROUND

The National Digital Orthoimagery Program (NDOP) Subcommittee was formally chartered as the National Digital Orthophoto Programs in 1993 by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the U. S. Forest Service (USFS), and the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS). It was formed with the purpose of developing and promoting a national strategy that acquires or accesses the best orthoimagery data for Federal agencies while flexible enough to create partnerships with State, local, tribal, and private organizations.

PURPOSE

The NDOP Subcommittee is responsible for developing, promoting, and executing a national strategy for acquisition or development of orthoimagery data for Federal agencies while creating and utilizing partnerships with State, local, tribal, and private organizations. The NDOP Subcommittee is accountable to the FGDC Steering Committee and provides recommendations to the FGDC Coordination Group. These are the policy and operational authorities, respectively, responsible for providing leadership and direction in the use and development of geospatial data and information across Federal geospatial programs and in conjunction with public, academic and private sector partners/stakeholders.

AUTHORITIES

FGDC Subcommittees are chartered under the FGDC Steering Committee and coordinated by the FGDC Secretariat which are granted authority through the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Circular A-16, Executive Order 12906 and the E-Government Act of 2002. In addition, the activities of the NDOP Subcommittee are in accordance with OMB circulars A-16, A-119, A-130, and Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD) 7 and 8.

SCOPE

The NDOP Subcommittee scope of responsibilities will be met through accomplishing the following goals by serving as a focal point to coordinate aerial, satellite (where applicable), and digital orthoimagery requirements among Federal, State, local, tribal, and private organizations:

- Creating partnerships with Federal, State, and local governments, tribal and private organizations.
- Leveraging consortium resources to satisfy multiple requirements and to minimize redundant data production.
- Assuring availability of, and public access to, digital orthoimagery and associated metadata from distributed databases.
- Investigating, evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies to improve orthoimagery accuracy; data acquisition, processing, and access; maintenance strategies; and derivative products.
- Performing cost benefit studies and government cost estimates to ensure the federal government and its partners obtain the most cost efficient orthoimagery products possible.
- Supporting coordination and standards goals, and objectives established by Federal, National and International Standards organizations such as the FGDC, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

OBJECTIVES

Coordination among Federal, State, and local programs for aerial photography and digital orthoimagery requirements constitutes one of the primary objectives of the NDOP Subcommittee. Other objectives include:

- Orthoimagery coverage for all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and all other U.S. territories and possessions.
- Develop and promote a national strategy that acquires or accesses the best orthoimagery data for Federal agencies, yet flexible enough to create partnerships with State, local, tribal, and private organizations.
- Create and distribute annual maintenance plans that graphically depict on-going and planned activities.
- Implement variable-length maintenance cycles that support Federal requirements, and are coordinated with State orthoimagery maintenance programs.
- As much as possible, support a variety of open source, non-proprietary imagery types and formats.
- Support the maintenance and archiving of imagery and digital orthoimagery and associated metadata as part of the national database. Maintain all imagery in the public domain, where possible.
- Support the integration of orthoimagery data into seamless orthoimagery databases of variable resolution.

- Investigate the accessibility, accuracy, integration, and application of data collection from emerging technologies, including, but not limited to: airborne digital and satellite sensors, LIDAR, and IFSAR systems.
- Coordinate Federal and State agency imagery requirements and agreements through the NDOP Subcommittee Program Management Subgroup, Federal, USGS State liaison staff, and State GIS councils/committees or the equivalent. State GIS councils will be, where appropriate, the coordinating body for state and local requirements.
- Support the use of aerial or satellite acquisition strategies when applicable, to provide efficient and practical alternatives to cover specific areas of interest.
- Be aware of Federal and State Emergency Operations requirements for data processing and distribution capabilities to assure and facilitate data use in time of emergency.

MEMBERSHIP

The NDOP Subcommittee shall consist of representatives designated by those Federal agencies, that as part of their mission, collect or finance the collection of orthoimagery data, and those Federal agencies that are legislatively mandated to directly apply these data in support of their missions.

Each member agency of the NDOP Subcommittee shall designate its representatives, alternates if desired, and changes thereto, to the NDOP Subcommittee Chairperson.

Non-profit organizations representing State, local, regional and tribal governments may be added with the consensus of NDOP Subcommittee representatives. Although non-Federal participants may engage in NDOP Subcommittee discussions and offer information and opinions, their participation is limited to a non-decision making role.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chair shall be from a participating NDOP Subcommittee partner agency, and will be rotated on an annual basis to allow each partner agency an opportunity to serve as Chair. The selection of Chair is subject to approval by the NDOP Subcommittee. The role of the Chair is to provide leadership, direction, and coordination.

SUBGROUPS

The NDOP Subcommittee has three Subgroups: the Program Management Subgroup, the Technical Management Subgroup, and the Acquisition Management Subgroup.

Program Management Subgroup: The Program Management Subgroup is responsible for developing the NDOP Subcommittee annual work plan submission to the FDGC Coordination Group and for reporting the annual accomplishments of the NDOP Subcommittee. The Program Management Subgroup is also responsible for all programmatic issues that foster the growth and purpose of NDOP, including external communications to nonparticipating government agencies and the general public through press releases, newsletters, web sites, public forums, workshops, and conferences as appropriate. The Program Management Subgroup also coordinates the annual acquisition requirements among the NDOP Subcommittee members and partners and documents the long-range program plans.

Technical Management Subgroup: The Technical Management Subgroup addresses technical issues related to the research, production, distribution, and application of digital orthoimagery, product specifications, and standards.

Acquisition Management Subgroup: The Acquisition Management Subgroup provides guidance and assistance for the development and execution of agreements and contracts for the collection of imagery or for the production of orthoimagery and related products and services for partnering members and contracting agencies.

PROCEDURES

NDOP Subcommittee meetings shall be held at the call of the NDOP Subcommittee Chair and shall be conducted at least semi-annually. Meetings may be held virtually or in person. Agenda items will be coordinated with other subcommittee members, as well as with State and local partners. Decisions shall be on the basis of consensus agreement among the NDOP Subcommittee.

COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The NDOP Subcommittee will employ tools best suited to meet its responsibilities, such as Subcommittee meetings, national user forums, annual research initiatives, and cooperative venues. The Subcommittee Chair will coordinate the subcommittee activities with other Subcommittees, Work Groups, the FGDC Coordination Group and appropriate venues relevant

to accomplishing key activities and effectively growing the geospatial community.

REPORTS

The NDOP Subcommittee shall develop an annual goals and objectives plan and provide it to the FGDC Coordination Group and FGDC Secretariat. The NDOP Subcommittee will also develop an annual summary of accomplishments. All progress documented as a result of Subcommittee activities shall be submitted to the FGDC Coordination Group and the FGDC Secretariat.

APPROVALS

This Charter shall remain in effect until amended or replaced or until terminated by the FGDC Steering Committee. This Charter will be posted on the FGDC website at www.fgdc.gov.

FGDC Chair & Date

FGDC Vice-Chair & Date