



Federal Geographic Data Committee Key Messages

- **The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)** is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. This nationwide data management effort is known as the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). These coordination activities are guided by the FGDC Steering Committee. This committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and vice chaired by the Deputy Director for Management at the Office on Management and Budget (or designees).
- **Geospatial information is vitally important**
Geospatial information and technology have become ubiquitous and essential components of all aspects of the economy and of government operations. Consumers and customer agencies expect that all services – including government services – should be geospatially enabled and accessible electronically.
 - Geospatial information aids us in understanding supporting information and improves decision-making by telling us who, where and what is affected by virtually any issue (hurricane, wildfire, bridge collapse, mineral deposit, disease incidence, mortgage failure, etc.).
- **Federal geospatial programs work through partnerships**
FGDC agencies have extensive networks of partners working together to develop and maintain the national geospatial infrastructure, including Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, as well as private sector, academic, and non-profit organizations. Agencies work through partnerships to ensure that the Nation has universally accessible and easy-to-use geospatial information.
- **A strong foundation is in place; challenges and opportunities remain**
FGDC agencies and partners have laid a strong geospatial foundation over many years of work – including development of base geospatial information, common standards, and partnership networks. We are leading efforts to address challenges and opportunities to fully meet the Nation's geospatial needs.
- **Improving management practices – The Geospatial Line of Business**
The Geospatial Line of Business is a government-wide initiative, sponsored by the Office of Management and Budget that focuses on improving government effectiveness by promoting the use of geospatial information in order to improve

both the policy decisions and the internal business processes of Federal agencies. The initiative, which is coordinated by the FGDC, includes the following major components:

Geospatial SmartBuy Initiative

Under a “SmartBuy” acquisition initiative led by the Department of the Interior and GSA, Federal agencies will be able to improve their efficiency and save taxpayers money by consolidating their purchases of geospatial technology. A multi-vendor Blanket Purchase Agreement, which is under development, will consolidate purchases, provide significant cost savings, and greatly improve the government’s access to high quality commercial geospatial software, packaged data, and related products.

A-16 Supplemental Guidance

Draft Supplemental Guidance to OMB Circular A-16 has been developed to clarify roles, responsibilities, and management processes to help agencies more systematically and effectively implement their geospatial management responsibilities. The Guidance sets the framework for lifecycle-based portfolio management and establishes a reporting process to increase transparency in the development and maintenance of nationally significant geospatial datasets. It also provides a standard lexicon of terms for use in this process. It offers a decision process for adding, modifying, or deleting specific themes or datasets from the Circular based on alignment with long-term national strategies or goals, specific business requirements, benefits, and costs. Most importantly, it establishes a meaningful process for continuously improving nationally important geospatial data.

- **FGDC provides leadership to meet our geospatial goals**

The FGDC provides a focal point for meeting the Government’s internal, external, and international geospatial responsibilities. We are forging the linkages to foster accessible information and promote visual display of this core information both within the department and across government.



Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/>

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. This nationwide data management effort is known as the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\)](#). These coordination activities are facilitated by the FGDC Secretariat, hosted within the U.S. Geological Survey.

Purpose: The FGDC provides leadership and facilitates coordination between agencies, governments, academia, industry and professional organizations in developing geographic information and technology critical to managing the nation.

Authority: The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) established the FGDC in 1990, and re-chartered the committee in its August 2002 revision of Circular A-16, "Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities." Executive Order 12906 assigns NSDI implementation responsibility to the FGDC.

- FGDC Chair: Secretary of the Department of the Interior
- FGDC Vice-Chair: Deputy Director for Management, OMB
- FGDC members include the Executive Office of the President, Cabinet level and independent Federal agencies
- Numerous stakeholder organizations participate in FGDC activities representing the interests of state and local government, industry, and professional organizations.

Value Proposition:

- Foster cross agency and government-wide collaboration including Federal, State, local, and Tribal government, professional organizations and industry partners
- Promote information sharing and use of standards related to geospatial information
- Promote collaboration in developing and sustaining the NSDI
- Identify and coordinate efforts, to reduce

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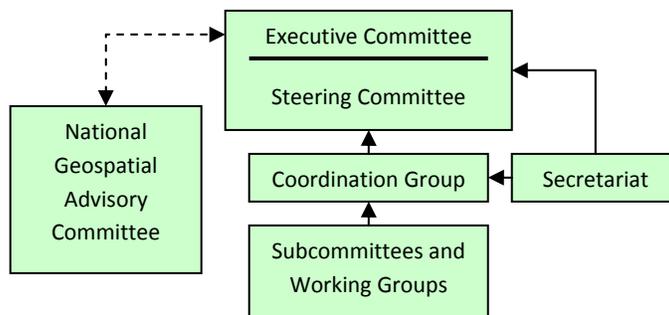
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redundancies, increase data access/use, and best leverage resources to manage and utilize geospatial information investments.

Governance:

- The **Steering Committee** sets high-level strategic direction for the FGDC and is led by a subset of **Executive Committee** members
- The FGDC **Coordination Group** advises on the day-to day business of the FGDC
- Agency-led **Subcommittees** and **Working Groups** address specific geospatial issues
- Non-Federal constituents provide advice through the **National Geospatial Advisory Committee**.



Key FGDC programs:

- Geospatial Line of Business
- Imagery for the Nation (IFTN)
- Cooperative Agreements Program

NSDI Components:

- Clearinghouse Network: a community of distributed data providers who publish searchable collections of metadata describing their geospatial data resources through the Geospatial One-Stop data portal and clearinghouse.
- Metadata: data about data used to determine fitness-for-use and leverage data investment.
- Framework: geospatial data themes of national significance.
- Standards: NSDI is built on the universal use of geospatial data standards and protocols.



National Geospatial Advisory Committee

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac>

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is a Federal Advisory Committee established in January, 2008 to provide external advice and recommendations to the member agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

Purpose:

The NGAC provides advice and recommendations related to:

- The management of Federal and national geospatial programs
- The development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- The implementation of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906

Organization:

The NGAC reports to the Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (Secretary of the Interior or designee). The FGDC Staff Director serves as the Designated Federal Officer for the NGAC. The FGDC Secretariat provides staff support for the operations of the NGAC.

The NGAC has a balanced membership of 28 committee members representing a variety of organizations involved in geospatial issues, including the private sector, non-profit organizations, academia, and all levels of government (Federal, State, County, Local, Tribal).

The Chair of the NGAC is Anne Hale Miglarese (Booz Allen Hamilton). The Vice-Chair is Steven Wallach (U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency). Additional information about the NGAC, including a list of committee members, is available at www.fgdc.gov/ngac

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Value Proposition:

- The NGAC reviews and provides recommendations on nationally significant geospatial policy and management issues
- The NGAC provides a forum to convey views representative of our partners and stakeholders
- The NGAC promotes two-way communication on issues of common interest to the national geospatial community

Key Activities:

The NGAC has developed a plan of action, adopted bylaws and operating procedures, and has provided advice and recommendations on the following topics:

- Imagery for the Nation
- Geospatial Line of Business
- National Land Parcel Data
- Transition Recommendations
- "Changing Landscape" of Geospatial Technology

The NGAC has established subcommittees to address the following new and ongoing issues:

- Vision
- Governance/Circular A-16
- Transition Recommendations
- Changing Landscape
- National Land Parcel Data
- The National Map
- Geospatial Partnerships
- Outreach & Communications

NGAC Meetings:

The NGAC plans to meet on a quarterly basis in 2009. The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for February 4-5, 2009 in Alexandria, VA.



Geospatial Line of Business

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/geospatial-lob>

The Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) is a government wide initiative sponsored by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) promoting effective geospatial investment and better performance across the Federal government for technology and information. The Geospatial LoB focuses on improving the effectiveness of government through the widespread use of geospatial information, which aims to improve the quality and timeliness of agency decision-making across a wide variety of programmatic contexts.

Purpose: The Geospatial LoB helps to improve the efficiency of government by making geospatial data more accessible, reliable, and less expensive to acquire through enhanced data-sharing and more effective management of investments.

Value Proposition:

- Increase use and accessibility of geospatial technology and information to inform decision-making and leverage federally created information resources
- Foster cross agency and government-wide collaboration including industry partners
- Create cost savings and cost avoidance through leveraging the government-wide portfolio of geospatial information and technology investment
- Mature and sustain vitality of geospatial segment architecture and responsible stewardship of geospatial information.

The Geospatial Line of Business is successful because of the solid participation of its twenty-six partner agencies. As the efforts evolve, the work and partnerships are extending to State, local and tribal governments. One exciting example is the development of a new SmartBuy by the Common Services Working Group which is extending the buying power of combined federal agencies to State, local and tribal governments interested in purchasing geospatial technology to better accomplish their own missions and support

the broader geospatial user community.

The Geospatial Line of Business accomplishes its work through the following multiple inter-agency functional Work Groups:

- Common Services – evaluates/expands government-wide acquisition of software, tools and information
- Lifecycle Management – evaluates/improves geospatial data management processes
- Technical Architecture – technology and telecommunications infrastructure oversight
- Geo-enabled Business – identifies Federal program geo-enabled business needs
- Grants & Contracts – develops common grants and federal contracts language

Geospatial LoB efforts are governed through the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Steering Committee and Coordination Group in coordination with the Office of Management & Budget and E-Gov Act. Work Groups are formed and retired to achieve evolving objectives.

The FGDC Secretariat's Managing Partner leads the Geospatial LoB. The FGDC Secretariat provides staff, cross-agency coordination, holds reporting responsibility and provides all budget management and resources for the line of business efforts as agreed through cross-agency memorandums of agreement.

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Geospatial SmartBUY

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/geospatial-lob>

Aim to Buy Smart – and Save Money in the Geospatial World – that’s Geospatial SmartBuy

Under a broad initiative supported by the Department of the Interior, many Federal agencies will be able to improve their efficiency and save taxpayers money by consolidating their purchases of geospatial technology under the government-wide Geospatial Line of Business. In the works is a multi-vendor Blanket Purchase Agreement - potentially the largest in history - that will provide small, medium, and large government users a common portfolio of geospatial technology options.

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Using a SmartBuy contract vehicle to **consolidate** purchase of geospatial technology will *help reduce costs and greatly improve the government’s access* to high quality commercial geospatial software, packaged data and related products.

Why is a new SmartBuy needed?

Federal agencies currently use many of the same commercial products to perform geospatial operations, such as producing maps and conducting geographic analysis. However, they use very different contractual vehicles in procuring geospatial software and services. This practice hinders agency savings and forces commercial vendors to invest disproportionately in coordinating dozens, if not hundreds, of separate accounts within an agency or department. As a consequence, many agencies do not have access to other services the commercial sector might provide, such as training and technical support.

The current SmartBuy offers only one vendor, gives only large user agencies worthwhile discounts, and only federal agencies may use it.

The team of federal agencies is acting with the General Services Administration SmartBUY Team to implement the multi-vendor Blanket Purchase Agreement to provide a common set of available

software and services in geospatial technology. Types of software within the scope of the BPA include computer aided design, web-based visualization, imagery analysis, geocoding, national and international road networks, and geospatial analytics and modeling, as well as packaged data.

Who is expected to use the Geospatial SmartBuy?

- Agencies participating in the GeoLOB
- Federal civilian & defense agencies
- State, tribal & local governments

Anticipated Geospatial SmartBuy Benefits:

- Cost savings and improved efficiency across government;
- Enhanced alignment with the Federal Enterprise Architecture by enabling access by all agencies to a common set of services and software;
- Increased access to value-added services such as training, integration services from OEM experts
- More effective partnerships across the vendor community through a single agreement promoting product and service interoperability;
- Easier access to geospatial technology.

Geospatial SmartBuy – coming Spring, 2009

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Imagery for the Nation (IFTN)

For more information: <http://www.fgdc.gov/iftn>

IFTN Vision: The nation will have a sustainable and flexible digital imagery program that meets the needs of local, State, regional, Tribal and Federal agencies.

Purpose: IFTN is envisioned to be a Federal program, conducted in partnership with State and local governments, to address the nation's basic business needs for imagery. The IFTN Phase 1 Project was initiated to explore development of an IFTN program.

Value Proposition: Imagery is used for countless applications in all levels of government and sectors, and has been embraced by the public through its use in online tools such as Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth. Partnerships between levels of government to acquire imagery data have been successful and growing because the benefits of a coordinated approach are clear: lower costs, reduced duplication of effort, greater standardization and more data available for the full spectrum of uses. To improve coordination and maximize taxpayer dollar investments in these data, the IFTN vision was designed by the National States Geographic Information Council and endorsed by the National Digital Orthophoto Program, a Federal imagery coordination body. Building on the broad-based consensus on the IFTN vision, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) initiated the IFTN Phase 1 Project to begin planning for Federal implementation of an IFTN program. Goals are to:

- **Define Federal imagery requirements and document expenditures** - Though the Federal government expends significant resources on imagery data, to date Federal requirements and levels of expenditures have not been consistently documented, nor does a systematic approach exist for effectively managing this investment across the Federal enterprise.

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- **Improve Federal imagery acquisition within existing resources and capabilities** – Goals are to institutionalize funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and to broaden coordination of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and U.S. Geological Survey's Urban Area Imagery Partnership (UAIP).
- **Explore IFTN implementation** – A preliminary plan is being developed for implementing an IFTN program in the Federal government.
- **Institutionalize imagery funding** – The project is exploring how Federal agencies can move from the "tin cup" approach of project-based funding to institutionalize reliable funding at the executive level.
- **Model a process for Federal enterprise geospatial data acquisition efforts** – The processes used and lessons learned in the Phase 1 Project to advance towards the IFTN vision are applicable to other national geospatial initiatives.

The implementation of a comprehensive and integrated imagery program requires an unprecedented level of cross-agency coordination and executive oversight. The Phase 1 Project has begun to address these challenges and will conclude in early 2009 with a report outlining a set of next steps towards implementing IFTN. Making the IFTN vision a reality depends on the sustained support and engagement of the FGDC Chair (the DOI Secretary or designee) and the FGDC Executive Committee to tackle the next phase of IFTN development.





National Land Parcel Data for Economic Recovery and Emergency Management

National digital land parcel data will support our nation's priorities for economic recovery, emergency management and energy security.

Purpose: Digital land parcel data are a critical component supporting key national programs and priorities. Parcel information, combined with other geographic information, is used to support numerous other programs such as management of emergency situations (including wildland fire and hurricanes), the development of domestic energy resources, management of private and public lands, support of business activities, and monitoring regulatory compliance. In addition, the recently completed National Research Council report, "National Land Parcel Data: A Vision for the Future" and subsequent work have identified how parcel level information across the country can be used in developing effective responses to the current mortgage crisis. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Cadastral Subcommittee has been charged with convening stakeholders in the financial community to demonstrate how parcel information can help support a data-driven response to the mortgage crisis. To more efficiently and effectively support these applications, parcel data must be provided by local and state as well as federal sources and made available in a common format.

Background: The Cadastral Subcommittee has developed and facilitated the implementation of nationally based, business driven standards for cadastral data, such as wildland fire and emergency response. Through core data

implementation guidelines, the Subcommittee provides national parcel standards that can provide the data fuel for supporting emergency management, energy development and economic recovery applications. The Cadastral Subcommittee maintains an inventory on the status of parcel data automation across the country and supports the publishing of standardized parcel data. Additional details on the Cadastral Subcommittee are available at its website: <http://nationalcad.org>.

Strategy and Action Steps: The FGDC has recommended that the Cadastral Subcommittee sponsor a stakeholder meeting for the development of national land parcel data to respond to the immediate crisis. This data must be developed and standardized in partnership and collaboration with state, local, federal and tribal government organizations as well as private industry. This will complete the requirements for parcel/cadastral data needed to meet the demands of our nation's priorities.

The following steps have been identified for these activities.

- Analyze the inventory and document the resources needed for parcel data throughout the nation.
- Initiate funding grants based on resource and priority needs for partnerships between federal, state, local and tribal governments, supported by private industry, to collect, standardize, and serve land parcel data.
- Implement a national transparent access portal for all applications and users.
- Monitor progress in accordance with approved project plans at the state level and track expenditures/deliverables.

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