Federal Geographic Data Committee

Newsletter

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Contents

This issue of the FGDC News highlights the OMB Information Initiative, an effort to develop a new paradigm for collecting, sharing, and funding spatial data.

NSDI

National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Organizations working together to find, produce, and share geographic data to solve community problems.

Spatial Data Activities on the Rise

Diverse Initiatives Address Spatial Information

Spatial information is generating increasing and widespread attention. There is a growing recognition that this information is important not only to GIS, but to a broad spectrum of government activities, and that it can play a crucial role as an organizing tool for government service delivery. Accordingly, spatial data activities and initiatives are also increasing. And as the potential of spatial data gains recognition, spatial data activities are moving beyond the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Many of these initiatives address spatial data activities and issues directly, while others include spatial data as a component. Furthermore, while each of these activities is providing specific results, synergies among the activities are creating further benefits.

E-Government. Internet access to government information and services is a growing trend. In particular, the FirstGov website (**www.firstgov.gov**) has been developed to provide a single-entry site at which to find information from local, state, and U.S. government agencies websites. Many state and local governments have also developed e-government sites.

From the geospatial data perspective, the challenge is to find the appropriate fit or use for such data in e-government initiatives. Spatial data must be viewed as a fundamental building block of such facilities — providing the means to find government services or deliver government program objectives on a geographic basis. Achieving this goal involves more than providing a "button" for spatial data. It will require the integration of spatial data into e-government facilities. "G-government is an enabler of e-government," explains John Moeller, FGDC staff director.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Information Initiative. This initiative began in the summer of 2000 with a public roundtable to explore how to overcome the financial and institutional barriers to the sharing of geospatial information. This initiative seeks to improve the quality of collected information while reducing the collection burden and maximizing the benefits of technology. (See article.)

Aurora Partnership. This three-year-old collaboration of researchers, practitioners, and decision makers focuses on the development and use of analytical, visualization, and simulation tools for place-based management. Participants are from federal, state, and

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local government agencies, educational institutions, private sector companies, and other non-governmental organizations, and represent a broad class of users and developers of spatial data, geographic information systems, and the evolving spatial data infrastructure. They have held several national meetings, and are developing interest groups and strategies ranging from education and stakeholder involvement mechanisms to science integration and systems modeling, as well as other aspects of place-based decision support systems. See the Aurora Partnership website (**www.aurorapartnership.org**) for more information.

GeoData Alliance. A new nonprofit membership organization, the GeoData Alliance, is being launched to bring the geodata community together for dialogue and decision-making. "The formation of the GeoData Alliance will help make the FGDC even more effective. Now that we have a neutral forum where all organizations can work together, we can really gain momentum in building the NSDI", said John Moeller, FGDC Staff Director. The call for the creation of a new organization came out of the June 1999 National GeoData Forum. The GDA, incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit in November 2000, is a membership organization open to individuals and institutions. The first annual meeting of the GDA will be held in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the 2001 National GeoData Forum. See the conference announcement on page 11.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) and Digital Earth. These international initiatives continue to facilitate the development, compatibility, sharing, and usefulness of geospatial data sets among countries and regions. (For more information on these initiatives, see the Spring 2000 issue of the FGDC Newsletter or visit the websites for GSDI (**www.gsdi.org**), Digital Earth (**www.digitalearth.gov**).

FEMA Cooperating Technical State (CTS) Agreement with North Carolina. This Federal Emergency Management Agency CTS agreement is an innovative arrangement to collaboratively update, create, and maintain floodplain data. Aimed at mitigating flooding and hurricane hazards, the agreement brings together 22 North Carolina state, federal, and local organizations in an effort that included implementing the NSDI. For developing news on this project, see the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program website at **www.netfloodmaps.com**.

Revision of OMB Circular A-16. Dating back to 1953, this document provides guidance to federal agencies involved in mapping and geographic data activities. The latest revision will include incorporation of the NSDI and the establishment of OMB in a leadership role in the coordination of the FGDC.

Other spatial data activities include the Community/Federal Information Partnership (FGDC Newsletter, Spring 2000) and the NSDI Community Demonstration Projects (FGDC Newsletter, Winter 1998), which support the use of geospatial data for local decision-making.

All of these spatial data activities involve three important aspects: technological, institutional, and financial. This issue of the FGDC Newsletter focuses on the OMB Information Initiative, "Collecting Information in the Information Age," which concentrates on the financial and institutional aspects. Future issues of the newsletter will focus on other spatial data initiatives.

OMB Information Initiative

Implementing a New Paradigm

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has developed an initiative to examine how government can improve the quality of the information it collects while minimizing the collection burden and maximizing the benefits of information technology. Spatial information is the key component of this initiative.

A New Paradigm Takes Shape

Spatial data infrastructure has become an essential part of the nation's capital infrastructure, yet no widespread capital financing model for spatial data has emerged. Spatial data infrastructure components continue to be funded by "stove-piped" annual appropriations. This mismatch between the need for long-term capital financing of spatial data development and the current reliance on annual appropriations remains one of the chief obstacles to the attainment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Government entities at all levels, as well as private sector companies and other organizations, are making major investments in the spatial data they need for their operations. The challenge for government agencies is to develop common criteria for spatial data infrastructure investments, align annual public and private budget cycles more effectively, and pool and leverage spatial data investments.

As part of the Information Initiative, OMB conducted a series of public roundtable meetings exploring how to improve the quality of the spatial data government entities collect while minimizing the collection burden. The dialogue focused on the need to overcome the financial and institutional barriers to sharing spatial information among federal, state, local, and tribal organizations, and the private sector. In response to the roundtable findings, OMB, in cooperation with the FGDC; the National Performance Review; the Council for Excellence in Government; Urban Logic, a New York based nonprofit institution; and other public and private sector stakeholders formulated the OMB Information Initiative.

The major aspects of the new paradigm include creating collaborative public-private partnerships, developing direction from the bottom up, aligning spatial infrastructure investments, pooling and leveraging investments, sharing data collection, allocating costs fairly, and capturing economies of scale. Important tasks involve role re-engineering — including rethinking the federal role — and developing common investment criteria. The results should provide benefits for many important activities, including emergency management, law enforcement, traffic and transportation, environmental protection and management, economic development and planning, disease control, tax assessment, and smart growth. In addition, all partners will benefit through improved operations and services, improved decision-making, the ability to be more responsive to constituents, the ability to improve accountability, improved customer service, and reduction of overall costs.

Implementation Strategy

Myriad participants will work together within a structure comprising four interacting components:

Implementation Teams (I-Teams) will implement the new paradigm by organizing institutions in their states and regions to build statewide portions of the NSDI. The focus of the teams' efforts will be, but not limited to, the basic themes of Framework data. Participants will include local, state, federal, and tribal organizations, private sector companies, and other organizations. Arrangements will include public-private partnerships and federal champions. Each I-Team will prepare a comprehensive plan for compiling maintaining, and financing spatial infrastructure in its area. It will also align partners' needs and resources, identify partners' responsibilities, and provide incremental milestones. The I-Teams' plans and activities will include implementation of NSDI principals and the development, testing, and use of standards.

A Federal Partners Team will focus federal agency efforts, respond to and coordinate with I-Teams, and explore new alternatives to develop needed standards. The Federal Partners Team will comprise senior officials of OMB, FGDC, U.S. Geological Survey, National Ocean Service, Bureau of the U.S. Census, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and other interested agencies.

A Finance Solutions Team (FS Team) will identify and recommend inter-governmental and public-private financing alternatives to support the NSDI and the I-Teams. The FS Team will act as investment advisors to the I-Teams and the Federal Partners. It will research and structure methods to improve the origination, performance, and alignment of spatial data infrastructure investments. Its three key tasks will be to:

- Build a business case. The FS Team will develop a business case, value proposition, and financing options for the I-Teams

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and Federal Partners to use in preparing their working plans and budget proposals. It will also help the geospatial community explain to legislative bodies the benefits of aligning spatial data infrastructure investments to build the NSDI.

- Explore better use of the existing appropriations structure. The FS Team will explore better ways to fund spatial data infrastructure investments by aligning and optimizing appropriations, budget, and procurement cycles at all levels of government, including interagency and crosscutting mechanisms. It will also analyze cash flows and return on investment for spatial data infrastructure and will develop common investment criteria and financing options.
- Suggest new funding mechanisms. The FS Team will use the cash flows analysis, preliminary investment criteria, and other findings to design sustainable capital financing options, such as infrastructure bonds or revolving funds.

A Technology Advisory Group (TAG) will keep I-Teams and Federal Partners informed about technology innovations and will be available to solve common technology challenges. By working with I-Teams to develop and test new products and solution, the TAG will accelerate the dissemination of knowledge about building interoperable networks and open systems. The TAG is open to all vendors and is led by the OpenGIS Consortium. It will be a resource for I-Teams and will also help the FS Team use standards to develop strategies for procurement, budgeting, and capital pooling.

The Initiative is Moving Forward

The OMB initiative is moving forward with the development of a website for contact information, and to provide the capability for participants to work collaboratively within and between teams. I-Teams have already been formed in New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and Metropolitan New York City. Watch the FGDC website (**www.fgdc.gov/I-Team.html**) for information on this initiative as implementation begins in the near future.

Financing the NSDI: Report Sets New Directions

Financing the NSDI: National Spatial Data Infrastructure, a report produced by Urban Logic, a New York based non-profit organization, found new ways to finance federal needs for better spatial data. It represents a significant accomplishment and resource for use in considering a wide array of potential opportunities to align and leverage resources and investments for spatial data activities in support of the NSDI.

The report illustrates the fact that current approaches for developing and funding spatial data result in vast amounts of spatial data developed for specific governmental and private sector needs, yet these data do not contribute to the development of the NSDI most effectively. Although the FGDC and its efforts to build the NSDI and improve the reliability, consistency, and dissemination of spatial data have made significant progress, new approaches are needed to fully realize the NSDI. Maximizing the value of spatial data requires:

1) maintenance of the data as current and accurate in a standardized form useful outside of the organization that collects them;

2) pooling of the data through the Internet, intranets, or other data service bureaus for use in future interoperable business settings; and

3) decision support tools for using and leveraging the data into information and ultimately knowledge for society.

These maximizing activities, however, require capital to transform and align legacy and inconsistent spatial data into more universally transacted commodities. The report concentrated on ways to do this.

Urban Logic found financial support for treating the NSDI as true infrastructure-long lived assets used by multiple sectors of the economy and essential to conducting most of society's economic and social processes. The development of much

spatial data is precipitated by federal data mandates that are duplicated in state, county, and city laws and regulations. The cascade of mandates that must be funded and satisfied every year at every level of government creates enough intergovernmental cash flows to fund the NSDI by pooling them and perhaps using them collaboratively to greater common advantage. As part of their study, Urban Logic reviewed 21 models for partnerships and fund pooling in other industries, and found that the models shared characteristics that can be emulated in constructing a flexible and adaptive financing model for the NSDI. The report emphasizes that finance is an available, potent, and largely untapped dimension for achieving the NSDI vision.

The report proposed a model that has two key components: consortia and shared investment criteria. The report recommends approaching the NSDI as a network of data consortia organized by region, industry, and thematic issues. These regional, industry and interest group consortia would pool and align intergovernmental and public-private investments in spatial data acquisition and maintenance and supporting services. The report focuses on financing methods and structures, suggesting that an information technology development and finance entity could be created to underwrite information technology investments like spatial information services. This specialized bank could be formed as a public-private partnership or as a quasi-governmental institution, with appropriate oversight and citizen accountability to reflect public policy benefits and concerns. The report also recommends the establishment of a public-private partnership to align access to and enhance the robustness of the related business services — financing, bulk procurement, Internet and digital democracy, data and systems quality assurance, public policy and legal strategies, and technology transfer — that the consortia need to grow.

Accordingly, the report makes six specific recommendations for financing the NSDI:

1) Organize a range of capital planning and other commonly desired strategies that affect the timing, amount, recurrence, and credit quality of spatial data investments.

2) Develop a method of branding a spatial data set's quality to meet users demands for trustworthy data from reliable sources.

3) Construct consortia of privately led, publicly accountable spatial information service bureaus that pool community capital and information resources, and establish an association of consortia to coordinate their efforts.

4) Adopt a finance strategy for the NSDI that will fuel demand for supporting business services that speed spatial technology transactions using consistent investment standards, while leaving each consortium and its members free to conduct their own information, project, and operational support services.

5) Permit the commercial aspects of the NSDI to flourish.

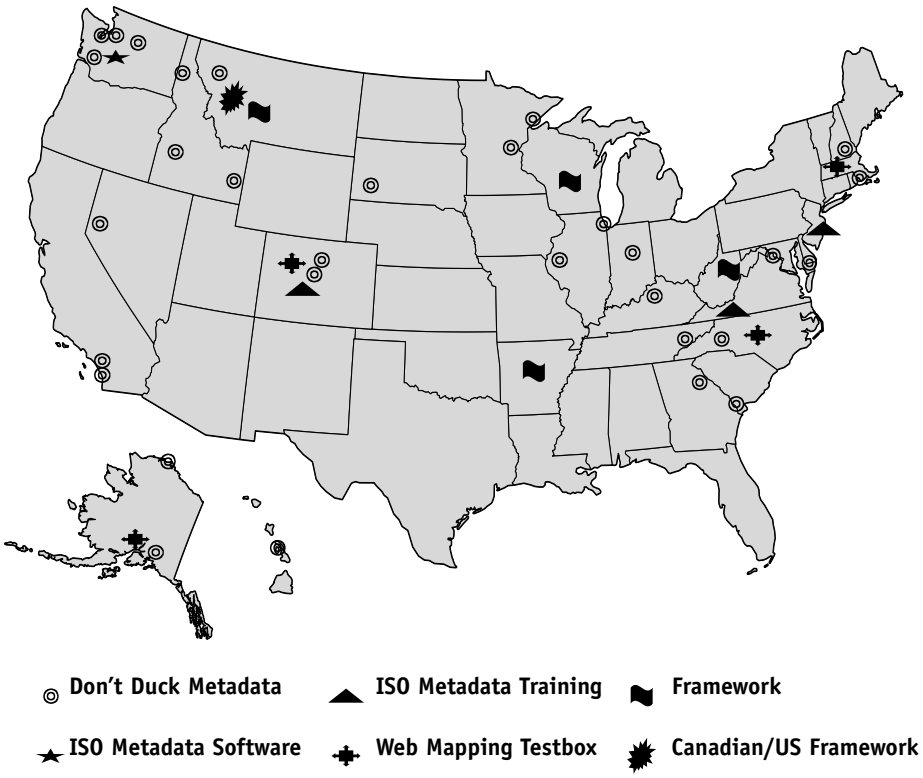
6) Organize appropriate public sector support.

Urban Logic sees many benefits to pursuing this course of action, including adding more dependability and liquidity to spatial information services capital sources, reducing federal outlays for spatial data, providing an infusion of market-leveraged capital to address data quality and coverage, encouraging cooperation and efficiency among agencies and levels of government, leveraging the work of the FGDC, OpenGIS Consortium, and other standards development organizations, and increasing spatial data sharing and access.

Note: This article is summarized from Financing the NSDI: National Spatial Data Infrastructure, *copyright 2000 by Urban Logic, New York, New York (***www.urbanlogic.org***). The full report is available at the FGDC website.*

2000 NSDI CAP Awards Announced

2000 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program Projects



The FGDC announced 44 projects awarded under the fiscal year 2000 Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP). A total of approximately $1,000,000 is being provided for the one-year program that began in Fall 2000. Highlights this year include International Organization for Standardization (ISO) metadata activities and a cross-border project. The establishment of the metadata standard by the ISO is imminent this year. Through two categories of CAP projects, the FGDC is providing funds to assist in the smooth transition to the new standard. The 2000 CAP program also marks the first time that the FGDC has provided funds to assist framework activities for a cross-border partnership, the Joint Canadian/U.S. Framework Project.

This 2000 CAP awards provide funding assistance in six categories:

(1) ***Don't Duck Metadata.*** Development of capabilities to document organizations' data for Internet discovery.

(2) ***ISO Metadata Software Development.*** Development of public domain software for current metadata conversion to the new ISO standard.

(3) ***ISO Metadata Training Development.*** Development and implementation of an ISO metadata training program and materials for the GIS community.

(4) ***Web Mapping Testbed Projects.*** Development of the technical capabilities for data users to discover and view map data from multiple map servers through the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. Projects will be based on and assist in the refinement of the OpenGIS Consortium's specification for web mapping.

(5) ***Framework Demonstration Projects.*** Implementation of partnership projects' on-going abilities to achieve sound community decision-making through collaborative use, maintenance, and sharing of basic geographic data.

(6) ***Joint Canadian/U.S. Framework Project.*** This project focuses on cross-border collaborative activities that build and maintain shared Framework data. The FGDC is partnering with GeoConnections (**www.geoconnections.org**), its Canadian counterpart, in funding support for this effort.

Since 1994 the annual NSDI CAP program has funded innovation in the GIS community to build the infrastructure to effectively discover, share, manage, and use digital geographic data. This is a broad effort that involves people, organizational know-how, best business practices, collaboration, education, tools, technology, the Internet, standards, and data. Collaboration has become an integral part of GIS organization in leveraging the limited resources available to organizations to meet the demand of communities to create and use geospatial data for sound decision-making.

The FGDC will announce awards for the 2001 CAP Program beginning this April. Funding was provided for four categories of projects; metadata implementation assistance, metadata trainer assistance, clearinghouse integration with web mapping projects, and U.S. and Canadian collaborative framework project. See the FGDC website for announcement of awards.

CAP 2000 Awardees

Category 1 — Don't Duck Metadata

Alaska State Geospatial Data Clearinghouse
Dorothy Mortenson
Anchorage, Alaska

North Slope Borough
Planning Department
Allison Graves
Barrow, Alaska

San Diego State
University Foundation
Richard Wright
San Diego, California

White Mountain
Research Station
Susan Szewczak
Bishop, California

U.S. National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Brian T. Carlstrom
Denver, Colorado

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Geographic Data
Service Center
W.J. Bonner, JR.
Lakewood, Colorado

Washington GIS Consortium
Robert Gaines
Washington, District of Columbia

Savannah River
Ecology Laboratory
Christopher Romanek
Athens, Georgia

Hawaii Geographic Information
Coordination Council
Royce Jones
Honolulu, Hawaii

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Gregory Gault
Boise, Idaho

Idaho State University
GIS Training & Research Center
Keith T. Weber
Pocatello, Idaho

Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Frank Roberts
Plummer, Idaho

Northeastern Illinois
Planning Commission
Nina Savar
Chicago, Illinois

Adams County
Highway Department
Richard Klusmeyer
Quincy, Illinois

Indiana University
Robin A. Crumrin
Indianapolis, Indiana

Kentucky Office of
Geographic Information
Ted Stumbur
Frankfort, Kentucky

Salisbury State University
Michael Scott
Salisbury, Maryland

Office of Strategic &
Long Range Planning
Christopher Cialek
St. Paul, Minnesota

Arrowhead Regional
Development Commission
David Yapel
Duluth, Minnesota

Confederated Salish &
Kootenai Tribes
Peter Gallard
Pablo, Montana

University of Nevada, Reno
Biological Resources
Research Center
Robert Elston
Reno, Nevada

Central New Hampshire
Regional Planning
Commission
Michael Tardiff
Penacook, New Hampshire

Lynda Dorian Wayne
Asheville, North Carolina

University of Rhode Island
Environmental Data Center
Peter V. August
Kingston, Rhode Island

U.S. Geological Survey
Water Resources Division
Janet Carter
Rapid City, South Dakota

University of Tennessee Library
James Lloyd
Knoxville Tennessee

U.S. National Park Service
Pacific West Region
Craig Dalby
Seattle, Washington

U.S. Geological Survey
FRESC-Cascadia Field Station
David L. Peterson
Seattle, Washington

U.S. National Ocean Service
Peter Leon
Seattle, Washington

Pacific Biodiversity Institute
Jason W. Karl
Winthrop, Washington

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Brian G. Voigt
Olympia, Washington

Category 2 — ISO Metadata Software Development

RTSe-USA, Inc.
Bruce Westcott
Redmond, Washington

CAP 2000 Awardees (continued)

Category 3 — ISO Metadata Training Development

U.S. Geological Survey
Center for Biological Informatics
Sharon Shin
Denver, Colorado

New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Paul Caris
Trenton, New Jersey

Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Lila Borg Wills
Blacksburg, Virginia

Category 4 — Web Mapping Testbed Projects

Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Joseph Ferreira, Jr.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

North Carolina Center for
Geographic Information
& Analysis
Tim Johnson
Raleigh, North Carolina

U.S. National Geophysical
Data Center
Ray E. Habermann
Boulder, Colorado

U.S. Geological Survey
EROS
Mark Shasby
Anchorage, Alaska

Category 5 — Framework Demonstration Projects

Canaan Valley Institute
Paul Kinder
Davis, West Virginia

Montana Department
of Administration
Stewart Kirkpatrick
Helena, Montana

University of Arkansas
Center for Advanced
Spatial Technologies
Fred Limp
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Wisconsin State
Cartographer's Office
Ted Koch
Madison, Wisconsin

Category 6 — Joint Canadian/U.S. Framework Project

US Lead

Montana State University
Geographic Information &
Analysis Center
Richard Aspinall
Bozeman, Montana

Canadian Lead

Geomar Consulting Ltd.
Jack Wierzchowski
Craig Stewart
Grand Forks, British Columbia

Additional information and contact information can be found at the FGDC website.

FGDC Now Supporting GSDI Secretariat

At the GSDI 4 Conference in South Africa last year, the GSDI steering committee resolved to accept the FGDC's proposal to establish a permanent GSDI secretariat supported by the FGDC secretariat in Reston, Virginia. The secretariat will provide a consistent and pervasive level of resources to assist in managing approved steering committee activities. The secretariat will have a base level of staffing provided by the FGDC and other member nations to manage core GSDI technical, outreach, policy and other programs under the direction of the steering committee.

To date, the permanent secretariat has successfully transitioned the custodianship of the GSDI website from the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information to the FGDC. The website will be upgraded over the next few months to add a global geospatial data search capability and to improve access to the many GSDI information resources. A few of the other initiatives being managed by the secretariat include an updated survey of SDI initiatives around the world, the development of case studies for the GSDI, and the creation of a GSDI Newsletter. The secretariat has established a GSDI program plan to manage all GSDI activities according to steering committee guidance. Several member nations have indicated interest in supporting the secretariat by detailing personnel to Reston or by providing virtual support via the Internet. For more information see the GSDI website at **www.gsdi.org**

GSDI 5 Conference

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) initiative will hold its fifth conference May 21–25 at the Hotel Las America in Cartagena, Colombia. The conference theme is "Sustainable Development: GSDI for Improved Decision-making." Organized by the GSDI Steering Committee, the Permanent Committee on SDI for the Americas, the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and the Agustin Codazzi Geography Institute, the GSDI 5 conference promises to be an exciting and informative event focused on the further development and application of a growing global spatial data infrastructure to help improve problem-solving for critical issues at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

The International Steering Committee on Global Mapping and the Permanent Committee on SDI for the Americas will also be convening meetings as part of the GSDI Conference.

Details on the conference program, registration, and the call for papers are available at the GSDI web site (**www.gsdi.org**). Register early—GSDI 5 promises to be one of the largest gatherings of the SDI community yet!

Metadata

Metadata Trainer Registry Now Online

The FGDC has developed a Metadata Trainer Registry that provides information about available metadata training classes. The registry helps people find scheduled metadata classes and trainers in their area to meet their specific metadata training needs. The FGDC Metadata Training Calendar is available at **http://www.fgdc.gov.cgi-bin/people/META/WebEvent/WebEvent**. Trainers can register their classes at **http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/toollist/trainers_reg.html**. A list of the self-registered trainers is available at the Metadata Trainers link (**http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/toollist/trainers.html**) at the FGDC website. For further information, contact Rick Pearsall, FGDC Metadata Coordinator at 703-648-4532 or rpearsal@usgs.gov.

Standards

FGDC Endorses Utilities Data Content Standard

The FGDC endorsed the Utilities Data Content Standard (**http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub3_1.html**), FGDC-STD-010-2000, in June 2000. The Utilities Data Content Standard specifies the names, definitions, and domains for utility system components that can be geospatially depicted as feature types and their non-graphical attributes. It supports large-scale, intra-city applications such as engineering and life cycle maintenance of utility systems. The components of each utility system described in this standard represent features located outside the foundation of an enclosed structure. This standard describes eleven feature classes: compressed air, electrical distribution, electrical monitoring/control, fuel distribution, heating/cooling systems, industrial waste, natural gas distribution, saltwater, storm drainage collection, wastewater collection, and water distribution. The Utilities Data Content Standard was developed through the FGDC Facilities Working Group, chaired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The FGDC endorsed the Utilities Data Content Standard after it had completed all steps of the FGDC standards approval process (**http://www.fgdc.gov/standards**). For more information see the FGDC Facilities Working Group website at **http://corpsgeo1.usace.army.mil/FGDC/welcome.html**.

New Standards

Three new FGDC standards will be open for public review until May 31, 2001.

The Address Data Content Standard will provide semantic definitions for components integral to the creation, maintenance, sharing, useability, and exchange of addresses and/or address lists. Within this scope, addresses are broadly defined as locators to places where a person or organization may reside or receive communications, but excluding electronic communications.

Framework Transportation Identification Standard provides a logical data model for identifying unique road segments that are independent of cartographic or analytic network representation. These road segments will form the basis for maintaining NSDI framework road data (through transactions or other means) and establishing links among road segments and attribute data.

The U.S. National Grid for Spatial Referencing Standard defines a United States National Grid for use in spatial addressing-type applications. It is intended to provide a preferred system that an average citizen will find easier to use than latitude and longitude, and it would be used in mapping at scales from approximately 1:5,000 to 1:1,000,000. Technically, it will be the same as the Military Grid Reference System, taking advantage of that public domain system's use of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid and truncation and variable precision features.

For more information on participating in the public review of these standards contact Julie Binder Maitra at jmaitra@usgs.gov or see the standards website at **http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards.html**.

NSDI Procurement and Grants Boilerplate Language

An NSDI procurement and grants boilerplate language site has been established at **www.fgdc.gov/nsdi/docs/boilerplt.html**. This site provides examples from agencies that procure or provide grants to organizations to collect geospatial data that adhere to FGDC endorsed standards and NSDI principles.

•2001•
National GeoData Forum

Save the Dates.

Plan now to attend the
2001 National GeoData Forum
to be held November 1 through 3, 2001,
at The Westin at Tabor Center in Denver, Colorado.
For more information
please point your browser to
www.geoall.net

Upcoming Conferences

2001

April 23 – 27	2001 ASPRS Annual Conference	St. Louis, MO
April 24 – 26	BLM's GIS Workshop 2001	Phoenix, AZ
April 30 – May 2	Intermountain GIS Conference	Boise, ID
May 21 – May 24	Kentucky GIS Conference 2001	Lexington, KY
May 21 – 25	**GSDI 5 Conference** (see article)	Cartagena, Columbia
July 9 – 13	ESRI International User Conference	San Diego, CA
July 15 – 16	66th Annual NACO Conference	Philadelphia, PA
July 15 – 19	Coastal Zone 2001	Cleveland, OH
Sept 9 – 12	URISA 2001 Caribbean GIS Conf.	Montego Bay, JA
Sept 18 – 20	GIS 2001	London, UK
Oct 20 – 24	URISA 2001 Annual Conference	Long Beach, CA
Nov 1 – 3	**National GeoData Forum**	Denver, CO

2002

Mar 17 – 20	GITA 2002 Annual Conference	Tampa, FL
April 22 – 26	ASPRS-ACSM and FIG Congress	Washington, DC
Oct 26 – 30	URISA 2002 Annual Conference	Chicago, IL

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