

## **FGDC Annual Report to OMB Format for Agency Reports – FY 2002**

The following outline should be used by FGDC Member Agencies (or Bureaus) for their Annual Spatial Data Reports, which will be consolidated by the FGDC and submitted to OMB. Reports **should be brief, using bullets where possible**. Please provide only the information that will be useful for OMB to assess the agencies' achievements using the funding received, and for establishing future direction.

### **Part A GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)**

Not applicable

### **Part B LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new Circular A-16 in Appendix E - <http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)**

1. Program/Activity Name:

FGDC Standards Working Group (<http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards.html>)

2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

The FGDC Standards Working Group does not have *direct* responsibility for data themes; rather, it provides guidance on FGDC standards policy and procedures, facilitates coordination between FGDC subcommittees and other organizations having overlapping standards activities, and reviews and makes recommendations on the approval of standards proposals, draft standards for public review, and draft standards for FGDC endorsement.

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers, support lead and other agency missions, etc.?

ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, describes standards as "documented agreements containing technical specifications or other precise criteria to be used consistently as rules, guidelines, or definitions of characteristics, to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose." Geospatial data standards developed and endorsed through the FGDC standards process provide common descriptions of objects, features, or items and thereby promote interoperability among automated geospatial information systems. FGDC Standards apply to, and are mandatory for, Federal Agencies as described in OMB Circulars A-11 and A-16 and Executive Order Number 12906. As FGDC standards are publicly available and do not contain any copyrights or other limitations on their use or reproduction, many non-Federal organizations choose to adopt these standards in order to promote data sharing and to save time and effort in developing their own standards.

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4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

The charter of the FGDC Standards Working Group may be viewed at <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/organization/swgcharter.html>. A subgroup has been formed under the guidelines of Section V, Subgroups, of the charter to develop a process for approving/endorsing voluntary consensus standards consistent with OMB Circular A-119 directives. Greater reliance on standards being developed through voluntary consensus standard organizations (for example, Geospatial One-Stop data standards being developed through the ANSI/INCITS process) may necessitate review and update of the FGDC Standards Working Group charter.

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

The FGDC Standards Working Group does not have direct responsibility for data, nor does it have direct responsibility for collecting metadata and serving metadata through the NSDI clearinghouse. The Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (version 2.0), FGDC-STD-001-1998, was developed through the FGDC standards process and endorsed by the FGDC, as were the following profiles and extensions:

- Biological Data Profile
- Metadata Profile for Shoreline Data
- Extensions for Remote Sensing Metadata

The FGDC Standards Working Group provided valuable support in the development of all these standards, as described in item 2.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

A complete list of standards that have been endorsed or are being developed through the FGDC standards process may be found at <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/textstatus.html>.

7. Progress: List FY 2001/2002 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

The FGDC endorsed the following standards developed through the FGDC Standards process in FY 2001/2002:

- Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata: Extensions for Remote Sensing Metadata
- Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 4: Architecture, Engineering, Construction, and Facilities Management, FGDC-STD-007.4-2002
- Standard for a U.S. National Grid, FGDC-STD-011-2001

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8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

The FGDC Standards Reference Model (<http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/refmod97.pdf>) states

FGDC Standards will have a broadly based public notice of their availability. FGDC Standards will not be developed from copyrighted or proprietary standards that would limit the ability of the final standard to be publicly available. They will not contain any copyrights or other limitations on their use or reproduction. FGDC Standards will be available electronically when ever possible.

The FGDC and its member agencies are able to fulfill this policy and provide public access to FGDC standards with current agency financial resources.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

The FGDC Standards Working Group seeks consultation with, and cooperation from, State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and academic community in the development of standards. The Board of Directors of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) named a NSGIC representative to the FGDC Standards Working Group this year. In addition, the FGDC Standards Coordinator has approached the recently chartered FGDC Tribal Working Group and Public Technology, Inc. ([www.pti.org](http://www.pti.org)), a non-profit technology organization for cities and counties, to participate in the FGDC Standards process.

Also see item 4 about approving/endorsing external standards as FGDC standards.