

Part B

A-16 Lead – Watershed Boundaries - Bob Pierce

1. Program/Activity Name: **Watershed Boundaries**
2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports? **The delineation of watershed boundaries and the creation of the National Watershed Boundary Dataset is coordinated under the Subcommittee for Spatial Water Data (SSWD). The SSWD, sponsored jointly by the FGDC and the Advisory Committee for Water Information (ACWI), coordinated spatial water data and information activities among all levels of government and the private sector. Major partnerships are with USGS/ NRCS, EPA, and NOAA.**
3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions? **Watershed boundaries are used by many agencies to derive streamflow characteristics, flood forecasts, TMDL's, and other hydrologic models. Additionally, many agencies (local, state and federal) use this nationally consistent dataset for planning, resource and basin assessment.**
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 current charter for the SSWD was put in place in 1996. Under the current Charter there are 3-4 meetings each year including co-sponsoring a water resources symposium focused on completion and use of these national stream network and watershed datasets.**
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 datasets are still in development. When complete they will be served through the NRCS Lighthouse node to the NSDI and will be discoverable and metadata compliant.**
6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards? **SSWD currently has the revision to the "Federal Guidelines for Delineation of Hydrologic Unit Boundaries" in review.**
7. Progress: List FY 2000/2001 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible) **The USGS/WRD chairs the SSWD and through this committee has led the development of a common WBD guideline that is authored by multiple federal agencies and adopted by the states. The SSWD chair, USGS, EPA, and NRCS principals have conducted multi-state workshops to help clarify the guidelines and develop a process to accomplish across state agreement in the watershed boundaries being developed by the states. In Nov '02 a draft watershed delineation standard was placed into ANSI formal review process**
8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? **N/A** 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? **Yes, according to the Terms of Reference of the ACWI the Subcommittee charter states that the subcommittee is to "facilitate the exchange of information and the transfer of data."**
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 use of a subcommittee is preferable to having one agency lead the development of guidelines. Having guidelines drafted by a multi-agency group**

with shared information needs facilitates the buy-in and usefulness of the guidelines.