# FY 2003 FGDC Annual Report Summary

## Narrative Summary

### Introduction

This Report summarizes the information submitted by the FGDC Member Federal Agencies, Subcommittees, Working Groups, as well as the Leads designated in the revised OMB Circular A-16. The information for the FY2003 Annual Report was gathered through a questionnaire intended to identify the scope and depth of spatial data activities across FGDC member agencies. The agency responses provided much useful information regarding general indicators of progress in NSDI implementation and spatial data coordination.

### Strategy

Most FGDC member agencies have or will soon have a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into their business process. Examples of such strategies include: EPA's Geospatial Blue Print; BLM's National Integrated Lands System (NILS); HUD's Enterprise Data Delivery Service (EDDS); FSA's GIS Implementation Blueprint, and the Forest Service Geospatial Strategy.

### Compliance

The majority of the FGDC member agencies have spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards. Of those agencies that are not fully compliant, reasons include: that data not to be shared outside of the agency is not made complaint; that outmoded legacy data sets are not made compliant; and that the agency has no mechanism to measure compliance to FGDC Standards. It was noted that it is more difficult to ensure compliance to FGDC Standards within agencies with large, widely dispersed organizational structures (for example, within USFS and NRCS).

### Redundancy

Virtually all agencies ensure that data is not already available prior to collection. This is accomplished through partnerships with States and counties; by searching the NSDI Clearinghouse or data set indexes within agencies; through the OMB clearance process; though extensive private industry and government searches; or through multi-agency coordination groups.

**Collection**

Slightly more than half of the FGDC member agencies that responded ensure that their contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for FGDC Standards. In some cases there are not department-wide policies to this effect. For other agencies, such as FAA, commercial practices are often used (in this case aerospace standards), as FGDC Standards do not exist for many of their data requirements.

**Clearinghouse**

About half of the FGDC member agencies publish their data and metadata on the NSDI Clearinghouse, and many agencies that do not post to the Clearinghouse make their data available at their own websites. Some barriers to posting data on the Clearinghouse include: lack of central servers within an agency; dispersed field offices without resources to produce FGDC compliant metadata; data not available to the public due to security issues; data not fully compliant to the FGDC metadata standard and lack of resources to achieve compliance; and the perception that the Clearinghouse may not always be up-to-date and well maintained. Most agencies plan to post their data to the Clearinghouse as part of the Geospatial One Stop Initiative.

**E-Gov**

The majority of the FGDC member agencies use geospatial data in their mission activities to provide better services. Examples of such E-Gov activities include: registering legal documents to spatial framework data through BLM's Geographic Coordinate Database; facilitating increased decision-support capabilities for coastal managers through NOAA's CSC Coastal Hazards Projects; and Census's E-Gov applications - QuickFacts, American FactFinder and FedStats. Please see the individual reports and the Agency response matrix for information regarding the other agencies' E-Gov applications.

**Geospatial One Stop**

Nearly all FGDC member agencies are involved in the Geospatial One Stop initiative. Those agencies not active in the Geospatial One Stop this year plan to participate soon. Examples of Geospatial One Stop participation include funding contributions; staff contributions to help support and guide the project as Module Leads, Primary Points of Contact, or though meeting participation; and metadata development.

**Enterprise Architecture**

All FGDC member agencies have geospatial data as a component of their enterprise architecture or are currently developing an enterprise architecture that will contain such a component. Examples of agency enterprise architectures that include geospatial data are: HUD's Enterprise Data Warehouse Architecture and NASA's Earth Science Enterprise Strategic Plan. Please see the individual responses for information.

**Partnerships**

All FGDC member agencies coordinate data and build partnerships for data collection and standards development. The Agencies work with other Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal groups to ensure that data will not be collected that already exists. The planned data acquisitions required to be posted at the Geospatial One Stop portal will also be useful in this capacity.

**Lessons Learned**

Sufficient funding is needed for agencies to implement GIS into mission activities effectively and for standards development. Currently, there are few incentives for cross-agency cooperation as budget allocations are specifically linked to agency accomplishments – collaborative strategies are needed for the agencies to work together towards NSDI goals. Departments must overcome stovepipes regarding the coordination of data collection and use strategies. A new business model for partnerships is needed to free them from the Federal contracting regulations that cause difficulty transferring funds between agencies. In addition, private sector and Federal data warehouse/portal activities should be explored to minimize non-complimentary activities. There continues to be concern among the agencies over non-funded mandates and data calls that far exceed their ability to adequately respond with existing resources. Related to homeland security, a need has been expressed for a clear, concise and enforceable policy regarding the classification, privacy and proprietary nature of certain types of geospatial data.

**Outlook**

The revised Circular A-16 designates Federal agencies to provide the leadership needed for building an effective and efficient National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Agencies are becoming more engaged in building the NSDI, especially through their hard work on the Geospatial One Stop Initiative. The increased number of participating agencies will greatly enhance interagency geospatial data coordination. The Geospatial One Stop Initiative is continuing to be shaped to provide the Nation with one stop shopping and is beginning to serve as a marketplace for geospatial data – providing spatial data that is compatible, consistent, scale-independent, integrable, and seamless for use in a wide variety of geographic applications focused on protecting the environment, promoting economic development, and improving our stewardship of natural resources.