

FGDC Annual Spatial Data Report to OMB

Part A

GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

1. Agency or Bureau:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2. Name of Contact for Report:
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3. Steering Committee Member:
None
4. Coordination Group Participant(s):
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5. Subcommittee or Working Group Participation:
Biological Data Working Group
Marine Boundary Working Group
6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have a detailed strategy in place at this time. Service personnel are actively working with other Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureaus on the Enterprise GIS initiative and Geospatial Architecture, two efforts that will assist in this process. The Service will be writing an updated GIS Strategic Plan the first quarter of 2005; we have been waiting for the completion of several internal program efforts that will better define how GIS integrates with the Service mission activities.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted FGDC Standards for its spatial data and metadata, namely the National Vegetation Classification Standard, the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), and the Biological Profile of the CSDGM. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data (see Part B) is a FGDC Standard data set, and the Service is actively updating and creating FGDC compliant metadata for other data

layers, such as refuge boundaries and roads. The Service will continue to adopt and use FGDC standards whenever they are applicable.

8. Redundancy: Prior to collecting data, how does your agency ensure that the data are not already available?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a web site that points to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), as well as many current data sources. This web site is maintained, in part, to make it easier for staff to search and locate existing resources prior to collecting new data. A number of partnerships have been developed with other federal agencies, states and local governments, and non-government organizations for the purpose of coordinating geospatial activities, including data collection, with the goal of eliminating redundant efforts (see #14).

9. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards?

Yes. At this time, the only significant cost for a standard is metadata creation.

10. Clearinghouse: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

Service data and metadata are currently available on the Internet. The Service is now in the process of updating and creating refuge boundary metadata files for publication on the NSDI and National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Clearinghouses. This work is being accomplished through a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) NBII Program office and over 400 metadata files have been published. We are continuing to work through the backlog to get all our metadata on the NSDI. Insufficient staff, funding, and computing resources have been the primary barriers to establishing an NSDI node for any Service data other than the NWI.

11. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

a. Endangered species critical habitat data is being served via an Interactive Map Server. As additional data is digitized and documented with metadata is it being added to the server.

b. A number of migratory bird databases, including relevant geospatial data, are being served through the Bird Conservation Node in partnership with the USGS NBII Program. This includes an interactive map server, which allows access to the data by non-GIS users.

c. The Service has developed and implemented seamless wetlands Master Geodatabase with online map viewing and digital data/metadata download capabilities to better serve the NWI data set to GIS users.

d. The Service's Environmental Conservation On-Line System (ECOS) provides access to a number of databases and geospatial data layers including endangered species and fish barrier data. The ECOS web site also includes an Interactive Map Server (<http://ecos.fws.gov>)

12. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop?

The NWI data set is currently listed as a major data set in Geospatial One-Stop. The Service has also registered its other existing web sites and its NSDI node with Geospatial One-Stop. The Service has identified a representative to work on Geospatial One-Stop activities. This individual is also a member of the DOI Enterprise GIS team, which is currently investigating ways to coordinate participation of DOI Bureaus in the Geospatial One-Stop effort.

13. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

GIS is one of 12 inter-related components of the "Service Information and Technology Architecture (SITA)." The GIS Architecture component of SITA is defined in detail and includes a mission statement, introduction and background, standards, contracts, and a Service contact person. Service representatives are actively participating in the current DOI Enterprise Architecture effort, including the GIS Domain Data Architecture Team. While the focus of SITA is on bureau-unique issues, it will seamlessly mesh with, and fully support, the DOI Enterprise Architecture and the Federal Enterprise Architecture.

14. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development? Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities.

A partial list of Service partnerships is provided below:

- a. The Conservation Fund: to work with the Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in training public and private sector students together, thereby increasing the likelihood of future partnerships, data standardization, and joint resource decisions.**
- b. USGS Biological Resources Discipline: NBII Bird Conservation Node, to share migratory bird databases.**
- c. NWI Program: over 90 partnerships with various entities including states, Federal Agencies, tribes, Regional coordination groups, cities, and counties, including for example in FY 2004 California, Idaho, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, USACOE, TVA, and the National Park Service.**
- d. Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC): a partnership with multiple federal agencies to create an updated land cover data set for the United States.**

- e. **NWI Program: partnered with USGS to develop and implement seamless wetlands Master Geodatabase with online map and data/metadata download capabilities.**
- f. **NWI Program: partnered with USGS to provide seamless wetlands layer as part of the hydrography data set in The National Map.**
- g. **The Service is partnering with USGS, The National Wildlife Refuge Association and The Nature Conservancy to track invasive species threats on several National Wildlife Refuges using GPS and GIS technology (<http://www.refugenet.org/new-invasives/vimp.html>).**
- h. **The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program (<http://gulfofmaine.fws.gov/>) has partnered with over 20 organizations and individual to protect high value fish and wildlife habitat, using GIS as a critical tool to identify that habitat.**
- g. **The High Plains Partnership (http://www.doi.gov/partnerships/high_plains.html) involves a number of organizations working to protect, restore, and enhance valuable habitat over an eleven state area. Again, GIS is a critical tool in the process.**
- h. **The Great Plains GIS Partnership is a partnership between the Service, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Palya Lakes Joint Venture, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Central Platte Natural Resources District working to develop, evaluate, and integrate GIS data into biological and landscape level planning models for the Central Great Plains.**
- i. **The Lower Mississippi Value Joint Venture, led by the Service, works to protect and restore bottomland hardwood areas using GIS as an integral management and modeling tool.**

15. **Concerns or Lessons Learned:** Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

A major concern is the ever increasing number of non-funded mandates from sources outside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the area of spatial data. While the overall intent of these mandates is inherently good (i.e., to reduce duplication of effort, improve data consistency, etc.), the sheer volume of directives and data calls far exceeds the Service's ability to adequately respond with existing resources.

