

FGDC Standards Work Group Charter

Purpose

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Standards Working Group (SWG) promotes the development and implementation of standards in support of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

The SWG is accountable to and provides recommendations to the FGDC Coordination Group, which is the operational authority for providing leadership and direction in the use and development of geospatial data and information across Federal geospatial programs and in conjunction with public and private sector partners/stakeholders.

Authorities

FGDC Working Groups are chartered by the FGDC Steering Committee and supported by the FGDC Secretariat, which are granted authority by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 (Office of Management and the Budget, 2002), Executive Order 12906 (Clinton, 1994) and the E-Gov Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347, 2002). In addition, other OMB guidance or policies apply, including OMB Circulars A-11 (Office of Management and the Budget, 2014), A-119 (Office of Management and the Budget, 1998) or A-130 (Office of Management of the Budget, 2000), the Digital Government Strategy (The White House, 2012), and the Open Data Policy (Office of Management and The Budget, 2013), as appropriate.

Scope

The FGDC Standards Working Group addresses national and international standards for geospatial data and services that (1) advance NSDI initiatives such as the Geospatial Platform and National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) portfolio management and (2) affect NSDI Stakeholders identified in OMB Circular A-16 and its *Supplemental Guidance* Roles and Responsibilities (Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2010).

Work Group Objectives and Activities

- Assist the FGDC Coordination Group in promoting the development, maintenance, and management of the NSDI.
- Coordinate maintenance and implementation of FGDC-endorsed standards with the designated standards maintenance authorities.

- Coordinate standards activities of the FGDC member agencies, subcommittees, and working groups. This includes approving standards projects proposed by member agencies; reviewing the proposed scope of appropriate projects; assigning projects to the appropriate subcommittee or work group; reviewing proposed time lines for standards development; maintaining a register of FGDC standards activities and their status; providing guidance on FGDC standards development policy and procedures; assuring consistency of FGDC standards; facilitating coordination between FGDC subcommittees and working groups with overlapping standards activities; reviewing standards for compliance with FGDC policy and procedures; reviewing standard drafts and recommending FGDC endorsements; and recommending actions to accomplish the standards goals of the FGDC to the Coordination Group and the Steering Committee.
- Develop methods and working arrangements for interacting with FGDC subcommittees and working groups to coordinate their standards activities. This includes developing procedures for resolving conflicts in data content and among data standards.
- Promote and coordinate the elevation of FGDC standards to national standards, as appropriate.
- Promote and coordinate use of metadata, in conjunction with the FGDC Metadata Working Group.
- Facilitate and coordinate the evaluation of geospatial data definitions and standards of other organizations, especially voluntary consensus standards bodies, in compliance with OMB Circular A-119, and, when appropriate, incorporate these definitions and standards into FGDC standards or standards activities, according to FGDC established procedures.
- Identify standards and specifications that are not necessarily specific to spatial data, but might impact spatial data.
- Assure that standards are coordinated with State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector and academic community, and, to the extent feasible, the international community and that the needs of data producers and users are addressed.

- Work with National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) stakeholders to address standards issues and efforts associated with themes, data sets, data lifecycle, and related data and data management issues.
- Support the implementation of standards related actions in key FGDC initiatives and plans, such as NSDI Strategic Plans and NGDA Management Plan (Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2014).

Membership

The FGDC Standards Working Group consists of representatives designated by FGDC member agencies and draws membership from FGDC Subcommittees and other Working Groups. As per OMB Circular A-16, agencies with lead responsibilities for coordinating the national coverage and stewardship of specific spatial data themes will provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of needed FGDC standards, especially a data content standard for each data theme. Members are expected to be active in the development and application of policies related to the use of standards within their community. Each FGDC member agency, Subcommittee, or Working Group may nominate a representative and an alternate if desired, to the SWG. Members shall attend FGDC Standards WG meetings regularly and communicate FGDC Standards WG actions and activities to their agency's FGDC Coordination Group representative.

Non-Federal organizations (e.g., Tribal, Non-Federal, State, County, Local, Academia, and Private Sector) are encouraged to participate in the working group's activities. Although non-Federal participants may engage in SWG discussions and offer information and opinions, their participation is limited to a non-decision making role.

Chair

The Chair shall be from a Federal FGDC partner agency or FGDC Secretariat

Subgroups

The Chair may establish subgroups, as needed, to accomplish the objectives outlined in this charter.

Procedures

FGDC Standards Working Group meetings shall be called by the SWG chair and conducted at least quarterly. Meetings may be held virtually or in person. Agenda items will be coordinated with SWG members.

Decisions shall be on the basis of consensus agreement. When consensus is not reached, the issue will be promptly referred to the FGDC Coordination Group for resolution.

Coordination responsibilities

The FGDC Standards Working Group will employ tools best suited to meet its responsibilities, such as online webinars, teleconferences, national user fora, annual research initiatives, and cooperative venues, pursuant to the availability of resources. The SWG Chair will coordinate Working Group activities with FGDC Subcommittees, other FGDC Working Groups, the FGDC Coordination Group and other NSDI stakeholders to accomplish key activities and effectively grow the geospatial standards community.

Reports

The FGDC Standards Working Group shall submit an annual work plan and an annual summary of accomplishments to the FGDC Secretariat and FGDC Coordination Group for acceptance. The SWG shall develop and present periodic reports to the FGDC Coordination Group. The SWG, through its Chair, will submit content for the FGDC Annual Report each year, as requested by the FGDC Secretariat.

The FGDC Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Secretariat, Coordination Group, or FGDC member agencies may request the SWG to prepare special reports, white papers, technical papers, or briefings to address pertinent issues, cross-cutting activities, and/or matters of urgency consistent with larger FGDC community needs.

The SWG will maintain and update information about its activities on the FGDC website, <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards>.

Approvals

This Charter will remain in effect until amended or replaced or until terminated by the FGDC Steering Committee. The Charter will be posted on the FGDC website at www.fgdc.gov.

Recommended by FGDC Coordination Group vote on: 7/29/2016

Approved by FGDC Steering Committee vote on: 9/21/2016

Works Cited

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