



Federal Trail Data Standards Overview

April 21, 2011

FTDS Summary

FTDS Development Chronology

FTDS Public Comment Adjudication

Prepared for the
Federal Geographic Data Committee

Submitted by the
Federal Trail Data Standards Team

Chronology

In 2001, the Federal Interagency Council on Trails (FICT) requested that agency representatives from the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) develop a core GPS Trails Data Dictionary for consistent use by all federal trail management agencies. The Interagency Trail Data Standards (ITDS) Team, chartered in 2002, worked together from 2002 to 2009 to identify and develop the initial set of Interagency Trail Data Standards. The ITDS underwent internal review within the three federal agencies in 2003. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) joined the ITDS Team in 2004. A nationwide external review of the ITDS by governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders occurred in 2004. After adjudication of comments received, the ITDS Version 1 was finalized and published for implementation in 2006.

In 2007, on behalf of the ITDS Team, the NPS applied for and was awarded a grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to transform the ITDS into an FGDC Data Standard. The ITDS Team updated ITDS Version 1 to ITDS Version 2, renamed it as the Federal Trail Data Standard (FTDS), and submitted it for public review via the FGDC in 2008.

In 2009, the ITDS Team, renamed as the Federal Trail Data Standards (FTDS) Team, reviewed and adjudicated the public review comments.

In 2010, edits identified from the public review were incorporated into the data standards in preparation for approval and adoption by the FGDC.

FGDC Standards Development Steps

Step	Action	Date
Proposal Stage		
1	Applicant develops proposal	June 2006
2	FGDC Standards Working Group (SWG) reviews proposal	February 2007
Project Stage		
3	Set up project; Standards Development Group (SDG) established	April 2007
Draft Stage		
4	SDG produces working draft	May 2007
5	Pre-public review of working draft	December 2007
Review Stage		
6	SWG review and evaluation of the draft	January 2008
7	FGDC Coordination Group reviews SWG recommendation; announcement for public comment in Federal Register	February 2008
8	Public review	March 6 – Aug 8, 2008
9	SDG reviews public comments and produces a Public Response Document	Sept 2008 – June 2010
10	SWG reviews revisions to draft and Public Response Document	(pending)
11	FGDC Coordination Group reviews SWG recommendation	(pending)
Final Stage		
12	FGDC Steering Committee reviews Coordination Group recommendation; standard approved and submitted for final publication and public release	(pending)

Synopsis of FGDC Public Review Comment Adjudication

The Federal Trail Data Standards were posted by the FGDC for public comment between March 6 and Aug 8, 2008.

Upon completion of the comment period, each comment was reviewed and adjudicated by the FTDS Team as documented in the FTDS Comment Review Spreadsheet (January 26, 2009). A summary of the comment adjudication is provided below:

Comments Received: 70 comments were received. During the review process, to facilitate clarity and more precise adjudication, some of these comments were further divided into a total of 77 comments.

Comment Adjudication:

- 7 comments were accepted as submitted and corresponding revisions were incorporated into the FTDS.
- 9 comments were accepted in principle, with 4 of these resulting in the addition of a clarification statement to the FTDS, and 5 of these resulting in concurrence and no change needed to the FTDS.
- 42 comments included a question about or potential misunderstanding of the FTDS by the commenter, resulting in the documentation of the corresponding explanation on the FTDS Comment Review Spreadsheet and no change to the FTDS.
- 15 comments included suggestions which were reviewed but not accepted in principle or determined to be beyond the scope of the FTDS.
- 4 comments were duplicates and were incorporated in the other comments.