

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)

The Coalition was initiated in 2008 by a half dozen professional organizations. It is now 13 professional organizations and trade associations representing over 170,000 geospatial practitioners

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Association for Geodetic Surveying
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
American Association of Geographers
Cartography and Geographic Information Society
GIS Certification Institute
International Association of Assessing Officers
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
National Society of Professional Surveyors
National States Geographic Information Council
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

Advisory Organizations

National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation
MidAmerica GIS Consortium
Western Governors Association
American Planning Association
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
National Emergency Number Association

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations

Coalition formed to find solutions to shared policy issues that affect the entire geospatial community

COGO policy positions only taken by unanimous consent

Frequently write letters to Congressional Committees and individual legislators

Have taken a few positions related to state issues

COGO NSDI Assessment

COGO has published three evaluations on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), in 2015, 2018, and most recently 2024

The NSDI Assessment serves as a periodic evaluation of the condition of the nation's geospatial data infrastructure, which, like other forms of public works, is essential for our economy, health, safety, and the activities of daily life.

COGO NSDI Assessment

The grades in 2015 were based on the status of the original seven Framework data themes and the NSDI as a whole. The overall grades were C and C-, respectively.

The grades in 2018 were incrementally better for each data theme, with the overall data grade being B-. The overall grade for the NSDI as a whole was not offered. The Address theme was added for the 2018 iteration.

The 2024 report was published in October 2024. The data theme grades were incrementally higher, at B. The NSDI as a whole was evaluated again, and the grade was C-, unchanged since the 2015 evaluation.

COGO NSDI Assessment

PROGRESS REPORT: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)		Summer 2024	
Theme	Grade in 2015	Grade in 2018	Grade in 2024
ADDRESS DATA	N/A	B+	B
CADASTRAL DATA	D+	C-	C-
ELEVATION DATA	C+	B-	A-
GEODETTIC CONTROL DATA	B+	A-	A-
GOVERNMENT UNITS DATA	C	A-	A-
HYDROGRAPHY DATA	C	B-	B-
ORTHOIMAGERY DATA	C+	B-	B
TRANSPORTATION DATA	D	C	C
OVERALL NSDI GRADE	C-	N/A	C-

COGO NSDI Assessment

The original Framework data themes are used as a proxy for the full suite of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA)

- Can't / shouldn't measure everything
- Progress on the original themes is a good indicator of progress on the NSDI as a whole
- Want to maintain Assessment's longitudinal aspect

For NGDA themes that now comprise multiple data sets, the portion assessed in the past is still evaluated.

COGO NSDI Assessment

Assessment survey went out to all members of all COGO organizations, plus some other organizations

Survey primarily aimed at users, although providers received survey, as well

Survey questions sought to find things like:

- Does the data meet the user needs?
- Is there a connection, local-regional-state-national?
- Is the data findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable? (FAIR)
- Is the data available in a state clearinghouse?
- Is the data fit for use, scale appropriate, etc.?

COGO NSDI Assessment Recommendations

- Identify sufficient funding to meet future needs of NSDI for all Framework Data Themes
- Develop Strategic and Implementation Plans for each Framework Data Theme
- Develop partnership agreements with State, Tribal and local governments to facilitate continuous exchange of data
- Work with the geospatial community to develop and implement a national collaborative NSDI governance structure ([Collaborative Governance Definition](#))

COGO NSDI Assessment Recommendations

- Consider reducing the number of data sets identified as NGDA to reduce the reporting burden
- Facilitate assessment of all stakeholder needs for Framework Data
- Develop processes and procedures for integrating Framework Data across all governmental levels
- Quickly evaluate and update existing Framework data standards and endorse those standards as soon as possible

COGO NSDI Assessment

The original vision and the greatest potential value of the NSDI Framework have not yet been fulfilled.

While multiple datasets for each of the themes can be accessed through the National Geospatial Platform, authoritative sets of nationally consistent, fully integrated, and reliable Framework data do not exist for the entire nation.

The NSDI is not yet an interconnected system that supports the Nation's broad, diverse and significant need for spatial data.