

Federal Geographic Data Committee 2015 Guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

December 2015

This paper provides guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and identifies specific issues on which the FGDC requests advice and recommendations from the NGAC during 2015. This guidance is the charge to the NGAC from the FGDC and the Department of the Interior.

The NGAC is an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and achieving the goals of the FGDC and the Administration. This set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through coordination with FGDC leadership, FGDC agencies, and NGAC leadership and members. The goal in providing this guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues related to the leadership and management of Federal and national geospatial programs, and provide the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the approaches used to address these issues.

Key issues for NGAC review during 2015 include the topics listed below. We expect to refine and prioritize this list of issues based upon discussion with the NGAC and FGDC leadership.

1. NGAC Priority Study Topics for 2015

The FGDC seeks advice and recommendations on the following priority topics in 2015. We expect that the NGAC will establish (or modify) subcommittees to address these topics, and that these topics will be the NGAC's primary focus in 2015.

NSDI Outreach and Communication

The 2014-2016 NSDI Strategic Plan includes an objective to "raise awareness of the NSDI and its impact on critical national and international issues," including an action to "develop and implement a communication strategy and outreach plan to promote the benefits of NSDI data and the goals of the NSDI Strategic Plan." The FGDC seeks the NGAC's participation and input in the following:

- Assist FGDC agencies in the development and implementation of a strategy to enhance and promote outreach and communication regarding the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (as described in the NSDI strategic plan).

Crowd-Sourced Geospatial Data

Crowd-sourced or volunteered geospatial information is an issue of increasing interest and utility to Federal agencies and partners. The FGDC seeks initial input from the NGAC on critical issues to consider in the development, management, and use of crowd-sourced geospatial data, including the following:

- Identify and summarize key issues for Federal agencies and partners related to crowd-sourced geospatial data. This may include maintenance, validity, metadata, workforce impacts, etc.

Geolocation Privacy

The issue of geolocation privacy is an area of continuing importance to the FGDC and the organizations represented on the NGAC. The FGDC will continue to collaborate with the NGAC to review and develop common approaches to understand and address the issue of geolocation privacy, including the following:

- Provide continuing feedback and advice on emerging geospatial privacy issues and policy developments. Develop and refine background and briefing materials on key geospatial privacy issues.

Landsat Advisory Group

The NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) will provide advice to the Federal Government, through the NGAC, on the requirements, objectives and actions of the Landsat Program as they apply to ongoing delivery of societal benefits for the Nation and the global Earth observation community.

- The specific 2015 Landsat-related issues for consideration by the NGAC will be jointly discussed and determined by the program office and the LAG.

3D Elevation Program

The NGAC has provided useful, ongoing advice and feedback on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), including feedback on the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA) and continuing input on 3DEP as it has moved into implementation. As a continuation of this work, the FGDC seeks strategic feedback and recommendations on the development and implementation of 3DEP. Study topics may include 1) Development of a unified data acquisition strategy across Federal agencies and other stakeholders; 2) Coordination of 3DEP data acquisition under the Broad Agency Announcement announced in FedBizOpps in July 2014; 3) Coordination of emerging lidar technologies across the public and private sectors for eventual commercialization.

- The specific 2015 3DEP study questions will be developed in collaboration with USGS and provided to the NGAC.

2. Ongoing Initiatives – Continuing Input and Comment

The FGDC will also seek continuing feedback and advice from the NGAC on key ongoing FGDC and agency initiatives on an as-needed basis. NGAC assistance may include providing comments on implementation plans and strategies, providing real-time feedback on new technical developments, or seeking input from organizations represented on the NGAC. Ongoing initiatives requiring feedback may include the following:

NSDI Strategic Plan/NGDA Management Plan

The NGAC has provided extensive input into the development of the 2014-2016 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan and the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA Management Plan). The NGAC's input was critical to shaping the scope and direction of these plans. The FGDC will continue to engage with the NGAC during the implementation of these plans, seeking ongoing feedback as follows:

- Provide continuing feedback and comment, as needed, on the ongoing implementation of the NSDI Strategic Plan and the NGDA Management Plan.

Geospatial Platform

The NGAC has provided ongoing input that has had significant impact on shaping the conceptualization and development of the Geospatial Platform initiative. As the Platform continues in the implementation phase, the FGDC will seek continuing advice and feedback from the NGAC on opportunities to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental collaboration and partnerships, including the following:

- Provide feedback, as needed, on Geospatial Platform technical, administrative, and governance-related topics as implementation progresses.

GAO Review

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is finalizing a review of Federal geospatial programs (publication of the report is expected in early 2015).

- The FGDC may seek NGAC input and feedback on responses to the GAO report.

Open Water Data Initiative

The Administration's new Open Water Data Initiative is aimed at integrating currently fragmented water information into a connected, national water data framework, and leveraging existing shared infrastructure and tools to provide a platform for innovation, modeling, and data sharing and solution development. As this initiative is developed, FGDC may seek NGAC inputs as follows:

- Provide feedback and comment, as needed, on the Open Water Data Initiative as it is developed and implemented.

NGAC Points of Contact

FGDC may ask NGAC members to serve as Points of Contact (POCs) for selected Federal geospatial programs or initiatives. The role of the POC will be to coordinate with the NGAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and program leads to keep the NGAC members updated on key program activities, as needed. NGAC POCs should keep the DFO and FGDC staff apprised of their activities to coordinate with the Federal programs and initiatives. The selected programs or initiatives may include the following:

- National Address Data
- Geospatial Workforce Development
- Tribal Geospatial Activities

The FGDC looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with the NGAC membership to refine these issues and develop a Plan of Action to address these topics. The FGDC will continue to coordinate with the NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and membership on the planning and implementation of the NGAC's activities.