



United States Department of the Interior

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

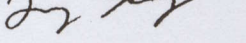
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 14 2006

MEMORANDUM



To: Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information

From: Lynn Scarlett 
Deputy Secretary
Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee

Subject: Coordination of Hurricane and Storm Preparation Activities

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has governmentwide leadership responsibility for the intergovernmental Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) Project, one of 25 projects identified by the White House as major E-Gov initiatives under the President's Management Agenda. The purpose of GOS is to make it faster, easier, and less expensive for all levels of government to access geospatial data to carryout a wide variety of missions, including disaster response and recovery. In particular, the Marketplace feature of the GOS portal allows us to leverage Federal/State/local Government funding for acquiring new data, and to ensure many partners can benefit from new data acquisitions made by any one organization.

Use of the GOS portal during last year's hurricane season illustrated its value as a data discovery and decision support tool. GOS has developed a hurricane community information tool (www.geodata.gov) to provide policy makers, Geographic Information Systems users, and citizens with useful geospatial information. In support of hurricane and storm preparedness efforts this year, I am asking that you populate and update the GOS portal with information on your agency's existing geospatial data holdings and any planned geospatial data acquisition.

Please ensure planned and existing datasets for the Gulf and Eastern Coast regions are documented appropriately and the information is published as soon as possible to the GOS portal. Bear in mind much of the relevant data may exist at, or may soon be procured by, the regional or field offices of your agencies. Examples of information that would be helpful include:

- Paper or digital geospatial data sets on elevation, hydrography, land use, vegetation coverage, land ownership, wetlands, natural resources, habitat occupied by endangered species or other species of management concern, location of Federal facilities;
- Aerial photography or satellite imagery;
- Live Web mapping services your agency maintains;
- Links to relevant Web sites maintained by your agency; and

- Tabular data bases you believe might be of interest to other agencies involved in hurricane preparedness, relief or recovery.

If needed, members of your staff may contact Rob Dollison of the USGS National Geospatial Program Office for training on the GOS portal. Rob can be reached at (703) 648-5724 or by e-mail at rdollison@usgs.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to and assistance in meeting this request.