Proposal for FGDC endorsement of OGC Web Services (OWS) Context standards

# Introduction

This proposal provides documentation needed to obtain FGDC recognition of OGC Web Services Context Document (OWS Context) 1.0 [12-080r2], <https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=55182>[[1]](#footnote-1), and OWS Context Atom Encoding standard 1.0 [12-084r2], <https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=55183>[[2]](#footnote-2).

The FGDC has endorsed OpenGIS® Web Map Context (WMC) Documents Implementation Specification, Version 1.1.0 [05-005][[3]](#footnote-3) will be withdrawn as a FGDC endorsed standard, as OWS Context works with all OGC web service standards, not merely Web Map Services.

The recognition level sought for this standard will be FGDC Endorsement, as described in the [FGDC Policy on Recognition of Non-Federally Authored Geographic Information Standards and Specifications](https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards_publications/Non-FGDC_StandardsSpecs_Policy.pdf) (November 2005)[[4]](#footnote-4).

The following information responds to the specific questions outlined per Section V.1 of the FGDC Policy and will be submitted to the FGDC Standards Working Group for consideration.

# Documentation

1. **The category of the standard or specification (per Section III).**

Consortium developed specifications – specifications developed by consortia such as the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

1. **The proposed level of FGDC recognition (per Section IV).**

Endorsement.

1. **A discussion of the applicability of the proposed standard or specification in Federal geospatial activities, including discussion of the conditions where it should be employed and anywhere it should not be, i.e., provide the scope of Federal geospatial applicability of the standard or specification.**

Federal agencies maintain and manage geospatial data and geographic information systems (GIS) as outlined in [Executive Order 12906](https://www.archives.gov/files/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12906.pdf)[[5]](#footnote-5) and [OMB Circular A-16 Revised (2002)](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/circulars_a016_rev/)[[6]](#footnote-6) to support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

An OGC Web Services Context Document (OWS Context) specifies a fully configured set of information resources (service set), usually a collection of services, to be passed between applications. It supports use cases such as distribution of search results and exchange of a set of resources such as OGC Web Feature Service (WFS), Web Map Service (WMS), Web Map Tile Service (WMTS), and Web Coverage Service (WCS); additionally, OWS Context can deliver a set of configured Web Processing Service (WPS) parameters to reproduce processing on different nodes.

The OGC OWS Context Conceptual Model 1.0 defines requirements and use cases and includes an abstract test suite to verify that encodings comply with the conceptual model. It allows many OGC data delivery services to be referenced and exploited, but does not define encoding of these services.

The OGC OWS Context Atom Encoding Standard 1.0 defines how to encode a context document and allows a context that references a fully configured service set to be defined and consistently interpreted by clients.

Upon endorsement of OWS Context, OpenGIS® Web Map Context (WMC) Documents Implementation Specification, Version 1.1.0 [05-005], will be withdrawn as a FGDC endorsed standard[[7]](#footnote-7), as OWS Context works with all OGC web service standards, not merely WMS.

1. **The specific reason(s) that the standard or specification would be of value to the Federal government and, if applicable, to other members of the FGDC. These should include, but not be limited to, identification of the specific FGDC subcommittee(s) and/or working group(s) whose members support the submission of the standard or specification and how it benefits its/their responsibilities.**

The standards support GeoPlatform operations and capabilities.

These two OGC OWS Context standards are mandated standards in the DoD IT Standards Registry (DISR), which means that they required for management, development, and acquisition of new or improved systems throughout the Department of Defense. They are also identified as core information transfer standards in the SDI standards baseline (unpublished)

1. **Any restrictions, limitations, or other constraints that may affect promulgation and/or adoption and/or implementation of the standard or specification, e.g., copyright, license fees, restriction of applicability to a specific technology, and the like. The FGDC staff will negotiate with standards organizations to make an attempt to acquire free standards documents for FGDC members.**

OGC are copyrighted. See Copyright Notice and Disclaimers | OGC, [www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/legal](http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/legal). There is no charge in acquiring OGC Standards

1. **The name and business addresses of a point-of-contact (POC) in the proposing or sponsoring FGDC member agency and, if applicable, the name and business addresses of a POC in the proposing non-Federal body.**

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1. **Identification and/or explanation of the process by which the proposed standard or specification was developed and reviewed. This information will support FGDC determination as to whether the process meets the criteria for a voluntary consensus standards process as defined in OMB Circular A-119. When accredited standards development bodies such as ISO, ANSI/INCITS, and NIST are the authors only their identity need be supplied. Otherwise, a description of the development and review process and a list of participants must be included.**

OGC. See Section 9, Policies and Procedures for Adoption and/or Revisions of Standards, Technical Committee Policies and Procedures, <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/pol/05-020r25/05-020r25.html#93>

1. <https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=55182>, accessed September 6, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=55183>, [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards_publications/Non-FGDC_StandardsSpecs_Policy.pdf>, accessed June 23, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.archives.gov/files/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12906.pdf>, accessed June 23, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/circulars_a016_rev/>, accessed June 23, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. See <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/list>, accessed September 6, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)