Proposal for FGDC endorsement of OGC® KML 2.3

# Introduction

This proposal provides documentation needed to obtain FGDC recognition of OGC KML 2.3 [12-007r2], <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/is/12-007r2/12-007r2.html>. With endorsement of KML 2.3, KML 2.2 will be *retired* as an FGDC-endorsed standard.

The following information responds to the specific questions outlined per Section V.1 of the FGDC Policy on Recognition of Non-Federally Authored Geographic Information Standards and Specifications (November 2005)[[1]](#footnote-1).

# 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.**

KML is an XML language that focuses on visualization of geographic data in earth browser applications (for example, Google Earth). It can be used to:

* Annotate the Earth
* Specify icons and labels to identify locations on the surface of the planet
* Create different camera positions to define unique views for KML features
* Define image overlays to attach to the ground or screen
* Define styles to specify KML feature appearance
* Write HTML descriptions of KML features, including hyperlinks and embedded images
* Organize KML features into hierarchies
* Locate and update retrieved KML documents from local or remote network locations
* Define the location and orientation of textured 3D objects

KML 2.3 provides these enhancements:

* KML Tour, which enables a user to specify aspects of a controlled virtual flight through a series of geographic locations, including speed, mode of flight (smooth or bounce), sound tracks and how KML features are updated throughout the tour.
* Track and MultiTrack geometries. A KML Track can capture and display the path and other aspects of a moving object over a specified period of time.
* Enhancements to KML’s Extension Mechanism, which allow direct use of XML content from third-party schemas and enable authors of KML Application Profile extensions to add foreign element and attribute content interleaved among existing KML elements.

The FGDC has endorsed KML 2.2[[2]](#footnote-2). With endorsement of KML 2.3, KML 2.2 will be retired as an FGDC-endorsed standard.

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 KML community is wide and varied. Casual users create KML Placemarks to identify their homes, describe journeys, and plan cross-country hikes and cycling trips. Scientists use KML to provide detailed mappings of resources, models, and trends such as volcanic eruptions, weather patterns, earthquake activity, and mineral deposits. Real estate professionals, architects, and city development agencies use KML to propose construction and visualize plans. Students and teachers use KML to explore people, places, and events. National Geographic, UNESCO, and the Smithsonian have used KML to display their sets of global data.

The Geospatial-Intelligence Standards WG has approved a proposal to mandate KML 2.3 in the DoD IT Standards Registry (DISR) and retire KML 2.2. KML 2.3 is a core information transfer standard 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[[3]](#footnote-3). 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[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards_publications/Non-FGDC_StandardsSpecs_Policy.pdf>, accessed June 23, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/list>, accessed September [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/legal](http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/legal), accessed September 1, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/pol/05-020r25/05-020r25.html#93>, accessed August 30, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)