

Executive Summary

The tremendous growth and evolution of geospatial technologies, industries, and applications in recent years has highlighted the need to update and modernize the strategic direction of Federal geospatial programs to align with and leverage these advancements. The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) 2014–2016 Strategic Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) sets priorities and describes the actions the FGDC community will take, in collaboration with partners, to develop and maintain the Nation's critical geospatial infrastructure.



This Strategic Plan was developed during 2013 through extensive consultation with Federal agencies, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), and with partners and stakeholders across the geospatial community. This external input was instrumental in shaping the plan and in reflecting the perspectives of the broader geospatial community.

This plan describes a shared national vision of the NSDI and includes a set of goals and objectives for the role of Federal agencies in achieving this vision:

The NSDI leverages investments in people, technology, data, and procedures to create and provide the geospatial knowledge required to understand, protect, and promote our national and global interests.

The goals and objectives in the plan define areas of critical importance to the continued development of the NSDI and provide a framework for the Federal geospatial community's responsibilities over the next 3 years.

Goal 1 – Develop Capabilities for National Shared Services

- ◆ Objective 1.1. Develop geospatial interoperability reference architecture.
- ◆ Objective 1.2. Establish the Geospatial Platform as the Federal geospatial data, services, and applications Web-based service environment.
- ◆ Objective 1.3. Expand the use of cloud computing.
- ◆ Objective 1.4. Promote the use of geospatial multiagency acquisition vehicles for interagency and intergovernmental purchases.

Goal 2 – Ensure Accountability and Effective Development and Management of Federal Geospatial Resources

- ◆ Objective 2.1. Advance the portfolio management process for National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA).
- ◆ Objective 2.2. Identify potentially duplicative investments and opportunities for collaborative investments.

Goal 3 – Convene Leadership of the National Geospatial Community

- ◆ Objective 3.1. Lead and participate in the development and coordination of national and international standards applicable to the geospatial community.
- ◆ Objective 3.2. Convene the leadership of the geospatial and nongeospatial communities to develop shared approaches to critical national issues.
- ◆ Objective 3.3. Raise awareness of the NSDI and its impact on critical national issues.

The Strategic Plan also describes the steps the FGDC community will take to implement the goals, objectives, and actions, including development of project plans and performance measures in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. For more information, visit www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan.

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure

Executive Order 12906, “Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access,” describes the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as “the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data.”

A Shared Vision for the NSDI

The FGDC has worked with partners and stakeholders, including the members and organizations represented on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, to collaboratively define a shared national vision that describes the value that the NSDI will bring to its stakeholders and partners.

NSDI Vision Statement

The NSDI leverages investments in people, technology, data, and procedures to create and provide the geospatial knowledge required to understand, protect, and promote our national and global interests.

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure extends far beyond data. The NSDI encompasses the policies, organizational responsibilities, data, information, technologies, standards, services, and financial and human resources necessary to achieve this vision. The NSDI has become a critical vehicle for facilitating seamless data development, information sharing, and collaborative decisionmaking across multiple sectors of the economy. The following describes the vision of the NSDI for the future.

The Desired Future State of the NSDI

- ◆ Provide government, businesses, and citizens with a way to visualize and explore data to derive information and knowledge.
- ◆ Create a network of resources and services for the seamless integration of location-based information into broader information assets to serve the needs of government, the business community, and citizens.
- ◆ Serve as an enabling resource for discovery, access, integration, and application of location information for a growing body of users.
- ◆ Leverage shared and open standards-based services and focus on applied information for improved decisionmaking.
- ◆ Promote place-based business intelligence and smart, shared applications.
- ◆ Include a core set of information layers that interface with other nonspatial data being generated.
- ◆ Use real-time data feeds and sensor webs for improved monitoring, control, situational awareness, and decisionmaking.
- ◆ Facilitate access to and use of multi-temporal information linked to place.
- ◆ Integrate and use advanced technologies and their associated standards and best practices.
- ◆ Facilitate use of community-driven open standards with multiple implementations.