

FGDC Subcommittees and Working Group Reports

Cadastral Subcommittee

The Cadastral Subcommittee develops and implements plans to coordinate cadastral data-related activities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and the private sector. As examples, the Subcommittee works with the wildland fire community to identify sources of land parcel data, standardize available data, and build sustainable operational procedures to provide land parcel data for wildland fire applications in coordination with States. The subcommittee works with Public Domain States, those states with the public land survey system, to standardize the best available statewide data in the state, to identify the optimum maintenance work flow, and to publish a maintainable standardized data set.

Highlights for the Subcommittee include:

- **Indian Buy Back Program** - The Indian Land Buy Back Program is an outcome from the Cobel law suit settlement and is a program to support the reconsolidation of the fractionated ownership interests on Indian Lands. There are over 300 Indian reservations in the US and of these 153 were identified as candidates for the Buy Back program. The BLM has completed the records improvement and land descriptions for over 500,000 Indian parcels on 56 of the 153 reservations. This work is ongoing and included updating the standardized PLSS data (PLSS CadNSDI) in areas where improved positional information is completed as part of the buy back program.
- **Surface Management Agency Data Set** - The Surface Management Agency (SMA) data set was initially completed by the BLM in 2012 and was first published in 2013 (<http://nbgm.wordpress.com/2013/09/25/blm-surface-management-data-new/>). This data set portrays tracts of federal land for the United States and classifies these holdings by administrative agency. Since it's first publication the data set has been re-published several times on state data servers and integrated with state management data sets. The US Census Bureau has been using this data set extensively to update the public lands data set in the Census records and the wildland fire community has been using this data set to identify responsible agencies for strategic wildland fire response. Federal agency users continue to provide feedback and updates.
- **Federal Rights and Interests** - The Subcommittee initiated the review of federal rights and interests by forming a multi-agency working group. Information on the working group can be found at the Subcommittee's outreach web site, (<http://nationalcad.org/projects/federal-parcel-work-group/>). A charter was developed and adopted for this working group with members from Tribal, Reclamation, Forest Service, and BLM. This working group has identified a wide range of federal rights and interests

that are managed in each agency and will focus on priority needs based on agency business drivers in the Summer of 2014 and are aiming at a draft publication database with sample data from all contributing agencies by early FY 2015.

- **Standardized PLSS - Nationwide Status** - The Cadastral Subcommittee continues to support the BLM efforts to develop standardized PLSS CadNSDI data for all 30 Public Domain States. The publication version 2 was finalized in 2012 and updates to the Version 1 data sets were completed in 2013. In 2014 the BLM with the support of the Cadastral Subcommittee continued to provide updated vintages of the Version 2 PLSS CadNSDI data set and to expand the available data. The Subcommittee's role has been to provide standardization review as well as state data publication coordination. The goal being that where practical the state geospatial portals would publish the standardized PLSS CadNSDI with BLM and other federal agencies providing links to the state hosted data. From a maintenance perspective the goal is to have the locally sourced data integrated into the statewide data set and maintained through identified business processes within the states. In many of the western states because of the prevalence of federally managed lands the BLM is expected to be the maintainer of this data set. One of the significant developments in 2014 was the state of Montana assuming the maintenance responsibility for the PLSS CadNSDI and conducting the maintenance in the Esri ArcGIS parcel Editing Solution. BLM provided seed funding for this work and participated with the State of Montana in this effort. The steering committee consists of local government, private land surveyors Idaho, Utah, Montana state agencies and BLM, Forest service federal agencies and several tribes. Montana is now updating and publishing the Montana PLSS CadNSDI.
- **Digital Parcel Map Data and State Stewardship** - The Cadastral Subcommittee continues to support the advancement of state stewardship for the assembling, aggregation, standardization and publishing of locally sourced parcel data. Through the wildland fire support efforts it is very apparent that state hosted standardized accessible parcel data is essential to support many federal, state and local programs. The states have made significant progress in developing locally sourced parcel data set, standardizing that data to a state specified standard and then providing access to the data through a variety of means. In some cases the data are only available internally within the state, but in other cases this state assembled data has been a valuable asset to federal programs.

The Subcommittee's planned activities and completed projects for 2015 include the following.

- **Indian Land Buy Back Program** - Support the BLM as needed to advance the standardization of geospatial data to support the Land Buy Back program.

- **Surface Management Agency Data Set** - Complete the workflow and implementation of the maintenance procedures to keep the SMA Data Set current. This may also include incorporating data from state sourced data sets.
- **Federal Rights and Interests** - Complete the documentation and publication database template for the US Rights and Interests data Set
- **Standardized PLSS - Nationwide Status** - Complete the publication of a standardized PLSS data set for all 30 public domain states and to deploy a maintenance implementation program for all data sets.
- **Digital Parcel Map Data and State Stewardship** - Continue to support applications that rely on or benefit from parcel data standardized from locally sourced data. In most cases state managers will complete this effort with guidance from the Subcommittee on standards, procedures and coordination.
- **Be Responsive to Emerging Issues and Needs** - The Subcommittee will be as responsive as possible to emerging needs and new applications and demands for standardized cadastral data sets, and coordination and facilitation needs.