

## National Parcel Data: Summary of FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee Activities

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead agency for Cadastral Data under OMB Circular A-16. One of the activities in this role is to lead the FGDC Subcommittee on Cadastral Data, which is organized under the auspices of the FGDC and is charged with standards development and partnership coordination related to cadastral information in the US. This document is summary of the parcel related activities of the Subcommittee. The BLM and other federal land management agencies have accomplished many cadastral related activities including standards development, coordination among federal agencies and commercial software firms, and implementation of complete national wide data sets.

### Setting the Groundwork

In 2013 Dr. David Moyer developed a Land Records Modernization History - 50 years and Counting. This is a valuable reflection of past efforts and provides content for anyone tackling today's current parcel issues. (<http://nationalcad.org/download/LandRecordModernizationHistory-Moyer.pdf>)

### Parcel Data Standards

In a cooperative effort with local, state, federal, tribal, and the private sector the Subcommittee developed and published a national parcel publication standard, derived from the Cadastral Content Standard. This standard has been available since 2007 and has been implemented by many states and commercial software firms. The standard and supporting materials are (<http://nationalcad.org/CadStandards/CadStand.html>)

Examples of states that have implemented this standard or harvested the applicable portions can be found at this page <http://nationalcad.org/RefDocStand/RefDocStand.html>

### Parcel Data Availability and Inventory

In 2002 the Subcommittee and the state of Montana conducted a benefit-cost analysis of publicly accessible parcel data. Determining a positive result from this study, the Subcommittee conducted assessments of the availability and factors affecting data availability of parcel data in 2003, 2005, and 2008. In 2009 the inventory was converted to a web map and is an ongoing status update available at <http://fairview-industries.com/USParcelData/USParcelData.html>.

In 2007 the subcommittee completed report on the best practices by states to aggregate and distribute parcel data on behalf of local parcel producers. These best practices were complemented with templates and reports for states to assist them in developing strategic plans and implementation guidelines.

<http://nationalcad.org/download/StateParcelMgtProgFinal.pdf>

### PLSS Data Standardization and the Land Buy-Back Program

In 2009 the BLM coordinated the standardization of the PLSS data sets for 29 of the 30 public domain states. This supports the Land Buy-Back program for Tribal Nations that assists the Tribes in defining and describing ownership parcels. See Land Buy-Back summary at the end of this document.

## Parcel Data Business Drivers

Beginning with the Western Governors' Association in 2000 the Subcommittee has engaged many communities and business drivers for national parcel data. Some of these include the following. The archives and report documents for these activities can be found at this site. <http://nationalcad.org/RefDocArchives/RefDocArchives.html>. Active project links are included in the project descriptions.

Mortgage and the Economy - 2009 - The Subcommittee convened a stakeholder meeting examining the needs and applications of parcel data for mortgage and economy needs.

Hurricane and Emergency Response - 2004 and 2008 - The Subcommittee engaged local, state, regional and federal agencies on the uses needs and mechanisms to deliver parcel data for hurricane preparedness, response and mitigation.

Sharing Parcel Data to Protect and Rebuild Communities - 2008 - Partnering with International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAI) and Esri and Intergraph the Subcommittee reported on the advantages, opportunities and issues of sharing parcel data from government-to-government.

Energy Community - 2006 - Working with energy firms across the west and in conjunction with state and local oil and gas regulators, the Subcommittee developed a report on the uses and needs for parcel data and cadastral reference data by the energy community. From the early stages of prospect identification through leasing, permitting, drilling, completion, production, distribution, and marketing, land ownership rights and interests contribute to each step in this life cycle.

Federal Agencies - 2008 - At the direction of the FGDC Steering Committee Chair, the Subcommittee contacted and interviewed all the members of the FGDC Steering Committee to identify the uses and needs for cadastral data. Federal agencies fell into three categories on how they use cadastral data: 1) jurisdiction and management of lands by an agency; 2) the management of land and property records; 3) use of cadastral data in response to programmatic and emergency activities.

Wildland Fire - Since 2005 the BLM and Subcommittee have partnered with the wildland fire community to assemble, standardize and aggregate available parcel data to support wildland fire lifecycle management needs. This is an active and ongoing project. Information about this project and the results and findings can be found at this link <http://nationalcad.org/wildlandfire/wildlandfire.html>

US Rights - This is an ongoing project examining the information required to manage the status and history of the rights in land on federal lands. At this time the group is focused on US Surface Rights. The workgroup will continue to support subsurface and offshore rights and interests needs. (<http://nationalcad.org/USRights/USRights.html>)

Parcel Data - A compilation of the Subcommittee's parcel data studies and findings have been assembled at <http://nationalcad.org/Parcel/ParcelData.html>

## LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, signed into law by President Barack Obama through the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The Settlement provides \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Consolidated interests are immediately restored to tribal trust ownership for uses benefiting the reservation community and tribal members. There are approximately 245,000 owners of nearly three million fractional interests across Indian Country who are eligible to participate in the Buy-Back Program. The Program is currently planning to continue the purchase of fractionated interests until the end of 2022; however Secretary Jewell is interested in exploring options for extending the timeframe of the Program. In addition to consolidating fractionated interest, the Program has designated up to \$60 million for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund.

### II. BACKGROUND

#### 1. Land Buy-Back Program

Fractionation is a serious problem in Indian Country. When parcels of land have hundreds or thousands of co-owners, it is difficult to obtain the required approvals for leases or other uses of the lands. As a result, many highly-fractionated parcels are unoccupied and unavailable for any useful purpose. There are approximately 245,000 owners of nearly three million fractional interests across Indian Country.

#### 2. BLM Mapping Assistance

In order for the Program to extend offers to interested landowners, an appraisal must be performed to determine the fair market value of each parcel. The size and location of the parcels is determined through an extensive mapping project created by the Program. The BLM was tasked with executing this mapping project by providing the technical requirements, products, and services for mapping the parcels. The information needed to compliment the mapping is provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Trust Accounting and Management System (TAAMS). Although the parcel data is supplied by the BIA, the BLM is providing this service because of the BLM's expertise in providing similar mapping functions for the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and the Cadastral National Spatial Data Infrastructure (CadNSDI).

### III. CURRENT STATUS

#### 1. Land Buy-Back Program

To date, the Program has expended 48% (more than \$742 million) of the Fund available for purchasing fractional interests. It has expended 17% of the \$285 million allocated for implementation costs. The Program is 35% (three years and nearly five months) through the ten-year Settlement timeframe.

The Department has identified 42 locations where land consolidation activities are expected to take place through the middle of 2017. An expanded schedule of additional locations was just announced which adds 63 additional locations for implementation between the years 2018 through 2021. Combined, these locations represent 96% of all landowners with fractionated interests across Indian Country. In addition, Secretary Jewell has directed the Buy-Back Oversight Board to undergo an analysis and recommend options to extend the life of the Program so that future participants can also benefit from the Program.

#### 2. BLM Mapping Assistance

The BLM works collaboratively with the Buy-Back Program, the Office of Appraisal Services (OAS), the Division of Minerals Evaluation (DME), and the BIA to coordinate the flow of information and services. The BLM is providing the parcel mapping service through a contractor. The BLM supplies technical direction, subject matter expertise, and contract administration.

Since the inception of the Buy-Back Program, the BLM and BIA have been working together for the eventual transfer of parcel mapping duties to the BIA. At this time the BIA is capable of assuming some of the technical roles currently served by the BLM; however the BIA is not yet able to assume full parcel mapping duties and responsibilities. The BLM and BIA expect a complete transfer of the parcel mapping duties and responsibilities by March 2018.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The Land Buy-Back Program intends to reach 96% of all landowners with fractionated interests across Indian Country for the purpose of consolidating that interest for the benefit of the Tribes and individual Indians. The Program has expended 48% of the Fund available for purchasing fractional interests. Secretary Jewell would like to explore options to extend the Program past its original ten-year life span.

Through a collaborative effort, the BLM is providing vital mapping products to the Program.