



FGDC Subcommittee on Cadastral Data State Parcel Management Programs

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The goal of the FGDC Subcommittee for Cadastral Data (Subcommittee) is to support the development and maintenance of digital parcel data nationwide through standards and partnerships to support local, state and national applications and decisions making. The end product of this effort is to provide the user community with published parcel data that includes a representation of the parcel geometry and a subset of the local assessor's attributes and comparable attributes for public lands. The Subcommittee is initiating a *State Parcel Management Program* to 1) assist local governments to spatially enable their parcel data; 2) to facilitate the publication of a subset of the local data to be used by emergency responders and planners in a regional setting and for other business practices; and 3) to encourage assistance from the beneficiaries of this spatially enabled data by using standards that will meet a wide user community.

Recent Findings: The Subcommittee recently conducted a national survey and found that 68% of parcel spatial data has been converted in the U.S. but most of this modernization effort is occurring in the urban areas. Less densely populated communities have not been able initiate similar programs because they lack the technical expertise and resources. Even in urban areas the goals of the Subcommittee are not being met because the data is not being published in a uniform format that can be readily compiled into statewide coverages. This situation was not uniform. States that have parcel management programs have been able achieve nearly 100% conversion and to publish data in a format that is readily accessible. Because of this the Subcommittee conducted an evaluation of seven state parcel management programs and identified the best practices that have become the foundation of it's *State Parcel Management Program*.

A Confusing Issue: When publishing or sharing data is discussed there is often confusion between *production* and *publication data*. *Production data* is the full data set that data producers use in their daily business operations. *Publication data* is a subset of the production data, published at least annually, that is designed to meet regional business needs including emergency response for hurricanes and wildland fires.

Business Requirements: A *State Parcel Management Program* will most likely be successful if 1) it meets the needs the local government parcel data producers by assisting them with the resources they need for automation and 2) it provides the users with ready access to publication data.

Role of the State: The state plays an essential role as a management and coordinating body. Each state will need to:

- Customize a Parcel Management Program for its own institutional infrastructure. This may include the availability of state resources, geography, demographics and the status of conversion.
- Adopt standards that meet the needs of local parcel producers and the user community.
- Provide technical support for implementation and adherence to standards.
- Ensure adherence to standards through contract management.
- Facilitate the publication and integration of the data for the user community.

Resource Assistance: Both financial assistance and in-kind services can do much to achieve the goals of the Subcommittee.

- Federal and state agencies have demonstrated a willingness to provide assistance for access to data.
- Supplementary data is needed for automation and to meet the business operations of local government (orthoimagery, corners of common control, hydrography, soils data, etc.). This provides many opportunities for cooperative ventures.

The key issue for acquiring outside assistance is dependent upon assurances that the data will be published in a format that will meet the potential funding organization's business needs.

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An Assessment of Best Practices in Seven State Parcel Management Programs,

<http://www.nationalcad.org/data/documents/StateParcelMgtProgFinal.pdf>

Parcel Management Program Business Plan, <http://www.nationalcad.org/data/documents/Parcel-Mgt-Prog-Business-Plan-v1.pdf>