



## Problem Statement

Aerial and satellite imagery, in the form of digital orthophotography, is the foundation for most public and private Geographic Information Systems. It is an essential product that is being developed by thousands of different entities across the Nation (3,000+ counties and 30,000+ incorporated cities) without effective coordination or oversight. This leads to unnecessarily higher costs, varying quality, duplication of effort, and inconsistent products. By establishing basic standards and using large area contracts, the quality of imagery for all applications can be significantly improved while its cost is considerably lowered. Establishing an effective national program will resolve these issues and result in a program that works for all levels of government and provides benefits to the public and private sector.

**FACT:** Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth use government produced imagery products on their websites when the government agencies make them available to the public.

## Vision for the Future

The Nation will have a sustainable and flexible digital imagery program that meets the needs of local, state, regional, tribal and federal agencies and is in the public domain.

## Actions Required to Achieve Vision

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) established an Executive Committee that is looking at new ways to create nationwide aerial imaging programs to collect and disseminate standardized products on regular schedules. Local, state, regional, tribal, and federal partners will be able to exercise enhancement options for higher resolution/accuracy products based on their unique requirements. The U.S. Department of Agriculture component of this program will cost approximately \$51.6 million per year to fully implement. The U.S. Geological Survey component of the program will cost approximately \$45 million per year to fully implement. Expanding these programs will result in savings (over current practices) due to more efficient contracting, elimination of duplicative programs, cost avoidance, and application of uniform standards.

NSGIC requests that Congress take the following actions:

- Congress should fund the Federal Geographic Data Committee \$95.6 million per year to begin and sustain production of IFTN.
- Funds should be identified as “line item expenses” in the amount of \$51.6 million per year for the National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), \$4 million per year for Alaska imagery, and \$40 million per year for the Urban Areas Imagery Program (UAIP).
- FGDC operates as part of the Department of Interior with oversight by OMB and may redirect funding to appropriate theme leads (OMB Circular A-16) via an MOA. Furthermore, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee was established as a FACA to FGDC/DOI and provides non-

federal government and industry advice to the FGDC on geospatial matters. This will help to showcase the management of this important program.

Expanding these programs will result in:

- Smart & Efficient Government
- Good Public Service
- Taxpayer Savings
- Showing the Right Model for Partnerships to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

### Typical Uses of Imagery

- Compliance and crop monitoring
- Dispatching Emergency Service providers by 911 Call Centers
- Monitoring the spread and eradication of invasive species
- Mapping features on the Earth's surface (e.g. buildings, wetlands, roads)
- Determine the health of forests, grazing and multiple use areas
- Creation and maintenance of parcel maps
- Use for farmstead activities (e.g. routing driveways, and locating new feedlots and buildings)
- Identifying environmental health issues
- Use in precision agriculture to assure maximum economic return to farmers while reducing environmental problems associated with over-fertilization
- Economic development, smart growth, and zoning activities
- Use in developing conservation plans, nutrient management plans, tile drainage plans, wind break plans, and manure management plans
- Identify grazing issues and rangeland health

**ABOUT NSGIC** — The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is a 501 (c)(6) organization of States committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies. Members of NSGIC include delegations of state GIS coordinators and senior state GIS managers from across the United States. Other members include representatives from Federal agencies, local government, the private sector, academia and other professional organizations. A rich and diverse group, the NSGIC membership includes nationally and internationally recognized experts in GIS, geospatial data production and management, and information technology policy.

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