

NEPA document may do so by contacting Paul Whitman at the BLM address below. The draft document is expected to be available for review during the fall of 1997 and will have a minimum 45-day comment period starting on the date the Notice of Availability appears in the **Federal Register**. The supporting planning record will be maintained at the BLM and USFWS Offices below and will be available for public inspection during normal business hours. Because of recent court rulings, it is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate during appropriate comment opportunities, so that any substantive comments are provided at a time when the BLM and USFWS can meaningfully consider them.

ADDRESSES: BLM, Lakeview District Office, P.O. Box 151, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630, Telephone: (541)-947-2177, or Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Post Office Building, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630, Telephone: (541)-947-3315.

Dated: July 14, 1997.

Scott R. Florence,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20446 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Comment on the Proposal to Develop the "Content Standard for Remote Sensing Swath Data" as a Federal Geographic Data Committee Standard

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is soliciting public comments on the proposal to develop a "Content Standard for Remote Sensing Swath Data." If the proposal is approved, the standard will be developed following the FGDC standards development and approval process. If the standard is adopted by the FGDC, it must be followed by all Federal agencies collecting remotely sensed swath data directly or indirectly, through grants, partnerships, or contracts.

In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC recognizes that the standards must also meet the needs and recognize the views of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views. The FGDC invites the community

to review the proposal and comment on the objectives, scope, approach, and usability of the proposed standard; identify existing related standards; and indicate their interest in participating in the development of the standard.

Title: Remote Sensing Swath Data Content Standard.

Date of Proposal: July 3, 1997.

Type of Standard: Content standard for remote sensing swath data.

Submitting Organization: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Point of Contact: Candace Carlisle, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 505, Greenbelt, MD 20771. Phone: (301) 614-5186.

Objectives

The primary objective of this proposed standard is to define the content for remote sensing swath data (subsequently called the swath data model), thereby providing a solid basis from which to develop interoperable data formats for this common form of remote sensing data. The data model shall define the minimal content requirements for a swath and the relationships among its individual components. It shall also discuss the treatment of optional supporting information within the swath model.

Project Scope

As stated in Executive Order 12906, dated April 13, 1994, the FGDC shall coordinate the Federal Government's development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The Executive Order is intended to strengthen and enhance the general policies described in OMB Circulars A-16 and A-119. The swath data model for remote sensing supports the development of the NSDI by providing a common framework for the organization of a wide range of remotely sensed data. The model will be particularly useful for data from scanning, profiling, staring, or push-broom type remote sensing instruments, whether they be ground based, shipboard, airborne, or spaceborne.

The Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS), an international standards body, has endorsed the development of data models for remotely sensed swath through its Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) Data Subgroup.

Justification/Benefit

In order to facilitate interoperability among agencies with remote sensing data holdings and member agencies of international remote sensing groups, participants must first be able to

exchange information. Ideally, data from one organization should be easily useable by other organizations performing similar work. In practice, however, each organization has developed its own methods of encoding data that are generally not particularly compatible with those developed by other organizations. The unfortunate results are that data are generally not easily shared among these groups and that researchers who wish to use data from multiple sources find the task of reconciling the data particularly daunting. Clearly, it is in the interest of the entire remote sensing community that there be a common data encoding mechanism in use by many organizations. Before such an encoding mechanism can become widely accepted, however, each party must share a common conceptual model of the data in question. This is exactly the purpose of the swath data model or content standard. It will provide a common conceptual framework, within which the sharing of remote sensing swath data will become possible.

Development Approach

The data standardization and modeling are major research issues within the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS). The Earth Science Data and Information System (ESDIS) Project is responsible for EOSDIS and has already sponsored much preliminary research into these issues for remote sensing applications. Some early results of the research are presented in EOSDIS Version 0 FY92 Data Structures Report, an internal ESDIS report. Those early results have been further developed into data standards for the EOSDIS Core System (ECS) through soliciting input and comments from scientists around the world and from EOSDIS's Data Model Working Group. As one of the efforts to publicize the EOSDIS data standards and solicit comments, NASA plans to have a software vendor workshop on EOSDIS data standards during this year. The proposed FGDC content standard for remotely sensed swath data will be based on the ECS swath data standard.

Related Standards

The proposed standard will be based on the NASA EOSDIS standards for remote sensing swath data. The NASA standard specifies the minimal content requirements for a swath and the relationships among its individual components. Based on the standard, ESDIS project has developed an encoding mechanism and a set of software tools for EOSDIS.

The Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS) deals with transferring geospatial data among computer systems. The Raster Profile of SDTS is remotely related to the proposed swath standard because the Raster Profile can also be used to deal with remote sensing data. However, two important factors distinct them. First SDTS Raster Profile is a transfer standard while the proposed swath standard is a content standard. Second, SDTS Raster Profile only deals with two-dimensional geocoded raster data while the swath standard handles one, two, or higher dimensional data in raw sensor geometry. No other current FGDC, national, or international standard addresses this important facet of sharing remote sensing swath data.

Development and Completion Schedule

Execution of the timeline below will begin immediately following approval of this proposal.

1. Set up review committee—within 4 weeks after approval of proposal.
 2. Produce working draft of standard—within 6–8 weeks after committee impaneled.
 3. Conduct committee review—during 4–6 weeks after completion of working draft.
 4. Revise working draft—within 2 weeks after receipt of committee comments.
 5. Submit draft to SWG—within 2 weeks of final committee approval.
- The following steps will take place according to the timing specified by the FGDC review process.
6. Review revised draft (SWG).
 7. Produce revised draft for public review (NASDA/ESDIS).
 8. Conduct public review (FGDC).
 9. Respond to public comments (NASDA/ESDIS).
 10. Evaluate response to public comments (SWG).
 11. Approve standard for endorsement (SWG).
 12. Endorse standard (FGDC).

Resources Required

NASA/GSFC ESDIS Project will fund this project to develop the content standard for swath data.

Potential Participants

NASA, through its Mission to Planet Earth, is already bringing together many diverse groups within the remote sensing community. Through the continuing data standards work done for ESDIS, NASA has gained considerable insight into the requirements of these various groups. Other Federal agencies who produce a large amount of remote sensing data, such as NOAA, NIMA, and

USGS, can also participate in the standard development. Participation of the commercial remote sensing community in the standard development is also welcomed. In addition, under the auspices of the CEOS WGISS, many national and international space agencies will have the opportunity to participate in the development of the swath data model. These agencies play major roles within the remote sensing community.

Other Target Authorization Bodies

This proposed standard is not currently targeted for consideration by any other authorizing bodies. FGDC will serve as the target authorization body. As the FGDC content data standard for remotely sensed swath data, it is expected that this proposed standard could be subsequently authorized by ANSI, ISO, CEOS, or other groups.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 1, 1997.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted via Internet mail or by submitting an electronic copy on diskette. Send comments via Internet to: gdc-swth@www.fgdc.gov. Comments e-mailed as attachments must be in ASCII format.

A soft copy version may be submitted on a 3.5 × 3.5 diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 or 6.0/6.1 format, along with one hardcopy version of the comments, to the FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox) at U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Richard E. Witmer,

Chief, National Mapping Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-1320-01; NM-8128; NM-8130; NM-11670]

Notice of Coal Action, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability, Record of Decision (ROD) for the Thermal Energy Preference Right Lease Applications (PRLA's) San Juan County, New Mexico.

SUMMARY: The PRLA process requires that ROD be made available to the public. The ROD is the document announcing the BLM's decision regarding PRLA commercial quantities determinations. This action establishes

the availability of the ROD for Thermal Energy's PRLA's.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD can be obtained at the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Richard A. Whitley,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-20512 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-015-97-1610-00: G7-0232]

Availability of Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AMP/DEIS).

SUMMARY: The Lakeview District has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of a proposed AMP for the Beaty Butte Allotment (0600) in Lake and Harney Counties, Oregon. The proposed plan covers livestock grazing management activities on approximately 400,000 acres of public lands administered by the BLM.

DATES: This notice announces the opening of the public review period. Interested individuals, organizations, and other agencies are encouraged to provide written comments to the following address within 60 calendar days of the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes its' Notice of Availability of the document in the **Federal Register** which is expected on or about August 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Scott Florence, Area Manager, Lakeview Resource Area, BLM, PO Box 151, Lakeview, OR 97630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Those individuals, organizations, native American tribes, agencies, and local governments with a known interest in the proposal have been sent a copy of the AMP/DEIS. Reading copies are also available at the Lake, Klamath, and Harney County, Oregon libraries, and at the Public Room, Oregon State Office, BLM, 1515 SW 5th, Portland, Oregon. Comments on the draft document will be considered in the preparation of the AMP/Final EIS. Because of recent court rulings, it is very important that those interested in the proposed action