

Geo Week 2025

NSRS Modernization Working Group

February 12, 2025; Denver, Colorado

Attendees

WG Members: Qassim Abdullah (Woolpert), Christopher Parrish (Oregon State Univ), Linda Foster (ESRI),

NGS: Galen Scott, Brian Shaw

Others: Ezra Che (OSU), Jenna Borberg (OSU), and a couple of others whose names I didn't catch.

NSRS Modernization Overview

Galen

- NSRS Modernization is a national investment that NGS and others have been working on for decades.
- NGS plans to release all beta products in 2025, and they are planning for at least 6 month of testing.
- They are actively engaged with the FGDC – Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018 reinvigorated the FGDC and supports the goal of creating a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).
- Need support getting federal agencies involved in FGDC and FGCS
 - o Want NSRS to be adopted as the standard; and then federal agencies need to comply.
 - o Released Strategic Plan for the NSDI and it references NSRS.

Shaw

- Beta testing – the 6+ month beta period starts once all datums have moved to beta.
- They are doing geocentric and orthometric adjustments and those two teams need to coordinate.
- They had planned for summer completion, but now TBD with recent staffing changes and unknowns.

Messages to Amplify to Stakeholders

1. Test alpha and beta versions
2. NCAT to access to plane
3. Join the NGS email list to be notified of product releases
4. Advocate for the value of NGS

Feedback to NGS from the WG:

- It would be helpful to define beta testing, e.g., people may ask what they should be testing.
- Important note – NGS is expecting people / industry to transform on their own systems and software; NOT on NGS servers.
- Concerned that software developers may not implement correctly. Would be helpful to provide before and after – e.g., a data set to test.
 - o Galen responded that they are implementing this; and Linda said that ESRI is doing this testing as well.

WG Publication Plans

- Completed - PEERS article w/ recommendations for industry – published in November 2024
- Proposed follow on article: More specific guidance for geospatial data users including:
 - o Regulatory and legal
 - o Accuracy requirements
 - o Options
 - o Costs
 - o Timelines
 - o Reobserve, reprocess

Journal Options

- PEERS Highlights
- Lidar

Additional Ideas discussed

- Galen – Dana Caccamise suggested included a “do nothing” option, e.g., if accuracy is +/- 3m, won’t make much difference
- Shaw: White – lidar – option for processing to the ellipsoid
- Educational resources for clients – best practices for today and the future – potential COAs of not upgrading now
- Provide use cases w/ decision making workflow
- Galen – transferring in orthometric v ellipsoid – benefits of ellipsoid
- Metadata – Linda - can we have recommended baseline info to include; though she agrees on minimum requirement from NGS perspective. NSPS has loose recommended guidance
 - o Action that could be taken now is to review, update, share that guidance.
 - o Shaw recommended looking up GGFX standards
- Very specific tasks for people to do now to prepare:
 - o Beta testing
 - o Metadata
 - o Data inventory and assessment – What are your accuracy requirements?
- Shaw – reference: Alhgren, Shaw et al – Geodesy Journal [*I believe this is the article he referenced?*: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00190-024-01831-8>]

Action: ASPRS – write a letter of NGS support to Congress