

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 120: U.S. Geological Survey

Chapter 6: Office of the Associate Director for Core Science Systems

Originating Office: U.S. Geological Survey

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6.1 Office of the Associate Director for Core Science Systems. This office provides executive leadership for topographic and geologic mapping; biological informatics, preserving geologic and geophysical data, library services, integrating U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) national data sets; creating an integrated and accessible environment for USGS data including planning for long-term data management and dissemination into multi-disciplinary science practices; adopting and implementing open data standards within the USGS; developing and implementing a comprehensive scientific cataloging strategy that combines existing data sets into an integrated science catalog; developing and enhancing tools and methods that facilitate the capture and processing of data and metadata; identifying and supporting authoritative data sources within USGS programs and developing and adopting standards throughout the bureau; and partnering with USGS collaborators and partners to facilitate data integration throughout the scientific community.

6.2 Associate Director for Core Science Systems. The Associate Director for Core Science Systems exercises the authority delegated by the USGS Director for the development, integration, management and accessibility of USGS national data sets. The Associate Director for Core Science Systems also creates and maintains The National Map, collects and integrates base national geospatial datasets, coordinates data discovery and access, and ensures consistent and current data are available for the Nation. Through participation on the Federal Geographic Data Committee, the Office of the Associate Director for Core Science Systems promotes and promulgates consistent geospatial data and metadata standards, enhances the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, and adoption of cross-government best business practices for geospatial resources, policies, standards and technology. Responsibilities are shared with a Deputy Associate Director. The Associate Director and Deputy Director for Core Science Systems are assisted in the development and implementation of core science systems by:

A. Core Science Systems Program Coordinators are responsible for core science systems planning, budget development, and program evaluation. The Program Coordinators develop strategic program plans, coordinate programmatic activities within and outside the

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USGS, and conduct program reviews of core science systems to ensure the systems support USGS program needs and fulfill the needs of system users. The Core Science Systems programs include the:

(1) National Biological Information Management and Delivery Program which provides credible, applicable, unbiased information for science-based decision-making pertaining to the conservation, management, and use of the Nation's biological resources. Through electronic infrastructures, databases, maps and publications, the Program provides critical information to partners, stakeholders, customers and the general public.

(2) National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program which produces geologic maps and 3-D frameworks that provide critical data for sustaining and improving the quality of life and economic vitality of the Nation. The geologic maps are indispensable to understanding Earth surface processes and groundwater availability and quality; supporting the Department of the Interior (DOI) land management decisions; mitigation of hazards; assisting in ecological and climatic monitoring and modeling; and facilitating the understanding of onshore-offshore sediment processes.

(3) National Geologic and Geophysical Data Preservation Program which was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, Sec. 351) with the following goals: archival of geological, geophysical, and engineering data, maps, well logs, and samples; development of a national catalog of archived materials; and the provision of technical assistance to State geological surveys and DOI bureaus for archived materials. Through the program, State geological surveys, bureaus within the DOI that maintain geological and geophysical data, and the USGS are working together to inventory collections of materials and data to identify preservation and data-rescue needs; design and populate a National Digital Catalog; develop guidelines for distribution of funds and priorities for Program activities; and establish minimum standards, procedures and protocols for preserving and archiving collections of geologic and geophysical materials and data.

(4) National Geospatial Program which organizes, maintains, and publishes the geospatial baseline of the Nation's topography, natural landscape, and built environment. The baseline is *The National Map*, a set of databases of map data and information from which customers can download data and derived map products and use web-based map services. Through the Geospatial Liaison Network, the program works with cooperators to share the costs of acquiring and maintaining geospatial data.

B. Director, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) administers the activities of the 19 member interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. The FGDC oversees the National Spatial Data Infrastructure which is a physical, organizational, and virtual network designed to enable the development and sharing of the Nation's digital geographic information resources.

C. Director, Center for Core Science Informatics coordinates and develops data integration services, capacity and framework for USGS science programs. The Center supports identification and development of best practices and standards to ensure efficiencies and innovation. The Center works with USGS programs, partners and industry to create new paradigms for accessing, integrating, visualizing and delivering USGS data and information. The Center also manages the USGS John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis, through which selected USGS researchers and their colleagues focus on complex Earth system and natural resource questions to advance the state of knowledge and to provide resource managers and policy makers with the synthesized scientific information required to address Earth system science issues.

D. Director, Library Services manages the USGS Libraries program. The USGS Library program supports all of the fundamental scientific research conducted within the USGS and is one of the world's largest Earth and natural science repositories. The library is utilized by both USGS and external researchers and the public and provides comprehensive access to Earth and natural sciences literature, data, and information.