

Mission

The mission of the National Geospatial Center of Excellence (NGCE) (formerly National Geospatial Management Center) is to provide the USDA NRCS with technical leadership and expertise in geosciences: mapping science, cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), aerial photography, remote sensing and global position systems (GPS), elevation and imagery data, natural resources data, and geospatial technology. The NGCE provides accessible, up-to-date, authoritative, and trusted geospatial data and valued-added geospatial services based on the best geosciences.

Vision

Delivering geospatial business solutions—The NGCE supports the mission by preparing and implementing geospatial standards and developing effective applications using geospatial technologies.

NGCE Business Plan

Under direction of the Deputy Chief, SSRA, the NGCE is reorganized to meet the geospatial needs of the NRCS. An additional driving force for the NGCE is its role in the USDA's Geospatial Centers of Excellence to help address the geospatial needs of the department and its agencies.

The business plan focuses on the three core business areas: Geospatial Data, Geospatial Technology, and Geospatial Services. These core business areas are linked to the agency's five key business lines through the national strategic plan and the national NRCS business plan.

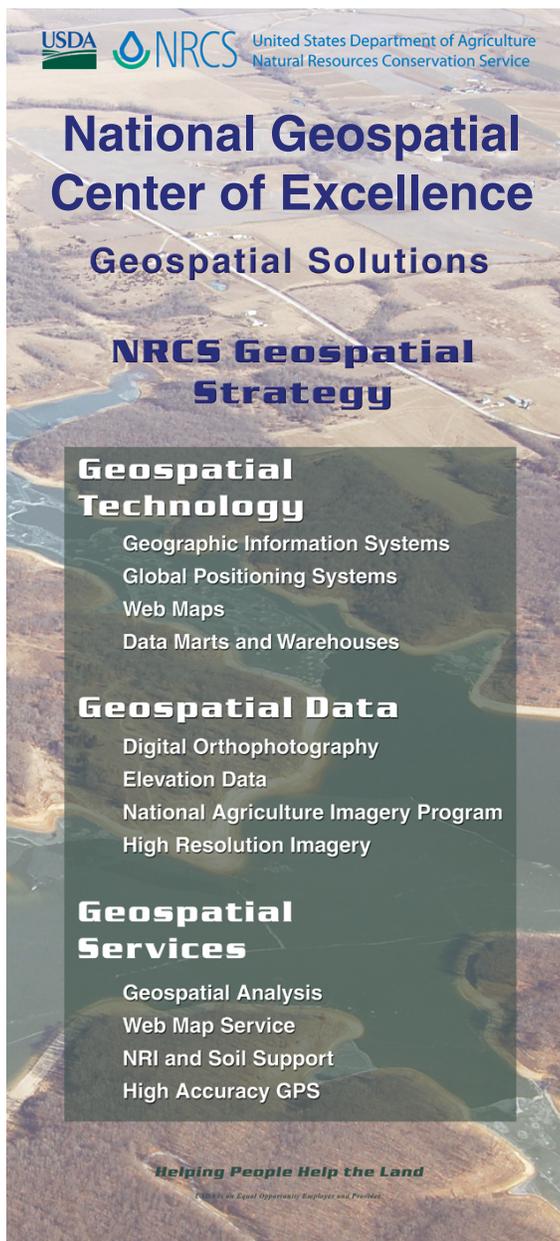
Key Services

- Serve as a focal point for developing NRCS geospatial business requirements
- Provide conservation enabling valued-added geospatial products
- Serve as the official NRCS Geospatial Center of Excellence and Geospatial Management Office (GMO) hub for the agency
- Develop and support strategies for the acquisition, integration, and delivery of geospatial data via the Geospatial Data Gateway and other means
- Support and provide leadership in identifying high-quality digital orthoimagery for all NRCS program applications
- Provide leadership for national data layers development for the NRCS and USDA, ensuring program needs and standards are met
- Evaluate and recommend GIS/GPS technology and develop GIS/GPS procedures, applications, and tools
- Provide technical support for GIS and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

- Develop and advocate an elevation data strategy for NRCS business applications to include LiDAR, IFSAR, and USGS 10- and 30-meter DEMs
- Provide services to the NRI Business program, the three Remote Sensing labs, and State resources inventory coordinators
- Provide leadership in the development of enterprise geodatabases for all NRCS program applications
- Support the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program, National Soil Geographic Database development, and Web Soil Survey
- Conduct technical reviews of Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) data, produce digital map finishing products, produce hard copy soil survey publications, and provide technical assistance as needed
- Provide leadership and guidance in conducting training and Webinars on GIS/GPS and other mapping sciences
- Produce complex custom thematic and status maps for NRCS customers
- Provide design, layout, editorial, and illustrative assistance for the development of a variety of NRCS documents including handbooks, manuals, and technical notes
- Foster Federal and other partnerships for geospatial business solutions such as NGCE's partnership with the Farm Services Agency–Aerial Photography Field Office and USGS
- Provide training and technology transfer on advanced geospatial tools, software, and technologies
- Provide NRCS ESRI® Helpdesk support and maintain a core of geospatial experts

NGCE Geospatial Web Services

The NGCE geospatial Web services enable NRCS program staffs to access essential geospatial data for all conservation planning activities. The Web services enable scientific research and development opportunities within all NRCS program areas. The NGCE geospatial Web services data resources include updated raster and vector datasets in the form of imagery, elevation, soils, DRGs, 1:24,000 Hydrography (NHD), Transportation/Dynamap, National Land Cover Data, and other agency business spatial layers. Users can visualize and analyze an area of interest across the Internet that will enhance agency efficiency by providing access to geospatial data stored in a centralized authoritative data repository maintained by the USDA NRCS. The spatial data can be retrieved from a desktop, laptop, wireless mobile device, or anywhere an Internet connection exists. The NGCE geospatial Web services are maintained by robust ArcGIS® servers that operate on a 24-hour, 7-day a week schedule.



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