

LGC Comments on Recommendations for Geospatial Data Sharing
Produced by the Local/State/Regional/Federal *ad hoc* Committee
September 27, 2007

The LGC solicited comments on the draft Recommendations for Geospatial Data Sharing report from the local government GIS community through the following:

- LGC's GIS Advisory Team;
- Statewide NCGIS listserv;
- CURISA, NCPMA, and NCLGISA listservs; and
- COG GIS Committee.

In response, the LGC received comments from approximately two dozen members of the local government GIS community representing counties, municipalities and COGs. In general, the comments were highly favorable and complimentary.

After a review of the comments and a discussion among the committee, the LGC makes the following recommendations and comments.

1. The LGC strongly encourages that agencies, especially State agencies, follow Recommendation Number 7 that "secondary sources of data shall not redistribute original data, except at the request or permission of the originator." "Consumers of secondary data shall be directed to primary outlets." For data sharing as envisioned under this policy to work effectively, participants must conduct themselves in an ethical manner, particularly as regard to data redistribution.
2. The LGC recommends that the Local/State/Regional/Federal Data sharing *ad hoc* Committee clarify whether the institutions in University of North Carolina system are considered State agencies.
3. The LGC agrees with the recommendation that organizations avoid formal agreements where possible but acknowledges that in some circumstances formal agreements may be necessary. The data producer is the appropriate authority to decide on the need for a formal agreement.
4. Clarify Recommendation Number 6 to confirm that it is appropriate for regional organizations to be the primary distributor of data, with permission, for a local agency that may not be able to directly distribute data.
5. There were several responses related to the issue of archiving and long term access. The LGC recommends that the GICC support a community-wide educational effort related to the issue of archiving.
6. The LGC received several comments that noted the importance of metadata and the need for data producers to follow Core Practice Number 2.
7. The LGC recommends that the GICC support more education on privacy issues.