



# State of Idaho

## Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)

**C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

Governor

**JEFF WEAK**

Chairman

**GREG ZICKAU**

Chief Information Officer

650 West State Street, Room 100

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0042

Telephone (208) 332-1876 or FAX (208) 334-2307

<http://www.ita.idaho.gov>

February 8, 2018

John Mootz  
APFO, Imagery Program Manager  
USDA - FSA  
Aerial Photography Field Office  
2222 West 2300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119-2020

Re: Possibility of a Licensed Data Model for 2019 NAIP and beyond

Dear Mr. Mootz,

On behalf of the Idaho geospatial community, the Idaho Geospatial Council (IGC-EC) would like to express our overwhelming support for continued open and free access to data collected under the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). The mission of IGC-EC is to provide leadership and coordination for the creation and maintenance of statewide geospatial data and overall support to the GIS community. We facilitate the use, development, access, sharing, and management of geospatial data and assist with communicating the value of geospatial information to citizens and decision makers in the state of Idaho.

The NAIP is an integral component in a multitude of GIS applications widely accessed by the public as well as a foundational base map layer for applications used by a network of people and organizations at all levels of government and academia in Idaho. Open and free access to NAIP data allows urban and natural resource program managers, decision-makers, and staff at many levels (administrative, technical, GIS, and field) to engage in quality analyses to protect natural resources, to provide data verification, and to monitor change detection. The range and variety of how imagery, and NAIP in particular, is used - from regulatory and compliance monitoring to field mapping to scientific assessment - is a testament to its importance. As frequent users of NAIP, we urge USDA-APFO-FSA decision-makers to maintain free and open access to NAIP imagery in order to continue to share information and carry out our public interest work.

NAIP is widely utilized as a base map layer in various GIS analyses and many public web applications. Thus, it provides a level of standardization for policy determinations that would disappear if it is no longer collected and cooperatively shared. Since NAIP has been so freely shared in the past, many crucial, cooperative decisions have been made using it as a foundational base map layer.

We acknowledge the budget pressures motivating the possible move to a licensed data model; however, limited access to NAIP will have considerable impacts to state, regional, and local governments already experiencing tightened budgets and reduced staff. We believe that collecting data that serves a public good is an excellent use of our federal dollars and should continue to be served freely and openly to the national GIS community, be it from the USDA FSA NAIP program or from another national program that would be consistently funded.

Sincerely,

Bill Farnsworth  
Idaho Geospatial Information Officer

Pamela Bond  
Chair, Idaho Geospatial Council-Executive Committee

BF/PB:es

CC:

Evan Frasure  
State Executive Director  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite B  
Boise, Idaho 83709-1573

Senator Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator James E. Risch  
U.S. Senate  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Raul Labrador  
1st Congressional District  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1523 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Simpson  
2nd Congressional District  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

FGDC Office of the Secretariat  
Attn: Ivan Deloatch  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
MS 590  
Reston, VA 20192

Department of Interior  
Attn: Andrea Travnicek,  
FGDC Steering Committee Acting Chair  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management  
Attn: Erik Hund,  
FGDC National Digital Orthoimagery Program  
Subcommittee Chair  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29405-2413