



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 9, 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-Executive Committee (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 geospatial 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.

NAIP imagery 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 imagery 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 imagery in particular, is used - from regulatory and compliance monitoring to field mapping to scientific assessment - is a testament to its importance. 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. Thus, it provides a level of standardization for policy determinations that would disappear if it is no longer collected and cooperatively shared.

As frequent users of NAIP imagery, we urge USDA FSA APFO 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.

Continued...

We acknowledge the budget pressures motivating the possible move to a licensed data model; however, limited access to NAIP imagery 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 geospatial community, be it from the USDA FSA APFO NAIP 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 Bldg.
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 Travnicsek,
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