GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE FORMAT

STANDARD

Data following this standard should conform to the details outlined in the standard as described below.

INSTRUCTIONS

Geospatial data is shared over the Internet with a variety of users. The formats listed below are in wide use throughout the Service and external user community; they have been chosen to increase data sharing opportunities for Service data creators while acknowledging staffing and budgetary limits.

- The ESRI Shapefile format is becoming very widely used; the code for creating shapefiles has been made available by ESRI on the Internet (see References). This format is not as complete or robust as the other, but is more universal and compact for sharing information.
- The AutoCAD DWG file format has been in use for a number of years. CAD programs as well as many GIS programs can readily use this format, and it is often the originating format for cadastral (survey) information.

Service offices should use at least one of these data formats whenever serving data on the Internet or when creating data that will be widely distributed (unless partners specifically ask for a different format). Sharing data in several formats will increase the access to the data for Service users and partners. Files created under proprietary formats like ESRI Shapefile and AutoCAD DWG are subject to comply with open data by providing alternate accessible file formats.

SAMPLE DATA FOLLOWING THIS STANDARD

Examples of data and/or lookups for data following this standard:

- [FWS Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Dataset](#)

RELATED REFERENCE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Applicable policies:

[Part 274, FW 2, Establishing Service Data Standards](#)