



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



SEP - 9 2011

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/IRTM/049454

Memorandum

To: Service Directorate

From: Assistant Director for Information Resources (ADIR) 

Subject: Updating FWS Data Standards – GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE FORMAT and GEOGRAPHIC AREA NAME Data Element Standard

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Directorate of the modification of an adopted data procedure standard: the FWS GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE FORMAT; and the termination of an adopted data element standard: the GEOGRAPHIC AREA NAME Data Element Standard. The current data steward for these standards is Chris Lett, the National GIS Coordinator for the FWS.

The Geospatial Data Exchange Format procedural standard was originally approved on August 31, 1998. The standard will be modified to remove the Arc/Info Export (.e00) file format, as this is no longer considered an industry standard for sharing geospatial data.

More information on the Data Exchange Format procedure standard:

http://www.fws.gov/stand/standards/pr_geoex_WWW.html

The Geographic Area Name data element standard was originally approved March 21, 2000. The standard was an attribute used in geographic information systems and other databases as the “official names used to identify geographic areas created by the Service to support and implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fish and Wildlife Conservation”. This standard has not been used by the Service since 2008 and will be terminated.



More information on the Geographic Area Name data element standard:

http://www.fws.gov/stand/standards/de_geoname_WWW.html

More information on the Formal Process for Establishing Data Standards:

<https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/Formal-Process-for-Establishing-Data-Standards>

If you have any questions concerning this data standard, please contact the acting National Data Administrator/Data Steward, Chris Lett, at 303-275-2348.