GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2023

Arizona Report Card

Overall Grade: B+

COORDINATION	GRADE: A

STATE-LED THEMES	GRADE
Address	A-
Cadastre	B-
Elevation	B+
Orthoimagery Leaf-Off	D+
Transportation	B
NG9-1-1	A

FEDERAL-LED THEMES	GRADE
Geodetic Control	C+
Government Units	A
Orthoimagery Leaf-On	A

METRICS:

A - Superior

B - Above average

C - Average

D - Below average

F - Failure

N/A - Not Applicable

The National States Geographic Information Council Geospatial Maturity Assessment provides NSGIC members and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments. The NSGIC GMA now produce report cards for each state on central data themes and coordination topics. The assessment is performed every two years.

NSGIC

ARIZONA
GMA RESPONSE

Arizona appreciates the opportunity to participate in the NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment (GMA). The value of this bi-annual assessment is great. It provides a broad perspective of geospatial maturity across the nation. The GMA shows where Arizona is in comparison with other states which states may provide opportunities for Arizona to seek improvement. The annual report card approach also allows Arizona's stakeholders to quickly understand the status of our state's complex geospatial development and collaboration over time.

The GMA also provides insight into at least one theme in which Arizona appears to be unique. The National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) provides Arizona with statewide imagery on average, every two years. In many states, this imagery is considered Leaf-on, and as stated in the GMA documentation, is primarily used for forestry and agriculture purposes. Leaf-off orthoimagery in those same states is typically utilized for tax assessment and emergency response. In Arizona, due to its climate and landscape, NAIP imagery generally meets the state level needs of most stakeholders. Regionally, there are cooperative programs which provide orthoimagery for the years the NAIP is not flown, or in local areas where higher resolution imagery is required. From a statewide perspective, historically, there has been little interest to invest in additional orthoimagery programs. Therefore, scarce resources are allocated to other higher geospatial priorities. We believe the low-grade Arizona receives for the Orthoimagery Leaf-off theme is due to Arizona's unique set of circumstances.

Over the past year, the Arizona Geographic Information Council's Imagery Program Workgroup has begun exploring this topic. Through stakeholder engagement, this group has found that interest in a statewide program has changed and acquiring statewide high-resolution imagery in addition to NAIP and/or augmenting NAIP has become a higher priority. That said, there remains little distinction for stakeholders between Leaf-off and Leaf-on orthoimagery.

ARIZONA GMA RESPONSE

In 2021, Arizona received an A in the Transportation Theme. In 2023, the criteria and grading scheme were changed slightly to include 100% of road centerline data mapped within a state to receive an A grade. For Arizona, it is unlikely that we will ever be able to achieve complete coverage of all existing roads within the state largely due to tribal jurisdictions within our state boundaries. Currently, 99% of all existing road centerlines have been mapped. Nonetheless, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) continues to collaborate with tribal, local and federal partners with a goal to complete the roadway centerline data for our state. Engaging with these entities and federal partners, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is a top priority. It is our opinion that this unique challenge should not count against the state's overall GMA grade.

While we may disagree with our statewide orthoimagery and transportation theme grades, we believe the grades Arizona received for the other themes reflect an accurate representation of both the successes and challenges Arizona faces in our overall geospatial maturity.

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