

Record of Decision

USGS National Geospatial Program

DPRB Record of Decision

July 31, 2014

Request: Watershed Boundary Dataset--NWIS Drainage Area Boundaries

DPRB ID: *140713DPRB_ROD_WBD-NWIS Boundaries*

Decision: APPROVED

Background:

The USGS develops and maintains drainage area boundaries related to stream gages to determine critical statistics for water science. These drainage area boundaries are being modernized for the digital age by adopting the Watershed Boundary Dataset component of The National Map.

For the past 2-1/2 years the National Water Information System (NWIS) Drainage Area Workgroup (DAWG) members, comprised of 17 USGS representatives from the Office of Surface Water, Office Water Information, and NGP, have been consulting, evaluating and developing the preferred methodology and data structure for creation of a national layer of NWIS drainage area boundaries. They have determined that the optimum methodology is to adopt the WBD component of The National Map.

The National Geospatial Program Hydrography Theme requests to store all NWIS stream gage boundaries in The National Map using the WBD technique. The drainage areas will be created as a separate feature class within the WBD.

Although NGP resources will be required to 1) add the necessary fields to the database, and 2) maintain the basic IT infrastructure, it is anticipated that the drainage areas will be defined and maintained by Water Science Centers as part of our ongoing cooperation with the Office of Surface Water and the Office of Water Information.

Labor estimated at 4 hours per quarter

Reviewed and Approved by: Data Modeling Change Control Process (DMCCP), NHD and WBD Product and Service Leads, and the Water Resources COU lead,

DPRB Statement and Decision May 30 2013:

In response to the proposal the following was decided, The DPRB **approved** the proposal for the inclusion of NWIS Drainage Areas in the Watershed Boundaries dataset. This approval is based on the assumption that the drainage areas will be defined and maintained by Water Science Centers as part of an ongoing cooperation with the Office of Surface Water and the Office of Water Information. The DPRB strongly suggests the roles, responsibilities and expectations be documented in an

agreement between the NGP, the Office of Surface water and the Office of Water Information. The driving factors in the decision to approve were the potential benefits stated in the proposal to the Water Resources community for having the NWIS boundaries integrated with the WBD and the low cost to the NGP. The board recommends that progress on this effort be monitored regularly to assure the cost and benefit projections are accurate.

The board noted that the essential communication across the appropriate leads and boards had taken place to facilitate the decision. The proposers provided two written responses and a briefing to question and concerns raised by the board. There was strong support demonstrated by NGP and Water Mission Area representatives at the briefing.

Data Life Cycle Management Planning – NWIS Drainage Areas are listed in the DLCMP as a layer under the “research phase”. The proposal POC, Karen Hanson, is instructed to work with Glenn Guempel to assure the DLCMP is updated appropriately to reflect this decision.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FILED AS REFERENCE

- 1) Proposal
- 2) DPRB questions (2 rounds)
- 3) Proposer Responses
- 4) Briefing materials from Proposers