



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

May 1, 2023

Mr. Tom Rohlfinding, Chair
Oregon Geographic Information Council
c/o Geospatial Enterprise Office
530 Airport Road SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Rohlfinding:

I greatly appreciate your letter sharing the concerns of the Regional Interagency Executive Committee regarding the transition of our existing hydrography datasets – the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD), and the NHDPlus High Resolution (NHDPlus HR) – to the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP).

I would like to start by stating that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) takes your concerns about continuity of operations very seriously, and we are committed to working with you to find a mutually acceptable solution. To be clear, the NHD, WBD, and NHDPlus HR products will remain available as complete but static datasets for many years to come. However, development of the 3DHP requires that the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) shift limited resources away from maintenance and editing of the existing datasets by local stewards.

My understanding is that staff from the NGP are meeting regularly with stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest, have made a number of adjustments to the transition plan that address the concerns detailed in your correspondence, and the parties are moving ahead with the transition. I have asked Dr. Michael Tischler, USGS NGP Director, to provide a more detailed explanation, including the outcomes of the meetings and any adjustments to program plans.

If you have any additional concerns, I encourage you to contact Dr. Tischler at mtischler@usgs.gov

Sincerely,

David Applegate
Director