



A Reintroduction to the National Geodetic Survey & an Introduction of the Arizona Geodetic Coordinator

January 2018 Article
By: Brian Fisher

In this article, we will reintroduce one of the U.S. Federal Survey agencies, NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS), and introduce the new State Geodetic Coordinator. NGS has existed since the commissioning of the first Survey of the Coast in 1807 and continues to be a leading science agency. The mission of NGS is to define, maintain, and provide access to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). The NSRS provides a consistent coordinate system that defines latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States and its territories.



There are several ways to interact with NGS. The NGS home page, <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/> gives the public access to data, tools, data processing portals (OPUS), and contact information for NGS staff. Two important staff positions to mention are the Regional Geodetic Advisor and the State Geodetic Coordinator.

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a federal employee of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. The Advisor serves as a liaison between NGS and its public, academic, and private sector constituents within their assigned region. They provide expert guidance and assistance to these constituents who are managing the geodetic component of geospatial activities that are tied to the NSRS. Geodetic advisors serve as subject matter experts in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NGS and NOAA to further the organizations' missions. They are to maintain awareness of current developments in geodetic science and technology, updates and improvements to geodetic reference systems, and application to geospatial activities. Recognizing that a Regional Advisor supports an entire region in which individual states may have local and unique geodetic needs or priorities, NGS recommends that each state identify someone to serve as a State Geodetic Coordinator.

The State Geodetic Coordinator is not employed by NGS and is assigned by a state government agency or university. The Coordinator serves as a liaison between the state and NGS. State Coordinators should have technical expertise in geodesy to make informed decisions about and provide guidance for geospatial activities that benefit from connecting to the NSRS. The State Geodetic Coordinator is a primary point of contact in the state for the Regional Geodetic Advisor.

Arizona is located within the tristate Southwest Region of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The NGS Southwest Regional Advisor is [Bill Stone](#), and the Arizona State Geodetic Coordinator is [Brian Fisher](#).



Important websites to bookmark are the [NGS home page](#), and the [Advisors](#) page. Contact information for your advisor and coordinator are located there.

Both the advisor and coordinator are here to help the public with training opportunities and to assist surveyors in the submission of data to the NSRS databases. For more information in Arizona contact:



Brian S. Fisher, RLS
State Geodetic Coordinator, AZ
c/o Central Arizona Project
23636 N. Seventh Street
Phoenix, AZ 85024
phone: (623) 869-2656
email: bfisher@cap-az.com

