What are NCIC State Affiliates?

In 1974, the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, established the National Cartographic Information Center (NCIC) to serve as the public’s primary source for information concerning the availability of cartographic, geographic, and remotely sensed data. As part of its program of providing information to the public, NCIC began in 1976 to develop a network of State affiliated offices to provide local access to this information.

NCIC affiliates are located in most States throughout the country and provide information about a wide range of cartographic and geographic products available from the Government (Federal, State, and local) or private sources. Each office has the common goal of providing specialized up-to-date information.

Information Sources

Currently, more than 30 Federal agencies collect and prepare cartographic and geographic materials for distribution to the public. These holdings consist of maps and charts, aerial and space photographs, geodetic control data, and cartographic data in digital form. NCIC State affiliates provide information on the existence and location of most of these cartographic and geographic products through up-to-date microfilm indexing systems or computer search capabilities. Additionally, State affiliates canvass their local governments, libraries, universities, and private enterprises to identify and inventory new and existing cartographic materials within their States.
Additional Services

Some affiliates may be associated with Federal Document or Publication Depositories, State Geological Surveys, university and State libraries, or research centers. Specialized services may include producing educational tapes or slide presentations, sponsoring technical workshops, or selling U.S. Geological Survey maps. In addition, each State NCIC affiliate office has a stock of U.S. Geological Survey information and educational pamphlets describing many of the agency's products.

If you are not familiar with the many varieties of cartographic and geographic products, you can consult with your NCIC State affiliate representative who will help you find the product that is most appropriate for your needs.

For the name and telephone number of your nearest NCIC State affiliate coordinator, contact NCIC-Headquarters at 1-800-USA-MAPS.

Information and Ordering Assistance

Information and ordering assistance can be obtained from NCIC for the following cartographic products.

Maps and charts
Historic, current, and in progress
Topographic and planimetric
Mapping byproducts
Bathymetric
Geologic
Geophysical
Hydrologic
Land use/land cover
Aeronautical charts
Nautical charts
Utility maps
Transportation maps
County highway maps
Recreational maps
River charts

Atlases
Orthophoto map byproducts
Soil survey maps
Mineral and resources maps
Climate maps
Satellite image maps

Aerial and space photographs
High altitude photographs
Low altitude photographs
Space photographs

Geodetic data

Digital cartographic data
Elevations models
Line graphs (planimetric)
Geographic names data
User guides
Sources of applications software

Radar and satellite images

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