

Device Specs for Digital Data Collection

Many different devices can be used with the SOS digital data collection platform if they meet the following specifications (as outlined by BLM NOC January 20th, 2026):

- Minimum storage space is 128 GB. Maps, data, apps and other crew resources tend to eat up a significant amount of this space, so we recommend opting for more storage space on the device itself.
- **Device MUST be a Wi-Fi + Cellular model** (network provider doesn't matter). This is required for the device GPS to work. Wi-Fi only devices do not have a GPS chip. **The device does not have to have an active cellular plan**, though it can be helpful for troubleshooting in the field. Crews should be able to download all that they need in the office or somewhere with Wi-Fi connection.
- Supports the use of FieldMaps and Survey123
- A waterproof case, heavy duty straps, and battery pack are HIGHLY recommended for all devices.
- You can also purchase USB type devices to back up tablet data if you are going to be in remote areas for an extended amount of time.

Below is a list of BLM recommended devices from the National Operations Center (NOC). As long as the device meets the requirements above, **it does not have to be from this BLM list**. The list has a variety of devices, so you could investigate the most current models of those listed.

Device Focus

1. Samsung Galaxy S Line (Phones)
2. Samsung Galaxy Xcover (Ruggedized Phones)
3. Samsung Galaxy Tab Active Line (Ruggedized Tablet)
4. Samsung Galaxy Tab S Line (Tablet)
5. iPhone
6. iPad, iPad Air, iPad Mini (Cellular Equipped Only, plan not needed)

Notices:

1. It is important to note that there are no ruggedized versions of the iPhone or iPad, and that only iPad models designed for cellular use come with a GPS capability. If you are ordering an iPad for data collection, **DO NOT order a Wi-Fi only version. A data plan is not required for GIS collection.**

Table 1: Mobile devices approved by BLM

Model	Rugged	Form	Size
Samsung Galaxy S25	No	Phone	6.2"
Samsung Galaxy S25+	No	Phone	6.7"
Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra	No	Phone	6.9"
Samsung Galaxy S24	No	Phone	6.2"
Samsung Galaxy S24+	No	Phone	6.7"
Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra	No	Phone	6.8"
Samsung Xcover6 Pro	Yes	Phone	6.6"
Samsung Xcover7 Pro	Yes	Phone	6.6"
Samsung Tab Active5 Pro	Yes	Tablet	10.1"
Samsung Tab Active5	Yes	Tablet	8"
Samsung Tab S9	No	Tablet	11"
Samsung Tab S9+	No	Tablet	12.4"
Samsung Tab S9 FE	No	Tablet	11"
Samsung Tab S10+	No	Tablet	12.4"
Samsung Tab S10 Ultra	No	Tablet	14.6"
Samsung Tab S10 FE	No	Tablet	10.9"
Samsung Tab S10 FE+	No	Tablet	13.1"
Juniper Archer 4 (Unit Only)	Yes	Phone	6.26"
iPad (10 th Gen) – Cellular Only	No	Tablet	10.9"

Model	Rugged	Form	Size
iPad Mini 2021 – Cellular Only	No	Tablet	8.3”
iPad Air 11-In (M2) – Cellular Only	No	Tablet	11”
iPhones from Mobile Device List	No	Phone	Varies