Why can't non-USGS people be added as co-managers of a DOI record?

ANSWER: As you’ve noticed, the DOI Tool uses Crowd authentication against the USGS portion of Active Directory for user login and record management. Because of licensing restrictions, creation of DOIs under the USGS 10.5066 prefix is limited to USGS-published resources only. Non-USGS personnel are not permitted to create records under our prefix. If we allowed for non-USGS authentication into the DOI Tool, we would be unable to prevent unauthorized use of the Tool for assignment of DOIs to materials that are not published by USGS.

If your data or software release is a collaborative project with another agency, and USGS is serving as the official publisher of that release, a USGS project member will need to create, publish, and manage the DOI.