



**2022 Lead Covered Agency  
NGDA Theme Annual Performance Report  
and Self-Assessment  
*for*  
Geodetic Control Theme**

**Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3) Requirements**

February 4, 2023



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## Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018. The GDA was included as a component of the FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 302, P.L. 115-254). The GDA is now in [U.S. Code, Title 43 – Public Lands, Chapter 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA](#).<sup>1</sup>

The GDA Section 2805(b)(3)(E)(I) requires annual performance reports to be submitted to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) that document “the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset [NGDA] data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)” of Section 2805(b)(3).

This Lead Covered Agency NGDA Theme Annual Performance Report (LCA NGDA Theme Report) covers the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022), October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The report provides an update on progress made at the NGDA Portfolio and FGDC agency level in support of meeting GDA requirements. This is the third annual report which is based on a template and survey to facilitate consistency across the FGDC NGDA Themes. As per the GDA, a summary and evaluation of the progress to achieve the requirements will be generated by FGDC and will be provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for comment. The FGDC summary is required to include a rating for each responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations." These ratings are included in this report and are used to generate part of the annual FGDC Summary Report. The summary report along with NGAC comments are included in the biennial FGDC Report to Congress. This and other required reports and information are available online via the [FGDC GDA pages](#).<sup>2</sup>

The FY2022 LCA NGDA Theme annual report continues to use the GDA definition for NGDA data theme as the foundation for reporting compliance *for the data within the theme*. From the GDA definitions, NGDA data theme “means the NGDA core geospatial datasets (including electronic records and coordinates) relating to a topic or subject designated under Section 2805.”

## Executive Summary

This third annual FGDC NGDA Theme report provides insights into cross-cutting FGDC portfolio-level activities and theme-specific agency-level activities that will document progress in meeting GDA requirements.

At the theme level, this report provides updates to summaries and information for ongoing processes, procedures, and actions within agencies that manage NGDA datasets, that were provided in previous annual reports.

At the portfolio level, this report highlights continued efforts across the FGDC agencies and the NGDA themes to evaluate the requirements of the GDA in the context of the goals and objectives of the [NSDI Strategic Plan](#).<sup>3</sup> Based on an emerging cross-agency understanding of these requirements, the FGDC NGDA Theme community is undertaking efforts to establish governance processes that build on accomplishments, provide value and ensure efficiency. The NGDA Theme Leads established a working group to develop a single NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template that can be tailored to each theme with goals and objectives that are cross walked with all GDA requirements and the NSDI Strategic Plan. The aim of the adopted plan template is to provide flexibility, allowing agencies who manage NGDA data, to identify actions and accomplishments that align with the established goals, objectives, and anticipated

outcomes, yet are sensitive to technological, economic, and organizational constraints and opportunities of the agencies managing NGDA data. The FGDC team also plans to incorporate a simple approach for annual reporting on implementation plans and status of the identified actions.

The efforts documented in this report reflect that all FGDC NGDA Themes are making progress towards meeting GDA requirements.

## Official Theme Related Information

As per the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance (A-16 Guidance), official theme related information includes designated points of contact for NGDA Portfolio management, including Theme Leads and Executive Champions, and the official list of NGDA datasets. As further described in the sections below, this information is maintained on the GeoPlatform [NGDA Portfolio Community](#)<sup>4</sup> site.

### NGDA Theme Points of Contact

**Reference:** [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(E\)\(i\)](#)

Section 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) requires lead covered agencies to “designate a point of contact within the lead covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform” as part of administering the NGDA theme.

In accordance with the A-16 Guidance, NGDA theme personnel play an ongoing, vital role in the operation and maintenance of a theme. They are individuals who provide interdepartmental leadership and coordination at the NGDA theme level and work with NGDA dataset managers to facilitate, among other things, portfolio development including activities associated with standards and guidance.

Traditionally, these roles have been coordinated through lead covered agencies with the FGDC Office of the Secretariat and the NGDA theme lead assuming a majority of NGDA theme responsibilities. Transitioning to meet specific GDA responsibilities provides opportunities for lead covered agencies to designate specific points of contact to coordinate an expanding portfolio of datasets across the NGDA theme and for greater dissemination of data through the GeoPlatform.

Theme and agency points of contact provided in Table 1 below are maintained to meet requirements from the [A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities](#).<sup>5</sup> This information is kept up-to-date in the [NGDA Portfolio Community](#). From the NGDA Portfolio Community page, the NGDA Theme Leads and NGDA Theme Executive Champions lists are found under the NGDA Portfolio drop down menu.

Geodetic Control Theme Contacts	
<b>Theme Lead(s):</b>	Daniel Roman, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>Executive Theme Champion(s):</b>	Juliana Blackwell, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Table 1. Theme and Lead Covered Agency Points of Contact Involved in Theme Management.**

## NGDA Theme Datasets

The NGDA datasets and the agencies listed in Table 2 are provided as the official list of NGDA that currently populate the Geodetic Control Theme. If the theme includes NGDA datasets managed by non-covered agencies, they are shown in bold. Support for GDA requirements by these non-covered agencies is very important to the success of the themes. The official list of NGDA Portfolio Datasets is maintained on the GeoPlatform in the [NGDA Portfolio Community](#) under the NGDA Portfolio drop down menu. Each NGDA dataset also has a unique value assigned, called an NGDAID, that allows the dataset to be tracked throughout its lifecycle.

NGDAID	Geodetic Control Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
47	Airborne Gravity: NGS Gravity Data for the US and Territories (2008-2022) – National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Airborne Gravity (GRAV-D)	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
48	National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) NOAA Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) Network	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
49	Geodetic Control Information on Passive Marks: Horizontal and Vertical Geodetic Control Data for the United States – National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Geodetic Control Information on Passive Marks	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50	Geoid Height and Deflections of the Vertical Models - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Geoid Models	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Table 2. NGDA Theme Datasets.**

## Meeting General Responsibilities – USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(2)

Reference: [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(2\)](#)

**How is the Lead Covered Agency(ies) participating in ensuring the coordinated management of the Theme? (Select all that apply - see Appendix A for the complete list of optional responses)**

- Agency has published a geospatial strategy as required by the GDA
- Theme Lead(s) attend NGDA Theme Community Meetings
- Theme Lead(s) participate in GDA Working Group meetings
- Theme Leads(s) review the outcomes from GDA Working Group meetings and provide feedback on approaches for GDA compliance
- Theme Lead(s) coordinate GDA compliance activities with Theme personnel
- Theme Lead(s) communicate new and ongoing Portfolio Management activities and priorities with Dataset Managers in the Theme
- Steering Committee members coordinate with the Theme
- Other: Theme Champion and Theme Lead hold meetings of Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee on an annual basis to involve other US Agencies

## Managing Theme-Related Content on GeoPlatform

During FY2022, the GeoPlatform transitioned from WordPress to Esri ArcGIS Hub sites to house and manage Theme related content. Theme Community Hub sites are a work in progress, allowing Themes to publicly display information from a variety of sources.

## Geodetic Control Theme Progress Towards Meeting Requirements

### Background

This section provides Theme-related updates to information provided in previous annual reports and designates the Lead Covered Agency self-assessment for each of the four GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements.

### A. Geospatial Data Standards

The following table describes the GDA requirements for Section 2805(b)(3)(A) pertaining to geospatial data standards, and the Lead Covered Agency’s self-assessment for meeting those requirements.

GDA Requirement	<p><a href="#">USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(A)</a> – Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of geospatial data standards for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, with a particular emphasis on a data content standard for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including by—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. assessing existing standards;</li> <li>ii. identifying anticipated or needed data standards; and</li> <li>iii. developing a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices —             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A– 119, or any successor thereto; and</li> <li>II. consistent with or as a part of the plan described in subparagraph (B);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>

### FGDC Agency Efforts to Support NGDA Data Standards

This section provides summary updates on NGDA Theme agency-level activities and efforts to support standards for the NGDA portfolio datasets.

#### Brief Summary

The following is a brief update and description of FY2022 actions, progress, and accomplishments regarding activities that address Section 2805(b)(3)(A). (Limit 5,000 characters, or approximately 1.5 pages)

**Clarifying Text:** Summary includes agency, sub-agency, or bureau-level progress and accomplishments associated with any new key activities, and those highlighted last year, including citations and resource links as necessary. Key activities cover any of the data within the Theme and include:

- ✓ development, maintenance, modification, or establishment of standards
- ✓ work that supports standards

As with last year's report, this also includes involvement in and accomplishments of groups in support of NGDA data standards, such as:

- ✓ FGDC subcommittees and working groups
- ✓ Agency working groups and partner efforts
- ✓ National and international voluntary consensus standards bodies
- ✓ International geospatial organizations supporting standards
- ✓ Other activities that support standards

The Theme Champion serves as the Chair for the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS). The FGCS held an annual meeting to update other Agencies regarding standards, guidelines and procedures related to the collection, analysis and use of their geospatial data with respect to the National Spatial Reference System. Several subordinate working groups focus on the data and related standards associated with the four NGDA datasets in the theme.

The standards associated with these datasets are primarily derived from internationally accepted standards groups adopted for use by the US Standards organizations (ANSI). DOC staff actively participated in these international and national organizations to ensure that NGDA datasets remain compliant with these internationally accepted standards and that any standards under development would meet US needs for geospatial data. In the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 211 [ISO TC211] (<https://committee.iso.org/home/tc211>), DOC staff ensured that US geospatial reference systems were maintained in conformance with standards during monthly meetings and semi-annual plenary meetings. DOC staff were active in the Advisory Group 12 - the Geodetic Registry, which is the official, global repository for geodetic reference frames and datums.

DOC Staff also participate as liaisons from ISO/TC211 to ISO/TC 20/SC 14 - Space systems and operations (<https://www.iso.org/committee/46614.html>). TC20/SC14 defines standards related to space systems such as Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) critical to accessing the U.S. NSRS. DOC Staff are working to establish a Joint Working Group between TC20/SC14 and TC211 to ensure that maximum compatibility is achieved to meet U.S. needs in the Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) community at GPS.gov. DOC Staff also support ISO TC172/SC6 on geodetic and survey instrumentation. This ensures that the equipment used for geodetic control meets international standards for operations.

DOC staff met twice monthly for the Open Geospatial Consortium [OGC] (<https://www.ogc.org/>) Working Groups for Deformation Modeling and Gridded Geodetic Data eXchange format (GGXF) to help develop new standards related to geodetic data. The CORSNDA dataset is collected and archived in conformance with standards set by the International Association of Geodesy [IAG] (<https://www.iag-aig.org/>) of which DOC staff act as an analysis center for active geodetic control. Finally, ISO and OGC standards are adopted in the US nationally by the American National Standards Institution [ANSI] (<https://www.ansi.org/>) to which DOC staff are collaterally assigned in conjunction with their international assignments.

Additionally, DOC staff participate in other international groups that affect policy and governance related to standards including:

- (1) United Nations committee of experts on Global Geospatial Information Management [UN-GGIM] (<https://ggim.un.org/>)



- (2) United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy (<https://www.unggrf.org/>)
- (3) UN-GGIM regional committee for the Americas (<https://ggim.un.org/>)
- (4) UN-GGIM regional committee for Asia/Pacific (<https://www.un-ggim-ap.org/>)
- (5) Group on Earth Observations (<https://earthobservations.org/index.php>)
- (6) AmeriGEO (<https://www.amerigeo.org/>)
- (7) PanAmerican Institute of Geography and History (<https://www.ipgh.org/>)
- (8) Sistema de Referencia Geocéntrico para las Américas [SIRGAS] (<https://sirgas.ipgh.org/en/>)
- (9) International Federation of Surveyors (<https://www.fig.net/>)
- (10) Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (<https://pgsc.gem.spc.int/>)

## B. Nationwide Population of the Data Theme

The following table describes the GDA requirements for Section 2805(b)(3)(B) pertaining to a plan for nationwide population of the data theme, and the Lead Covered Agency’s self-assessment for meeting those requirements.

GDA Requirement	<p><a href="#">USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(B)</a>– provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—</p> <p>(i) include developing partnership programs with States, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other Federal agencies, and local governments;</p> <p>(ii) meet the needs of users of geospatial data;</p> <p>(iii) address human and financial resource needs;</p> <p>(iv) identify needs relating to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, and the GeoPlatform; and</p> <p>(v) expedite the development of necessary National Geospatial Data Asset data themes;</p>
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>

### FGDC Agency Efforts to Support Plans for Nationwide Population of NGDA Datasets

This section provides summary updates on NGDA Theme agency-level activities and efforts to support plans for nationwide population of NGDA Datasets.

#### Brief Summary

The following is a brief update and description of FY2022 actions, progress, and accomplishments regarding activities that address Section 2805(b)(3)(B). (Limit 5,000 characters, or approximately 1.5 pages)

**Clarifying Text:** Summary includes agency, sub-agency, or bureau-level progress and accomplishments associated with any new key activities, and those highlighted last year, including citations and resource links as necessary. Key activities that support nationwide population of NGDA datasets within the Theme include:

- ✓ existing or planned partnership programs with a wide range of stakeholders supporting NGDA datasets within the Theme
- ✓ processes, or plans for processes, in place to meet the needs of users. Note that Section D of this report also covers efforts to collect and analyze user needs and incorporation of those needs into agency strategies.
- ✓ existing or planned program and data management plans in place that address human and financial resource needs
- ✓ processes, or plans for processes, in place to identify needs related to standards
- ✓ any other processes in place that support nationwide population of datasets (e.g., data quality control processes that cover data collected by external stakeholders)

The four NGDA datasets represent the core components for the modernized National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) managed by this theme. The NSRS underpins all geospatial data and ensures that the geospatial components of other NGDA datasets meet international standards and requirements. DOC Staff have advocated for language in the draft OMB Circular A-16 to cite the intent that national, civilian agencies adopt the NSRS to define the geospatial components for U.S. Government geospatial data in compliance with the intent for interoperability expressed by the GDA. This ensures a national standard for geodetic information and maximizes interoperability of the data in conformance with internationally accepted F.A.I.R. principles (Findable-Accessible-Interoperable-Reusable). DOC Staff are working through regional and global groups to ensure that the NSRS is tied explicitly to internationally accepted and adopted reference systems such as the International Terrestrial Reference System.

DOC Staff also work with DoD staff to better define relationships between civilian (NSRS) and military (WGS84) systems. This collaboration aids in meeting national standards compliance but assists DoD and NASA missions focused on transforming between terrestrial systems and those for extra-planetary reference systems (Moon, Mars). Ensuring a consistent standard for all U.S. geospatial data ensures maximum success for these other missions.

The four NGDA datasets in this theme all are readily accessible from online tools. DOC staff perform ongoing analysis and outreach to stakeholders and a variety of tools are available for national access to these data. Significant collaboration exists with neighboring countries to ensure continuity across the borders of the US and to meet international standards. Significant collaboration also exists from various stakeholders within the US to meet the needs of the US Citizens to have fundamental geodetic control to perform surveys for civil engineering, construction, scientific, and academic studies. Being available through the Geoplatform, Data.Gov, and Program websites ensures that the data are also in compliance with the Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary Government Data Act of 2018.

### C. Establish Goals That Support the NSDI Strategic Plan

The following table describes the GDA requirements for Section 2805(b)(3)(C) pertaining to establishing goals that support the NSDI Strategic Plan, and the Lead Covered Agency’s self-assessment for meeting those requirements.

GDA Requirement	<a href="#">USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(C)</a> – establish goals that support the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 2804(c);
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>

References: [NSDI Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#)

#### FGDC Agency Efforts to Support Establishing Goals That Support the NSDI Strategic Plan

This section provides summary updates on NGDA Theme agency-level activities and efforts to support establishing goals that support the NSDI Strategic Plan.

##### Brief Summary

The following is a brief update and description of FY2022 actions, progress, and accomplishments regarding activities that address Section 2805(b)(3)(C). (Limit 5,000 characters, or approximately 1.5 pages)

**Clarifying Text:** Summary includes agency, sub-agency, or bureau-level progress and accomplishments associated with any new key activities, and those highlighted last year, including citations and resource links as necessary, that support that support the NSDI Strategic Plan and the NGDA datasets within the theme.

The DOC Data Strategy, Geospatial Strategy and Geospatial Strategic Action Plan established DOC Goals to implement the NSDI Strategic Plan. The Theme Lead and Dataset Managers work in DOC Geospatial Working Group and Standards User Group to translate these actions and goals into theme requirements. The Theme related strategic plan is maintained by the Theme Lead and provides specific goals tied to the development of a modernized National Spatial Reference System based on the NGDA datasets. In support of this Theme Strategic Plan, several Blueprints have been developed to provide clarity and standards on how this modernization will be implemented and used. Outreach events are used to promulgate the information from these Blueprints to better inform stakeholders and users.

Additionally, the Theme Lead participates in ongoing meetings to develop a standard theme template that links aspects of the GDA to theme related activities. This will make the compliance by DOC staff in support of this theme more clear for future audits required by the GDA. The four datasets have been more clearly linked to Data.gov by DOC staff to better ensure harvesting of the data for geoplatform.gov.

## D. Addressing User Needs

The following table describes the GDA requirements for Section 2805(b)(3)(D) pertaining to addressing user needs, and the Lead Covered Agency's self-assessment for meeting those requirements.

GDA Requirement	<a href="#">USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(D)</a> – as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme regarding the needs of the users for geospatial data and incorporate the needs of users in strategies relating to the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme;
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	<b>Made Progress Toward Expectations</b>

### FGDC Agency Efforts to Support Addressing User Needs

This section provides summary updates on NGDA Theme agency-level activities and efforts to support addressing user needs.

#### Brief Summary

The following is a brief update and description of FY2022 actions, progress, and accomplishments regarding activities that address Section 2805(b)(3)(D). (Limit 5,000 characters, or approximately 1.5 pages)

**Clarifying Text:** Summary includes agency, sub-agency, or bureau-level progress and accomplishments associated with any new key activities, and those highlighted last year, including citations and resource links as necessary. Key activities that support incorporating user needs into strategies related to the NGDA datasets within the Theme include, processes that as necessary:

- ✓ collect and analyze the needs of users
- ✓ incorporate those needs of users into strategies relating to the NGDA datasets

Extensive interactions with users and stakeholders continue as they previously occurred. All major projects tied to the NGDA datasets and the modernization of the National Spatial Reference System have a mandatory outreach and communication section. Additionally, a position has been established for several years for a Constituent Resource Manager as well as Regional Advisers whose primary task is to interact with stakeholders and industry to ensure that a two way flow of communication occurs.

COVID measures were still in place through the end of Q3. Virtual outreach continued during this period including a number of events in support of state and regional stakeholders. Since the end of the most stringent COVID precautions, a number of in-person events have been held by DOC staff with stakeholders to address current and future needs of geospatial data and the associated standards. These events provide an opportunity to receive feedback directly and use them to update any communication strategies.

During this entire period, outreach was conducted at meetings with primary stakeholder groups including the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), ESRI, and others. Alpha products are being developed to provide industry and other stakeholders an opportunity to adjust to new data formats and methodology. Blueprints have been developed and published to explain this rollout and

how to practically implement the changes. Every new product or service must be reviewed by a Products and Services Committee to determine impacts to users and stakeholders before implementing. It is anticipated that these efforts will need to be further increased with proximity to the rollout - requiring further planning.

# FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Towards Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements

## Background

This section highlights the actions that reflect FGDC Portfolio-level progress towards meeting GDA requirements.

Since the passage of the GDA, FGDC agencies and the Theme Leads have continued to evaluate options to consistently document progress and streamline reporting. Development of a NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template, based on an existing strategic plan developed for the Transportation Theme, is underway. The template will provide a consistent framework for agencies to develop goals, objectives, and actions that directly align with GDA requirements. Theme annual reports will highlight agency actions and accomplishments associated with the strategic plan in support of standards, nationwide population of NGDA datasets, strategic planning that aligns with the NSDI Strategic Plan, and meeting user needs. Additional details for each of the four GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements are included below.

## A. Geospatial Data Standards

To ensure continuity of standards development including maintenance and implementation of existing standards, the FGDC Steering Committee approved the following Position Statement on Standards on December 17, 2021:

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) establishes the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) as the lead entity in the executive branch of government for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards relating to geospatial data. The GDA describes responsibilities related to geospatial standards for the FGDC and the agencies covered by the law (covered agencies). These responsibilities are reinforced by Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 and OMB Circular A-119 (development and use of voluntary consensus standards). In the near future, FGDC will reestablish and resource a sustainable standards process, including implementing supporting governance requirements, updating and improving legacy processes, and validating standards for use as required under the GDA. Agencies should continue, to the extent possible in lieu of an active standards process, to develop, review, update, and achieve compliance with existing and pending standards, and become members of the appropriate FGDC standards body when active.

The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template will include information that supports Theme related standards and support for the FGDC standards process to ensure overall continuity in standards across all NGDA Themes.

## B. Nationwide Population of NGDA Datasets

This section of the GDA calls on the FGDC agencies to, “provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.” FGDC agencies manage NGDA core datasets and other geospatial data to meet mission requirements and to address priority needs of the agency and the nation. The strategic plan

template will incorporate ongoing agency efforts to establish partnerships, conduct requirements and user needs analysis, identify options for appropriate human and financial resourcing, and identify needs relating to standards for NGDA datasets in support of nationwide population of priority geospatial datasets.

In accordance with the GDA definition of NGDA data theme, the NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template being developed will allow theme plans to focus on nationwide population of the core datasets within the theme and allow agencies to document, provide citations to, and report on efforts that facilitate meeting this requirement.

### C. Establish Goals That Support the NSDI Strategic Plan

The FGDC and the geospatial community have partnered for decades in building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Much has been accomplished and exploitation of the internet, combined with advances in technology and availability of mobile devices, have increased public awareness that everything happens somewhere. Having geospatial data and information available at people's fingertips has become an expectation for most users. The vision of the NSDI Strategic Plan 2021-2024 of a "geo-enabled Nation and world for place-based decision making" provides a platform for partnerships that help ensure required data is the best possible data. FGDC has adopted as its mission to enable a "national network of geospatial resources that seamlessly integrate location-based information to serve the needs of the Nation and wider global interests."

The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template being developed will allow agencies to identify actions and accomplishments that align with mission requirements and support implementation of the NSDI Strategic Plan and its goals and objectives. For the NGDA portfolio, the NSDI Strategic Plan objectives include efforts to: 1) streamline portfolio management practices and establish standards for NGDA themes and associated datasets, 2) develop common approaches to implement data acquisition and lifecycle management strategies, 3) advance the practice of integrating government and nongovernment data into national datasets, as necessary and 4) ensure that geospatial and other meaningful data can be easily integrated and used.

### D. Addressing User Needs

The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template will allow FGDC agencies to identify efforts to understand the needs of users and incorporate those needs into strategies relating to the NGDA datasets and themes.



## Appendix A: Survey Picklist

This appendix provides the full set of available choices presented for the Meeting General Responsibilities – USC Sec.2805(b)(2) question.

### **How is the Lead Covered Agency(ies) participating in ensuring the coordinated management of the Theme? (Select all that apply)**

- Agency has published a geospatial strategy as required by the GDA
- No participation in ensuring coordinated management of the Theme
- Theme Executive Champion(s) attend NGDA Theme Community Meetings
- Theme Lead(s) attend NGDA Theme Community Meetings
- Theme Lead(s) participate in GDA Working Group meetings
- Theme Leads(s) review the outcomes from GDA Working Group meetings and provide feedback on approaches for GDA compliance
- Theme Lead(s) coordinate GDA compliance activities with Theme personnel
- Theme Lead(s) communicate new and ongoing Portfolio Management activities and priorities with Dataset Managers in the Theme
- Steering Committee members coordinate with the Theme
- Other [Textbox provided]

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Code, Title 43 – Public Lands, Chapter 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA  
<https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/43-usc-ch-46-geospatial-data-geospatial-data-act.pdf>
- <sup>2</sup> FGDC GDA Information:  
<https://fgdc.gov/gda>
- <sup>3</sup> NSDI Strategic Plan:  
<https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>
- <sup>4</sup> NGDA Portfolio Community Site:  
<https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/portfolio>
- <sup>5</sup> OMB A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities:  
<https://fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/key-roles-and-responsibilities-a16-supplemental.pdf>