



**2022 Lead Covered Agency
NGDA Theme Annual Performance Report
and Self-Assessment**
for
**Governmental Units, and Administrative
and Statistical Boundaries 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](#).¹

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](#).²

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](#).³ 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](#)⁴ 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](#).⁵ 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.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Contacts	
Theme Lead(s):	Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
Executive Theme Champion(s):	Deirdre D. Bishop, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

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 Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries 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	Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
57	Series Information for 116 th Congressional District National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
58	Series Information for 2020 Census 5-Digit Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA5) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
59	TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2010, Series Information File for the 2010 Census Block State-based Shapefile with Housing and Population Data	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
60	Series Information for 2020 Census Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
61	Series Information for 2010 Census Urban Area National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
62	Series Information for 2020 Census Urban Growth Area (UGA) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
63	Series Information for 2020 Census Voting District (VTD) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
64	Series Information for American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Areas (AIANNH) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
65	Series Information for American Indian Tribal Subdivision (AITS) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
66	Series Information for Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
69	Series Information for 2020 Census Block State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
70	Series Information for Block Group State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
72	Series Information for Census Tract State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

NGDAID	Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
73	Series Information for Combined New England City and Town Area (CNECTA) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
74	Series Information for Combined Statistical Area (CSA) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
75	Series Information for Consolidated City State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
76	Series Information for County and Equivalent Entities National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
77	Series Information for County Subdivision State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
78	Series Information for Elementary School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
80	Series Information for Estate State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
81	HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA)	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
82	International Boundary United States Mexico Minute 315	U.S. Department of State, International Boundary and Water Commission
83	Series Information for Metropolitan Division National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
84	Series Information for Core-Based Statistical Areas National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
86	Series Information for New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Divisions National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
87	Series Information for New England City and Town Area (NECTA) National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
88	Series Information for Place State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
89	Series Information for Secondary School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
90	Series Information for State and Equivalent Entities National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
91	Series Information for State Legislative District (SLD) Lower Chamber State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
92	Series Information for State Legislative District (SLD) Upper Chamber State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
93	Series Information for Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

NGDAID	Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
94	Series Information for Tribal Block Group National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
95	Series Information for Tribal Census Tract National TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
96	Series Information for Unified School Districts State-based TIGER/Line Shapefiles, Current	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
97	United States Canada Boundary	U.S. Department of State, International Boundary Commission
186	BLM National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA)	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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: The Theme Executive Champion for the Governmental Units Theme participated in the 2022 FGDC Steering Committee and Executive Committee meetings to represent the Census Bureau as the Lead Covered Agency for the Governmental Units Theme and the Address Theme. Theme Lead(s) from the Census Bureau also participated in the 2022 Lead Covered Agency Theme Annual Report Team meetings to provide feedback to the LCA report template and the NGDA Theme GDA Strategic Plan template.

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.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries 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>USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(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"> i. assessing existing standards; ii. identifying anticipated or needed data standards; and iii. developing a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A– 119, or any successor thereto; and II. consistent with or as a part of the plan described in subparagraph (B);
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	Made Progress Toward Expectations

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 Census Bureau applies data content and metadata standards from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to 33 Governmental Units Theme NGDAs. All NGDAs comply with the use of metadata standards, namely ISO 19115-2 and ISO 19139-2. The Census Bureau is taking steps to transform metadata to ISO 19115-1 and ISO 19115-3 in the future.

The Census Bureau submits an annual report to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on the development and use of voluntary consensus standards from the previous fiscal year. The Census Bureau participates in the following FGDC Subcommittees and working groups to support standards:

- GDA Covered Agency Working Group: Commerce Executive Champions and members of the Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG) and the Commerce Geospatial Standards Users' Group (CGSUG) attend monthly meetings of this interagency working group. In FY22, participants discussed the FGDC's endorsement of standards and the reestablishment of the FGDC Standards process.
- NGDA Theme Lead Working Group: The Census Bureau's Theme Lead for the Governmental Units Theme and co-chair for the National Boundaries participate in monthly meetings with the NGDA Theme Lead Community. FY22 topics included metadata requirements for Data.gov and the GeoPlatform, metadata audits, GDA compliance, and conformance to standards.
- Census Bureau Geospatial Standards Working Group (CBGSWG): The CBGSWG facilitates monthly meetings relating to implementing geospatial standards for Census Bureau products and services. In FY22, the CBGSWG documented metadata creation, quality control, and harvesting activities for the Census Bureau's NGDAs, produced a geospatial product inventory, and developed a road map for future standards activities.
- Commerce Geospatial Standards Users Group (CGSUG): Commerce members meet monthly to review standards implementation, recent geospatial legislation and policies, tools and classification systems for metadata collection, schema, data content, symbology, codes, internet protocols, and data dissemination for multiple use cases.
- International Voluntary Consensus Standards Bodies: Commerce staff participates in international voluntary consensus standards bodies and standards development through the International Committee for Information Technology Standards Technical Committee L1 - Geographic Information Systems (INCITS-L1), the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (TC 211), and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

- United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM): In FY22, Deirdre Bishop, the Census Bureau’s Chief of the Geography Division and Executive Champion for the Governmental Units Theme served in her ongoing role as the Head of the U.S. Delegation of the UN-GGIM. Ms. Bishop was appointed by the Chief Statistician of the United States and the United Nations Statistics Division Director and invited to co-chair to the High-level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. In these roles, the Census Bureau provides senior leadership to promote the delivery of national geospatial information policy, data, systems, and capabilities globally.
- United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI): U.S. representatives from the Census Bureau participate in the UN EG-ISGI, which includes the development of norms, principles, guides, and standards to increase the interoperability and integration of statistical and geospatial information.
- Delineation of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas using Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards: The Census Bureau's NGDAs adhere to OMB’s current standards for delineating metropolitan, micropolitan, and related statistical areas. The 2020 standards were published in a Federal Register Notice [86 FR 37770] on July 16, 2021: 2020 Standards for Delineating Core Based Statistical Areas.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Geographic Area Codes: The Census Bureau’s NGDAs support the maintenance of the ANSI geographic area codes for states, counties, metropolitan, micropolitan, and other geographic areas.
- Board on Geographic Names (BGN): The Census Bureau’s staff participates in the BGN to maintain uniform geographic name usage and name standardization in all Governmental Units Theme NGDAs, and geospatial data products. The BGN is the central authority to resolve name problems, name inquiries, name changes, and new name proposals.
- The Census Bureau and the U.S. Geological Survey Geospatial Collaboration Group (GCG): This group follows the terms and conditions outlined in their Memorandum of Understanding (January 11, 2021) to collaborate on names for the U.S. Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

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>USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(B)– 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) include developing partnership programs with States, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other Federal agencies, and local governments; (ii) meet the needs of users of geospatial data; (iii) address human and financial resource needs; (iv) identify needs relating to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, and the GeoPlatform; and (v) expedite the development of necessary National Geospatial Data Asset data themes;
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	Made Progress Toward Expectations

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)

A key objective of the Census Bureau's "Vision for the Geographic Support Program, Fiscal Years 2021-2031" is to continuously maintain the completeness, accuracy, and currency of the MAF/TIGER System in support of timely data collection and dissemination of innovative products, namely addresses, features, boundaries, and geospatial reference data for customers, partners, and data users. The Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme LCA (Census Bureau) provides authoritative data developed from the Census Bureau partnership programs. Continuous innovation in the products, geographic applications, and data acquisition methodologies from partners enhances the quality of the Census Bureau's NGDAs and the nationwide population of the data theme as outlined below:

- The Partner Portal: The collection of geospatial data from tribal, state, and local government partners each year will continue to support ongoing analysis of change on the landscape (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/partnerships.html>). To centralize interactions with the partners, the Census Bureau is developing a web-based Partner Portal that government partners can access via a secure login on census.gov. Once released, partners can view and provide contact updates, submit program data, receive data products, communicate with Census Bureau staff, and view historical program participation statuses for their government.
- Data integration process: The Census Bureau has software, control systems, and dashboards in place to ingest partner files which ensures that partners are providing their data in a standard format with all required attribute information needed for the Census Bureau to integrate into the MAF/TIGER System. The Census Bureau records return dates for partner data, creates log files documenting the contents throughout the process, reviews for duplicate submissions, checks for pending records, determines the types of changes, and creates standardized geospatial databases for processing, quality control, and verification.
- Reciprocal data exchange: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Census Bureau's long-standing partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) facilitates the reciprocal exchange of Census Bureau's roads and boundary data within the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Reference (TIGER) System for use by USGS in The National Map to update the U.S. topographic map series (US Topo) and the Census Bureau's NGDAs.
- Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS): To meet the needs of data users and partners, the Geographic Support Program has evaluated new and innovative geospatial technologies to further expand upon existing capabilities. Areas of focus include further adoption of agile development methodology and capabilities that support improved usability of geographic applications and products (i.e., make them more usable by non-GIS users). A primary example of this is the GUPS web interface based on QGIS, an open-source geographic information system. There will be continued improvements to the GUPS standalone application for partnership participation. The implementation of the web interface will be available in 2023 for the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) and School District Review Program (SDRP) with expansion to additional partnership programs later in the decade.

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	USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(C) – establish goals that support the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 2804(c);
Lead Covered Agency Self-Assessment	Made Progress Toward Expectations

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 Commerce Geospatial Strategy, Fiscal Years 2021-24 aligns with the goals of the NSDI Strategic Plan (see <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/US-Dept-of-Commerce-Geospatial-Strategy-FY21-24.pdf>).

The Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries (Governmental Units) Theme Lead is participating in the development of the NGDA [Theme Name] Theme GDA Strategic Plan (tentative title) template being produced by an interagency GDA working group. The template will allow FGDC to establish common goals and objectives across the NGDA themes that are aligned with GDA requirements. The GDA Theme Strategy template will allow agencies to efficiently document or provide citations to agency efforts at the NGDA dataset level that further compliance with GDA requirements.

The Census Bureau, as the lead covered agency for the Governmental Units Theme has documented the following FY 2022 accomplishments and key activities that align with the NSDI Strategic Plan:

- Administer the Governmental Units Theme According to the GDA.
 - o The Census Bureau staff participated in the interagency GDA working group to establish goals based upon the NSDI Strategic Plan.
 - o The Census Bureau’s Geospatial Standards Working Group (CBGSWG) identified needs relating to standards, metadata, and the GeoPlatform.
 - o The Census Bureau participated in the FY22 Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Inspector

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General GDA audit.

o An action plan was submitted by the DOC's Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) and Chief Data Officer to address FY22 audit recommendations.

- Lead and facilitate the development, or adoption, and implementation of geospatial data standards for the Governmental Units Theme, with an emphasis on data content standards.

- o A task team of the CBGSWG produced a road map for data content standards.

- o Task teams of the CBGSWG analyzed metadata and data content standards to comply with the OMB Circular A-119.

- Coordinate with, and foster the use of, the GeoPlatform to increase the need for, accelerate the development of, and expand the use of, geospatial-boundaries data.

- o The Census Bureau designated a point of contact for annual metadata harvests to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

- Meet the needs of users of Governmental Units Theme data.

- o The Geographic Support Program Strategic Plan, Fiscal Year 2022 Through Fiscal Year 2026 was published in August 2022, see

- https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/gsp/Geographic_Support_Program_Strategic_PlanFY22-26.pdf.

- o The Census Bureau is developing a Partner Portal to further enhance the partner experience and better enable partners to share geospatial data and feedback with the Census Bureau. Further, the Census Bureau intends to conduct additional listening tour sessions in calendar year 2023 to solicit feedback from its partners on the design and implementation of partnership programs.

- o For a summary of Census Bureau's partnership programs and participants see

- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/partnerships.html>.

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	USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3)(D) – 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	Made Progress Toward Expectations

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

Results from 2021 Listening Tours: Beginning in late-2021, the Census Bureau conducted a series of listening tours with external stakeholders including tribal, federal, state, local partners, and external data users to assess how the contents and requirements of the MAF/TIGER System, or access to the data itself, need to change to better serve these communities. Some key takeaways from the listening tours included increasing the frequency of product delivery, identifying more appropriate product delivery and training of methods, and considering alternate geographies for data dissemination and tabulation.

In addition to feedback received from the listening tour participants, the GSP is also exploring other innovations, including:

- **New Non-Response Follow-up Opportunities:** BAS will feature an annual non-response follow-up component, where the Census Bureau will contact all legal governments to see if they have boundary updates to submit to the Census Bureau.
- **New Recommendations for Census Designated Places:** In addition to the Participant Statistical Area s Program updates submitted prior to the decennial census, BAS will solicit recommendations yearly for updates and new proposals for Census Designated Places, a statistical geographic entity.

- **Geographic Grids:** The Census Bureau continues researching a geographic grid concept for tabulating and disseminating statistical data. The use of geographic grids for managing and publishing data is prevalent around the globe and supplements the use of existing small area geographies, such as census tracts.
- **Customized Geographies:** The Census Bureau is exploring options for data users to apply their customized geographic areas to the underlying statistical data.
- **United States and Territories:** The Census Bureau is adding topology and attribution for the remaining nine Minor Outlying Island territories to the coverage of the MAF/TIGER System, which currently includes the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Area territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minor Outlying Island territories are Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean, and Navassa Island in the Caribbean Sea. Once added, the GSP will use the term “United States and Territories” to describe the full coverage of the MAF/TIGER System to include the Minor Outlying Island territories.

Assessing User needs within the FGDC: In FY22, the Census Bureau participated in the expansion of the National Boundaries Group (NBG), an interagency working group that supports the activities of the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme and Cadastral Themes. The scope of the National Boundaries Group charter broadened to include formal coordination with those agencies that manage international, military, and federal land boundaries as part of their ongoing mission, as well as state, local, and private sector participants. The NBG assists in more efficient sharing and use of boundary information and identifies user needs for boundary datasets through quarterly meetings.

A subgroup of the NBG, the Tribal Boundaries Working Group (TBWG) reinstated their quarterly meetings and revised their charter in FY22. The purpose of the TBWG is to be a community of peers to discuss and exchange information about tribal lands and boundaries. Membership is open to anyone interested in or affiliated with federally recognized tribes, federal agencies, state and local governments, private industry, tribal organizations, and non-profit organizations.

A new NGDA for the U.S. International Boundary with Canada and Mexico proposed by the Census Bureau in FY22 will integrate data from two existing NGDAs from the International Boundary Commission (NGDAID 97) and the International Boundary and Water Commission (NGDAID 82). Ongoing harvesting issues for these two international organizations have impacted the access of these two datasets on Data.gov and the GeoPlatform. In addition, harvesting issues for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction NGDA (NGDAID 81) and the Bureau of Land Management National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points (NGDAID 186) continued to persist in FY22.

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

¹ 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>

² FGDC GDA Information:

<https://fgdc.gov/gda>

³ NSDI Strategic Plan:

<https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>

⁴ NGDA Portfolio Community Site:

<https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/portfolio>

⁵ OMB A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities:

<https://fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/key-roles-and-responsibilities-a16-supplemental.pdf>