



**2023 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

January 19, 2024



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Introduction .....	1
Executive Summary.....	1
Official Theme Related Information .....	2
NGDA Theme Points of Contact.....	2
NGDA Theme Datasets.....	3
Meeting General Responsibilities – USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(2).....	5
Managing Theme-Related Content on GeoPlatform.....	5
Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Progress Toward Meeting Requirements.....	6
Background .....	6
A. Geospatial Data Standards .....	6
B. Nationwide Population of the Data Theme .....	7
C. Establish Goals That Support the NSDI Strategic Plan .....	8
D. Addressing User Needs.....	9
FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements .....	10
Background .....	10
A. Geospatial Data Standards .....	10
B. Nationwide Population of NGDA Datasets .....	10
C. Establish Goals That Support the NSDI Strategic Plan .....	11
D. Addressing User Needs.....	11
Appendix A: Survey Picklist.....	12
Appendix B: Brief Summary .....	13
Endnotes .....	15

## 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 2023 (FY2023), October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. 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 fourth 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 FY2023 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 fourth 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 [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\) 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. In alignment with GDA requirements, the NGDA Theme Leads developed an NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in July 2023. The template can be tailored to each theme with goals and objectives that are cross walked with all GDA requirements and the NSDI Strategic Plan. This template provides flexibility and allows agencies that manage NGDA data to

identify actions and accomplishments that align with the established goals, objectives, and anticipated outcomes, while being sensitive to technological, economic, and organizational constraints and opportunities of the agencies managing NGDA data. NGDA Theme Leads will develop and finalize their individual theme strategic plans by the end of FY2024.

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](#)<sup>4</sup> [NGDA Portfolio Community](#)<sup>5</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 portfolio development including activities associated with standards and guidance, among other things.

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>6</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 on the [Contacts](#)<sup>7</sup> page.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Contacts	
<b>Theme Lead(s):</b>	Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau
<b>Executive Theme Champion(s):</b>	Deirdre Dalpiaz 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](#). 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 NGDA Datasets	Agency
57	Series Information for 118th Congressional District State-based 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
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 2020 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
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
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
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 ADMU Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
202	School District Administrative Areas	U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

**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 participated in cross-agency activities related to the development of the Theme Strategic Plan Template
- 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) coordinate changes to the Portfolio inventory for Steering Committee approval
- Theme Lead(s) coordinate Theme Hub Sites on the GeoPlatform with established points of contact (e.g., Site Maintainers, site editors)
- Theme Lead(s) update Dataset Managers and other points of contact (e.g., metadata POC)
- Theme Lead(s) evaluate standards applicable to the Portfolio inventory
- 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

### Managing Theme-Related Content on GeoPlatform

During FY2023, the NGDA Themes transitioned from legacy GeoPlatform Theme sites to new [Hub-based Theme sites](#).<sup>8</sup> As part of the transition, the themes established by consensus, the minimum required site content. All eighteen themes were transitioned and updated to reflect this minimum content requirement. Individual themes have the flexibility to publicly display and manage additional information from a variety of sources related to their theme. The new Hub sites provide end users, stakeholders, and partners with a place to find consistent theme-related information and access to NGDA datasets and services.

# Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Progress Toward 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>

**Note:** The lead covered agency reports that no change was made to the self-assessment for this requirement from the prior year. FGDC efforts to address Sec 2805(b)(3)(A) are summarized under the “FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements” section below.



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

**Note:** The lead covered agency reports that no change was made to the self-assessment for this requirement from the prior year. FGDC efforts to address Sec 2805(b)(3)(B) are summarized under the “FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements” section below.

### 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](#)

**Note:** The lead covered agency reports that no change was made to the self-assessment for this requirement from the prior year. FGDC efforts to address Sec 2805(b)(3)(C) are summarized under the “FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements” section below.

## 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>

**Note:** The lead covered agency reports that no change was made to the self-assessment for this requirement from the prior year. FGDC efforts to address Sec 2805(b)(3)(D) are summarized under the “FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward Meeting GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements” section below.

# FGDC Portfolio-Level Progress Toward 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. In alignment with GDA requirements, the NGDA themes completed development of an NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template in June 2023, based on an existing strategic plan developed for the Transportation Theme. The template was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee for use by all themes on June 30, 2023, and a timeline for completion by the end of FY2024 was established. The template provides 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 other guidance, and meeting user needs. Additional details for each of the four GDA NGDA Data Theme Requirements are included below.

### A. Geospatial Data Standards

The FGDC is 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).

The FGDC Executive Committee has established a Standards Task Team to evaluate the requirements, options, processes, resources, and decision structure required to establish an operational and sustainable FGDC standards process. This will include evaluating the FGDC's roles and responsibilities in geospatial standards with those of other standards making bodies, non-Federal participation, and considerations for standards supporting the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

The Executive Committee Standards Task Team is currently developing recommendations to update the FGDC's standards management process and will recommend a path forward for the FGDC. Refer to the FGDC Standards webpage (<https://www.fgdc.gov/standards>) for additional information.

### 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 evaluate and manage NGDA core datasets and other geospatial data to meet mission requirements and to address priority needs of the agency and the nation. The approved strategic plan template incorporates 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 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. NGDA Theme Strategic Plans covering the period from 2025-2027 will be due by the end of FY2024. Once completed, the strategic plans will be published on the GeoPlatform Theme sites.

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

The NSDI mission is 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 FGDC and the geospatial community have partnered for decades in building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Through this collaboration and modernization of geospatial data resources on the internet, combined with advances in technology and availability of mobile devices, situational awareness has increased. Having geospatial data and information available on demand for a wide variety of applications 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” is to support efficient resource allocation and provide a platform for partnerships to support high quality data. The FGDC is developing a new NSDI Strategic Plan which is scheduled to be finalized by the end of FY2024. The goals of the Theme Strategic Plans will subsequently be revised based on the new NSDI Strategic Plan.

The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan template described in the “Background” section above 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 2021-2024 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 by stakeholders and the public.

### D. Addressing User Needs

The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan (planned publication at the end of FY 2024) will identify the needs of users related to NGDA datasets within the Theme and provide strategies to meet those needs. Additionally, the GeoPlatform offers open geospatial hosting and services for US federal agencies with geospatial data assets to address the needs of a diverse user community, including government, non-government, and public users. Each NGDA Theme has a site within the GeoPlatform that hosts the NGDA datasets. These Theme sites, along with the GeoPlatform, provide access to open geospatial data assets including metadata, services, applications, and tools for an open-source geospatial suite of capabilities. These capabilities are consistent with the 'Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse (FAIR) Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship'<sup>9</sup> as part of meeting user needs. Through ongoing GeoPlatform modernization and FGDC efforts to improve and enhance NGDA metadata and services, users have access to analysis-ready data to meet their geospatial analytical needs.

## 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 participated in cross-agency activities related to the development of the Theme Strategic Plan Template
- 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) coordinate changes to the Portfolio inventory for Steering Committee approval
- Theme Lead(s) update Dataset Managers and other points of contact (e.g., metadata POC)
- Theme Lead(s) coordinate Theme Hub Sites on the GeoPlatform with established points of contact (e.g., Site Maintainers, site editors)
- Theme Lead(s) evaluate standards applicable to the Portfolio inventory
- 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
- No participation in ensuring coordinated management of the Theme
- Other [Textbox provided]



## U. S. Census Bureau, 2023 Lead Covered Agency for the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme

The following summary provides details on accomplishments the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme made in FY2023 in meeting the GDA requirements under USC 43 Sections 2805(b)(3)(A)-(D).

- [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(A\)](#): Geospatial Data Standards—
  - **Census Bureau’s participation in the Executive Committee Activities on the Standards Team, GeoPlatform Team, and \*FAIRness (\*Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) Project:** Census Bureau staff actively participated in the FGDC Executive Committee Standards Task Team that launched on 03/29/23. On 09/20/23, Census Bureau staff were co-presenters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the standards implementation and metadata harvesting process at the Department of Commerce with particular emphasis on the work of the Census Bureau Geospatial Standards Working Group (CBGSWG). Additionally, staff have an active role contributing to the FAIRness Project and the FGDC GeoPlatform Task Team, where both efforts aim to improve users’ experience to find, access, and use federal data through best practices and compliance to geospatial metadata standards (e.g., DCAT-US 3.0, ISO-19115-2, ISO 19139-2). Both efforts will contribute to the FGDC’s establishment of standards for use by the 30 NGDA datasets within Governmental Units Theme in FY24.
- [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(B\)](#): Nationwide Population of the Data Theme—
  - **Census Bureau’s Partnership with National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)/The School District Review Program (SDRP); New NGDA for School District Administrative Areas (SDAA):** In partnership with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Census Bureau’s SDRP team delivered two data products to the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) area in the Census Bureau’s Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD)—the 2023 School District Inventory/Geographic Relationship files (7/13/23), and the 2023 school district boundaries geodatabase (8/22/23). These school district boundaries are used in conjunction with other federal and administrative records data to estimate the children aged 5-17 in families in poverty, which are the basis of annual Title 1 funding eligibility for each school district in a state. The Governmental Units Theme also proposed a new School District Administrative Areas (SDAA) NGDA approved through a Steering Committee vote (09/29/23). The Census Bureau collaborated with NCES and the Vermont Department of Education to provide a full inventory of state authorized administrative school districts in Vermont that provide services to support elementary and secondary education, including supervisory districts and supervisory unions.
  - **Ongoing Partnership Programs—the 2023 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS).** In addition to the SDRP program (see above), the Census Bureau maintained partnerships with tribal, state, and local governments across the nation through the BAS program’s existing and new stakeholder agreements. Twelve state level agreements (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding) were in place for states to report boundary changes for all legal boundaries within its jurisdiction. These partnerships support the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographical Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System, which includes over 14 million unique geographical areas, including the legal, administrative, and statistical areas that are

represented in the Census Bureau’s NGDA datasets and other geospatial products. The Census Bureau produced 123,000 digital map sheets for 39,334 governmental entities that are represented in the NGDA portfolio in preparation for the FY23 BAS. These are used for the majority of BAS digital submissions through the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) and BAS Partnership Toolbox applications as well as paper BAS submissions.

- **Publishing and outreach activities for Census Urban Areas NGDA:** In support of [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(B\)](#), the Census Bureau announced final urban areas based on the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau delineates urban areas after each decennial census by applying specified criteria to the decennial census and other data. The final criteria to delineate urban areas were published in early FY22 and reviewed by members of Congress, federal agencies, state governments, regional planning and nongovernmental organizations, and municipal and county officials and a summary of this review was published on 12/29/2022 (*2020 Census Qualifying Urban Areas and Final Criteria Clarifications*). Throughout FY23, Census Bureau staff presented overviews of urban-rural classifications and outreach for over 15 stakeholder communities including federal agencies, Congressional offices, state data centers, Census Information Centers, GIS conferences, and annual meetings throughout the year. The Census Bureau’s delineation of 2,644 urban areas also supports the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) delineation of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. The final geographic products for the urban areas, 118th Congress, and 2022 State Legislative Districts (Upper and Lower Chambers) were published in FY23.
- [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(D\)](#): Addressing User Needs—
  - **National Boundaries Group (NBG) stakeholders and working group activities:** The NBG held three (3) meetings in FY23, including one in-person meeting in Washington, DC to facilitate communication between stakeholders and updates from the subgroups listed below. Theme Leads from the Cadastre, International Boundaries, and Governmental Units Themes provided updates about their activities to update their theme community hub sites on the GeoPlatform to engage their stakeholder communities more actively, and provide better access to tools, web applications, and story maps featuring theme NGDA datasets.
    - **Tribal Boundaries Group (TBWG):** The Tribal Boundaries Working group finalized their charter to serve as a forum to engage in topics related to tribal geography for tribes, federal, state, and nonprofit organizations. The TBWG hosted two (2) online meetings in FY23 featuring the activities within the BIA’s Branch of Geospatial Support (BOGS), Minnesota Department of Transportation, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Stakeholders were also informed about other relevant FY23 tribal events and conferences pertaining to tribal geography.
    - **Federal Lands Workgroup (FLWG):** The FLWG held three (3) online meetings during FY23. The Governmental Units Theme hosts the new FLWG GeoPlatform hub site featuring the *Protected Areas Database of the US* (PAD-US). Improved online applications and services (e.g., *PAD-US Data Explorer*, *PAD-US Statistics Dashboard*, and *Feature and Tile Services*) were developed in FY23 and the *PAD-US Help System* was updated this year to improve user experiences.
    - **State Lands Workgroup (SLWG):** The SLWG held one (1) online meeting in FY23 with participation from federal and state representatives, Ducks Unlimited, GreenInfo Network,



and The Nature Conservancy. The status of completeness capacity, and recent updates for state's data in PAD-US are discussed, as well as recently developed tools and services to improve user access to this data (e.g., [State inventory completeness](#),<sup>10</sup> the *GAP Status Assignment Tool*, and *State GAP Code assignments*).

- **Listening Tours for Grids:** In support of [USC 43 Sec 2805\(b\)\(3\)\(D\)](#), the Census Bureau staff engaged with internal and external data users on the need for non-standard geographic units, specifically gridded data, for a variety of applications. Established in FY23, the Census Bureau's MAF/TIGER Modernization working group formed a Grids subgroup to gather external stakeholders' requirements to produce outreach materials, a technical proof-of-concept national grid prototype, a public gridded dataset product, and a potential future NGDA. Targeted listening sessions and webinars were organized with external stakeholders in tribal, federal, state, and local governments. Feedback was documented on grid sizes and shapes (e.g., 1km<sup>2</sup> grids, hexagons), demographic, economic, and housing variables (e.g., total population, race, housing units, income by age group), as well as historic and environmental data (e.g., wetlands, uninhabited land). Ongoing meetings are underway with international partners (Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Norway), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), non-governmental organizations, and academia (Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESEN) at Columbia University), and Oak Ridge National Labs (ORNL).

## Endnotes

---

- <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> GeoPlatform  
<https://www.geoplatform.gov/>
- <sup>5</sup> NGDA Portfolio Community Site  
<https://ngda-portfolio-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/>
- <sup>6</sup> OMB A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities  
<https://fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/key-roles-and-responsibilities-a16-supplemental.pdf>
- <sup>7</sup> NGDA Theme Contacts  
<https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/contacts>
- <sup>8</sup> NGDA Theme Hub Sites  
<https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/ngda-themes>
- <sup>9</sup> FAIR Principles  
<https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>
- <sup>10</sup> State Inventory Completeness  
<https://www.protectedlands.net/data-stewards/>