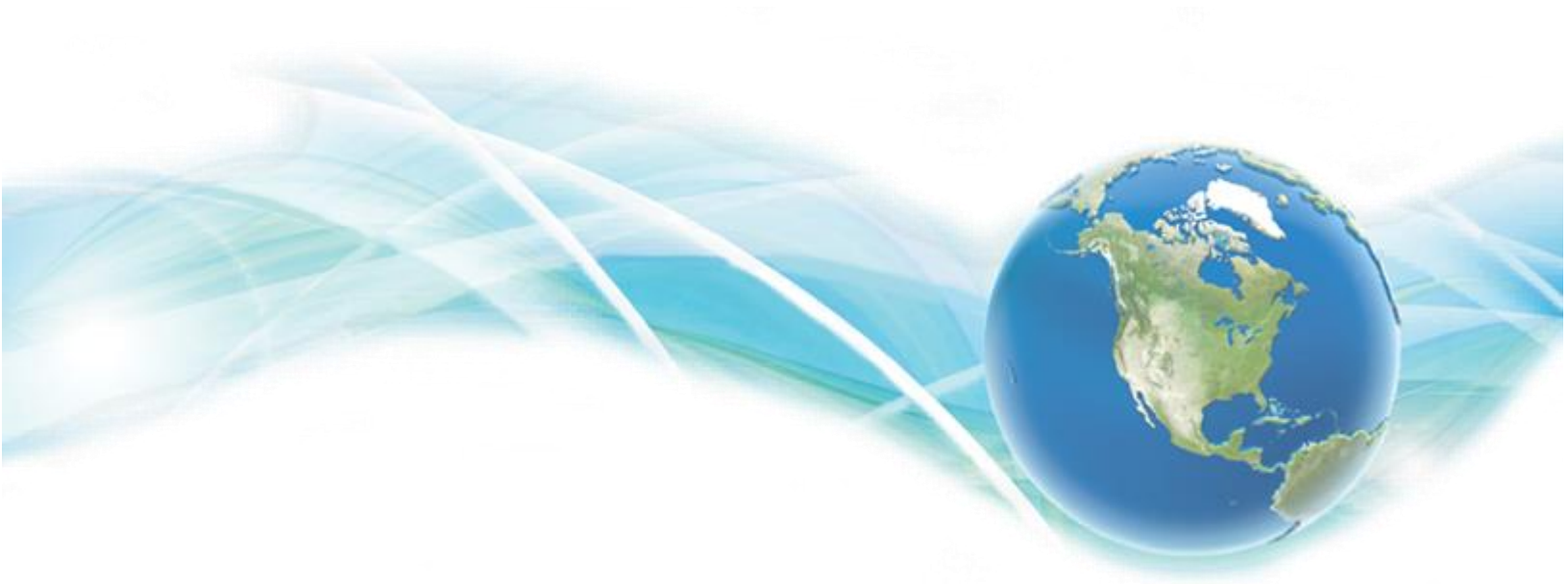


FGDC Summary of the Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency Annual Reports for FY 2021—Fulfilling Requirements of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018



June 2022

Federal Geographic Data Committee, Reston, Virginia: 2022

For more information on the Federal Geographic Data Committee

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Abbreviations

CIGIE	Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
GDA	Geospatial Data Act of 2018
NGAC	National Geospatial Advisory Committee
NGDA	National Geospatial Data Asset
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
U.S.C.	United States Code

FGDC Summary of the Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency Annual Reports for FY 2021—Fulfilling Requirements of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018

By the Federal Geographic Data Committee

1. Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) (43 U.S.C. 46) codifies responsibilities for the management of geospatial data and resources by Federal agencies in coordination with partners and stakeholders in other sectors. The GDA establishes the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) as “the lead entity in the executive branch for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards relating to geospatial data” (Section 2802(a)). The GDA also supports the coordinated implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the development and management of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs). As of September 30, 2021, the NGDA portfolio included 174 approved NGDA datasets organized under 18 data themes.

1.1. Geospatial Data Act Reporting Requirements

The GDA includes management and reporting responsibilities for “covered agencies” (agencies identified in the GDA as having specific geospatial management responsibilities), and “lead covered agencies” (covered agencies that also have the lead responsibility for coordination and management of NGDA data themes). These agencies are responsible for submitting annual reports on their performance in meeting the requirements of the GDA. The covered agency and lead covered agency reporting responsibilities are described in greater detail below.

1.2. FGDC Reporting Approach

The FGDC agencies have collaborated to develop an enterprise approach for tracking and reporting progress on GDA requirements. Agencies have developed a set of online tools, using standardized criteria, to develop consistent reports in a coordinated, efficient manner. Agencies conducted self-assessments of their performance using these standardized tools. Extensive coordination among the agencies and the FGDC Office of the Secretariat has been done to develop this reporting approach and to ensure consistency across the reports. The reports include the mandated rating of “meets expectations,” “made progress toward expectations,” or “fails to meet expectations” for each of the requirements identified in the GDA. The FGDC has refined the metrics and reporting processes based on the results of the initial reporting period in FY2020. The FGDC has coordinated with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) on the GDA-required Inspector General audits of covered agencies.

1.3. Content of This Summary Report

As required under Sections 2802(c)(10)(A) and (B) of the GDA, this report provides a summary of the performance status of each covered agency and for each NGDA data theme. The report covers the period of fiscal year 2021, from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

This report also includes links to the more detailed underlying reports that were developed by each covered agency and lead covered agency. This summary report, along with comments from the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and the FGDC member agencies, will be included as an appendix to the 2022 biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will also be published separately online. The FGDC maintains a web page that includes all GDA-required reports. The FGDC has also developed online dashboards that provide access to the information included in the reports. All materials are available at <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports/>. Table 1 provides additional detail about the roles and responsibilities of the FGDC member agencies in implementing the GDA.

1.4. Changes to GDA Annual Reporting

The initial FGDC GDA reports, which covered the period from October 5, 2018, when the GDA was enacted through September 30, 2020, established a baseline for GDA reporting. This year's summary report, which covers FY 2021 GDA reporting, includes the following changes:

NGDA Data Themes

Many of the updates to the FY 2021 GDA reporting process focused on enhancing reporting for the NGDA data themes by the FGDC lead covered agencies. The lead covered agencies continue to use a common reporting process and templates to facilitate consistent and efficient reporting on NGDA data theme responsibilities. The updated templates reflect cross-agency efforts to analyze GDA requirements and develop common approaches and strategies across FGDC. Templates include standard language to document these common approaches and incorporate theme-specific information into each report.

Reporting Dashboards

The FGDC's online GDA reporting dashboards for FY 2021 reporting have been expanded and enhanced. The dashboards provide easy access to the annual report content by agency, by theme, and by question and make it easy to compare responses on each requirement. Additionally, they provide access to metrics for FGDC agencies' self-assessments.

NGAC Comments

As required by the GDA, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) provided comments and recommendations on the baseline FY 2020 GDA reports. The NGAC comments are posted at: <https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/april-2021/ngac-comments-on-fy-2020-fgdc-summary-of-gda.pdf>. The NGAC comments were categorized as Positive Elements, Areas Needing Improvement, and Recommendations for Future Reports. The FGDC has made a series of changes to the reports and reporting processes to address the NGAC comments. For example, FGDC guidance for FY 2021 reporting directed agencies to provide additional narrative details on actions being taken to achieve the "meets expectations" rating level. The FGDC will continue to engage with the NGAC and address their comments and recommendations on this and future reports.

Table 1. Roles and responsibilities of the FGDC member agencies under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

[CA, covered agency; LCA, lead covered agency; FGDC, Federal Geographic Data Committee; NGDA, National Geospatial Data Asset; GDA, Geospatial Data Act of 2018; –, none]

CA	LCA	FGDC Member Agency	NGDA Theme Lead ¹	NGDA Datasets ²
X	X	Department of Agriculture	3	15
X	X	Department of Commerce	6	59
X	–	Department of Education	–	–
X	–	Department of Energy	–	–
X	–	Department of Health and Human Services	–	–
X	–	Department of Homeland Security	–	1
X	–	Department of Housing and Urban Development	–	12
X	X	Department of the Interior	9	60
X	–	Department of Justice	–	–
X	–	Department of Labor	–	–
X	X	Department of State	1	1
X	X	Department of Transportation	2	9
X	–	Department of Treasury	–	–
X	–	Department of Veterans Affairs	–	–
X	X	General Services Administration	1	1
X	–	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	–	3
–	–	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency/Department of Defense ³	–	10
–	–	Office of Management and Budget ³	–	–
Nonmember Agencies/Organizations That Manage NGDAs				
–	–	Environmental Protection Agency	–	1
–	–	International Boundary Commission	–	1
–	–	International Boundary Water Commission	–	1
Totals			22	174⁴

¹ The total represents the 22 theme leads and co-leads across the 18 NGDA themes. The total number of leads is greater than the total number of themes because some of the NGDA themes are co-led across agencies. A list of the NGDA themes and agency leads is available at <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-theme-leads/>.

² Number of NGDAs managed by agency/organization. The NGDA portfolio datasets are available at <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-portfolio/>.

³ Organization is not a covered agency but has specific NGDA management responsibilities.

³ Organization is not a covered agency but has specific NGDA management responsibilities.

⁴ Total number of FGDC Steering Committee approved NGDA Datasets as of September 30, 2021.

2. Covered Agency Annual Reports

2.1. Overview

Section 2808(b) of the GDA requires each covered agency to submit to the FGDC “an annual report regarding the achievements of the covered agency in preparing and implementing the strategy described in subsection (a)(1) and complying with the other requirements under subsection (a).” The reporting process and information on how to access the results are described below.

Common Reporting Process

The FGDC covered agencies developed a common reporting process, based on a standardized online questionnaire, to facilitate consistent reporting on covered agency GDA responsibilities. Using a common template and criteria, the agencies conducted self-assessments of their performance in addressing the following covered agency GDA responsibilities:

1. Covered agency geospatial strategies
2. Support data sharing
3. Promote data integration
4. Ensure records retention schedule for geospatial data
5. Allocate resources for geospatial data management responsibilities
6. Use data standards
7. Support coordination and partnerships
8. Promote application of geospatial data assets
9. Protection of privacy and confidentiality
10. Declassified data
11. Non-duplication of data
12. Ensuring high-quality data
13. Point of contact

Agencies are responsible for maintaining documentation to support the responses provided for their self-assessments. Each agency’s annual report includes additional details about the agency’s performance and achievements. In addition, to support a more comprehensive picture of agency progress and related activities, agencies had the option to submit a two-page overview document as part of their submissions.

Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

GDA Sec. 2808(a)(1) requires each covered agency to prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and information appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the NSDI. Links to the covered agency geospatial strategies that have been developed in response to this requirement are posted at: https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-plans/index_html.

Access to Summary Reports

The results of the self-assessments of the covered agencies’ progress in meeting GDA requirements are summarized in table 2. Links to a dashboard that provides online access to covered agency report information and to the pdf versions of the final annual reports for each GDA covered agency are listed after table 2.

2.2. Summary of Results—Covered Agency Annual Reports

Table 2. Summary of covered agency evaluations.

[Evaluation results: M, meets expectations, P, made progress towards expectations; F, fails to meet expectations.]

FY2021 GDA 43 U.S.C. 2808 (a)(1)–(13) Covered Agency																
Requirement	USDA	DOC	ED	DOE	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	DOL	DOS	DOT	TREAS	VA	GSA	NASA
(1) Covered agency geospatial strategies	P-	M+	M	M	P	M+	P	M	M	P	M+	F-	M+	P-	M+	M+
(2) Support data sharing	P	M	M	P	P-	M+	M	P	M	P	M+	M+	M	M	M	P
(3) Promote data integration	P	M	M	P	M	P	M	M	M	M+	M	M	M	M+	M	M
(4) Ensure records retention schedule for geospatial data	P	M	M+	P	P-	P	F	M+	M	M	M	P	M	P	M	P
(5) Allocate resources for geospatial data management responsibilities	P	M	P	P	P	P	P	M+	M	P	P	M	M	M	M+	M
(6) Use data standards	P	P	P	P	P	M+	P	M+	P	P	M+	P	P	P	M+	M
(7) Support coordination and partnerships	P	M	M	P	P-	P	M	M+	M	P	P	M	M	M	M+	M+
(8) Promote application of geospatial data assets	P	M	M	P	P	M+	M	M+	M	P	M+	M+	M+	M	M	P
(9) Protection of privacy and confidentiality	P	M	M	M	M	M+	M	M+	M	M	M+	M+	M	M	M	M
(10) Declassified data	M	M	M	F	M	F	M	M	M+	M	M+	M	M	M	M	M
(11) Non-duplication of data	P	M	M	P	P-	P	M	M+	M+	M	P	M+	M	M	M	M
(12) Ensuring high-quality data	P	M	M	P-	M	M+	M	M	M	M	P	M	M	M+	M	M
(13) Point of contact	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M

+ Denotes an increase in rating from FY 2020 GDA annual report. - Denotes a decrease in rating from FY 2020 annual report.
Table data as of September 30, 2021

2021 Reports and Dashboards

The FGDC maintains a dashboard for the covered agency annual reports at <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-ca-reports/fy2021/dashboard>. The covered agency annual reports in pdf format are available https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-ca-reports/index_html and through the following links:

[Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
[Department of Commerce \(DOC\)](#)
[Department of Education \(ED\)](#)
[Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#)
[Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)
[Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)
[Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#)

[Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#)
[Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#)
[Department of State \(DOS\)](#)
[Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)
[Department of Treasury \(TREAS\)](#)
[Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#)
[General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#)
[National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#)

3. Lead Covered Agency Annual NGDA Data Theme Reports

3.1. Overview

Section 2805(b)(3)(E) of the GDA requires lead covered agencies responsible for NGDA data themes to submit annual performance reports to the FGDC. These reports document “the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)” of Section 2805(b)(3). The reporting process used and information on how to access the results are described below.

Common Reporting Process and Approaches

The FGDC lead covered agencies continue to use a common reporting process and templates to facilitate consistent and efficient reporting on NGDA data theme responsibilities and migrated the reporting process to use an online survey to gather input. The lead covered agency reports highlight ongoing strategic activities related to the data themes and the FGDC portfolio management activities that align with the requirements of the GDA.

The updated template reflects cross-agency efforts to analyze GDA requirements and develop a common approach and strategies across FGDC. Each theme report template provides standard language to document these common approaches and allows agencies to incorporate theme specific information into each report. Agencies reported their performance in addressing the following NGDA data theme responsibilities required by the GDA:

- A. Geospatial data standards;
- B. Nationwide population of the data theme;
- C. Establish actions that support the goals and objectives in the NSDI strategic plan; and
- D. Addressing user needs.

FGDC continues to incorporate portfolio management strategies for the NGDA datasets and to adopt and implement coordinated Federal geospatial asset management capabilities as identified in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) “Circular A–16 Supplemental Guidance” (Office of Management and Budget, 2010). Prior to enactment of the GDA, the FGDC member agencies implemented portfolio management processes that included development of theme strategic and implementation plans, and documentation of other efforts, such as lifecycle maturity assessments conducted on all NGDA datasets. The 2021 lead covered agency annual reports continue to build on these efforts for the future development of GDA-required plans for nationwide population of the NGDA data themes.

The lead covered agency reports highlight ongoing strategic activities related to the data themes and the FGDC portfolio management activities that align with the requirements of the GDA.

Summary Report

The common template allows FGDC to efficiently summarize the progress made across all NGDA data themes. The agency evaluations of their performance in meeting GDA requirements for the NGDA data themes are summarized in table 3. Links to a dashboard providing online access to NGDA theme report information and to the pdf versions of the final annual reports for each NGDA data theme are listed after table 3.

3.2. Summary of Results—Lead Covered Agency Annual NGDA Data Theme Reports

Table 3. FGDC summary of lead covered agency National Geospatial Data Asset data theme evaluations.

[Evaluation results: M, meets expectations, P, made progress towards expectations; F, fails to meet expectations.]

Theme and Number of NGDA Datasets (174 total)	GDA 43 U.S.C. § 2805 (b)(3) (A) - (D) Requirements			
	(A) Geospatial data standards	(B) Nationwide population of the data theme	(C) Establish actions that support the goals and objectives in the NSDI strategic plan	(D) Addressing user needs
Address (1)	P	P	P	P
Biodiversity and Ecosystems (8)	P	P	P	P
Cadastral (19)	P	P	P	P
Climate and Weather (4)	P	P	P	P
Cultural Resources (2)	P	P	P	P ⁺
Elevation (12)	P	P	P	P
Geodetic Control (4)	P	P	P	P
Geology (6)	P	P	P	P
Administrative and Statistical Boundaries (37)	P	P	P	P
Imagery (10)	P	M ⁺	P	M ⁺
International Boundaries (1)	M	P	M	M ⁺
Land Use – Land Cover (13)	P ⁻	P ⁻	P	P
Real Property (14)	P	P	P	P
Soils (5)	P	P	P	P
Transportation (15)	P	P	P ⁻	P ⁻
Utilities (2)	P	P	P	P
Water – Inland (5)	P	P	P	P
Water – Oceans & Coasts (16)	P	P	P	P

+ Denotes an increase in rating from FY 2020 GDA annual report. - Denotes a decrease in rating from FY 2020 annual report.
Table data as of September 30, 2021.

2021 Reports and Dashboards

The FGDC maintains a dashboard for the lead covered agency NGDA data themes at <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-lca-theme-reports/fy2021/dashboard>. The lead covered agency NGDA data theme annual reports in pdf format are available at https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-lca-theme-reports/index_html and through the following links:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Address | Geodetic control | Real property |
| Biodiversity and ecosystems | Geology | Soils |
| Cadastral | Governmental units | Transportation |
| Climate and weather | Imagery | Utilities |
| Cultural resources | International boundaries | Water—Inland |
| Elevation | Land use—Land cover | Water—Oceans and coasts |

4. Conclusion

4.1. Key Observations

- Since the enactment of the GDA, the FGDC agencies have placed significant focus on developing streamlined and common reporting processes to enable comparative results. The common reporting approach and self-assessment metrics have provided useful information that enables consistent FGDC-wide reporting. The updated FY 2021 reporting dashboards provide additional capacity to compare results across agencies and NGDA themes.
- The continued development of coordinated and consistent GDA reports and processes has required significant agency resources and FGDC Office of the Secretariat staff and contract support.
- Results from the covered agency and lead covered agency reports show that agencies are making progress in addressing the requirements of the GDA. However, significant work remains to fully meet the vision of the GDA.
- All covered agencies and NGDA themes identified in the GDA provided reporting information that is included in this report.
- The FGDC will continue to refine the GDA metrics and reporting approach based on feedback from users and stakeholders. The pending revision of OMB Circular A-16 (“Coordination of Geospatial Information and Related Spatial Data Activities”) presents an opportunity to refine GDA metrics, to make them more streamlined in collection and analysis.
- The findings and recommendations from the 2022 biennial Inspector General audits, required by the GDA, may impact future FGDC GDA implementation and reporting activities.
- The GDA includes significant and complex reporting requirements. A [National Geospatial Advisory Committee Resolution](#), approved in June 2020, included the following recommendation: “Given that the GDA planning and reporting requirements are considerable and highly complex, **the NGAC recommends streamlining of the reporting processes to ensure focused, efficient, and consistent reporting across government**” (National Geospatial Advisory Committee, 2020). Based on the experience of this first round of reporting, the FGDC agencies believe the reporting process could be simplified and streamlined while still ensuring transparency and accountability for results.

4.2. Challenges

The GDA provides a constructive framework for development of national geospatial data assets and processes to ensure accountability and transparency in geospatial investments. However, agencies face a number of challenges for the successful implementation of the statute. The FGDC’s FY 2020 GDA Report to Congress [Phase 1](#) and [Phase 2](#) identified a set of these challenges, including the following:

- Streamlining and simplifying the reporting and audit requirements in the GDA while continuing to ensure accountability, transparency, and efficiency.
- Maintaining and enhancing geospatial data and services delivery while addressing the significant new requirements of the GDA.
- Allocating staff resources to address the significant new reporting and audit responsibilities required in the GDA.
- Supporting consistent, detailed, multiagency reporting and information sharing without automated reporting systems.

- Providing increased GDA-required geospatial data and service delivery at current levels of investment⁵ in the GeoPlatform (www.geoplatform.gov).
- Ensuring timeline execution of other key aspects of the GDA, including coordinating with non-Federal partners and stakeholders to implement the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan.

The FGDC member agencies look forward to continuing to work with Congress to meet the intent of the GDA to provide an integrated, sustainable, and world leading NSDI while ensuring efficiency and transparency.

5. Selected References

Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2020, Geospatial Data Act report to Congress—Phase 1 report: Reston, Va., Federal Geographic Data Committee, December, 20 p., <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports/gda-report-to-congress-phase-1.pdf>.

Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2021, Geospatial Data Act report to Congress—Phase 2 report: Reston, Va., Federal Geographic Data Committee, June, 31 p., <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports/gda-report-to-congress-phase-2-june-2021.pdf>

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Office of Management and Budget, 2010, Circular A–16 Supplemental Guidance: Office of Management and Budget, November 10, 33 p., <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-03.pdf>.

⁵ Resourcing, investing, and/or budgeting levels are contingent on the processes and coordination in place with OMB.

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