

# **FGDC Overview and Updates**

## National Geospatial Advisory Committee

**Ken Shaffer**

**FGDC Deputy Executive Director**

April 2, 2024



# Thank you for your leadership, Gary!

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**NGAC Chair: March 2022 –  
December 2023**

**Mr. Gary Thompson**  
Chief, North Carolina Geodetic Survey  
NC Emergency Management  
State of North Carolina

# Agenda

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- FGDC Background
- Current FGDC Activities
- 2024 FGDC Priorities Update
- 2024 NGAC Schedule

# FGDC Key Responsibilities – Committee

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- Per the [Geospatial Data Act of 2018](#) (GDA), FGDC serves as the “**lead entity in the executive branch for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards relating to geospatial data.**” FGDC’s responsibilities include:
  - Leading the implementation of the [GDA](#) and development of the
  - Provide leadership in the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), including the [NSDI Strategic Plan](#)
  - Define roles and responsibilities and promote and guide cooperation and coordination among agencies of the Federal Government, State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector in the collection, production, sharing, and use of geospatial information, the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.
  - Develop and maintain [National Geospatial Data Assets](#) (NGDAs) as the core Federal data components of the NSDI
  - Manage the [GeoPlatform](#), which provides access to trusted geospatial data and a range of web-based services, and harvests agency metadata records from data.gov
  - Manage the [National Geospatial Advisory Committee](#) (NGAC)
  - Develop, review, and endorse [geospatial standards](#)
  - Annual and biennial [GDA Reporting](#) (Agency Reports, NGDA Reports, Report to Congress, OIG Audits)

# FGDC Member Agencies

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Department of Agriculture\*  
Department of Commerce\*  
Department of Education\*  
Department of Energy\*  
Department of Health and Human Services\*  
Department of Homeland Security\*  
Department of Housing and Urban Development\*  
Department of the Interior\*  
Department of Justice\*  
Department of Labor\*  
Department of State\*  
Department of Transportation\*  
Department of Treasury\*  
Department of Veterans Affairs\*  
Federal Communications Commission

General Services Administration\*  
Library of Congress  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration\*  
National Archives and Records Administration  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
National Science Foundation  
Office of Management and Budget  
Office of Personnel Management  
Small Business Administration  
Smithsonian Institution  
Social Security Administration  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*\*Agencies identified as “covered agencies” under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.*

# FGDC Leadership

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- Chair: Secretary of the Interior; Vice-Chair: Director of OMB (or designees).
  - Chair – Mike Brain, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, DOI
  - Vice Chair – Laura Gerhardt, Director of Technology Modernization and Data, OMB
  - FGDC Acting Executive Director – Josh Delmonico

# FGDC Governance Structure

## Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) current governance structure

- Pending changes to OMB Circular A-16 to align with the Geospatial Data Act



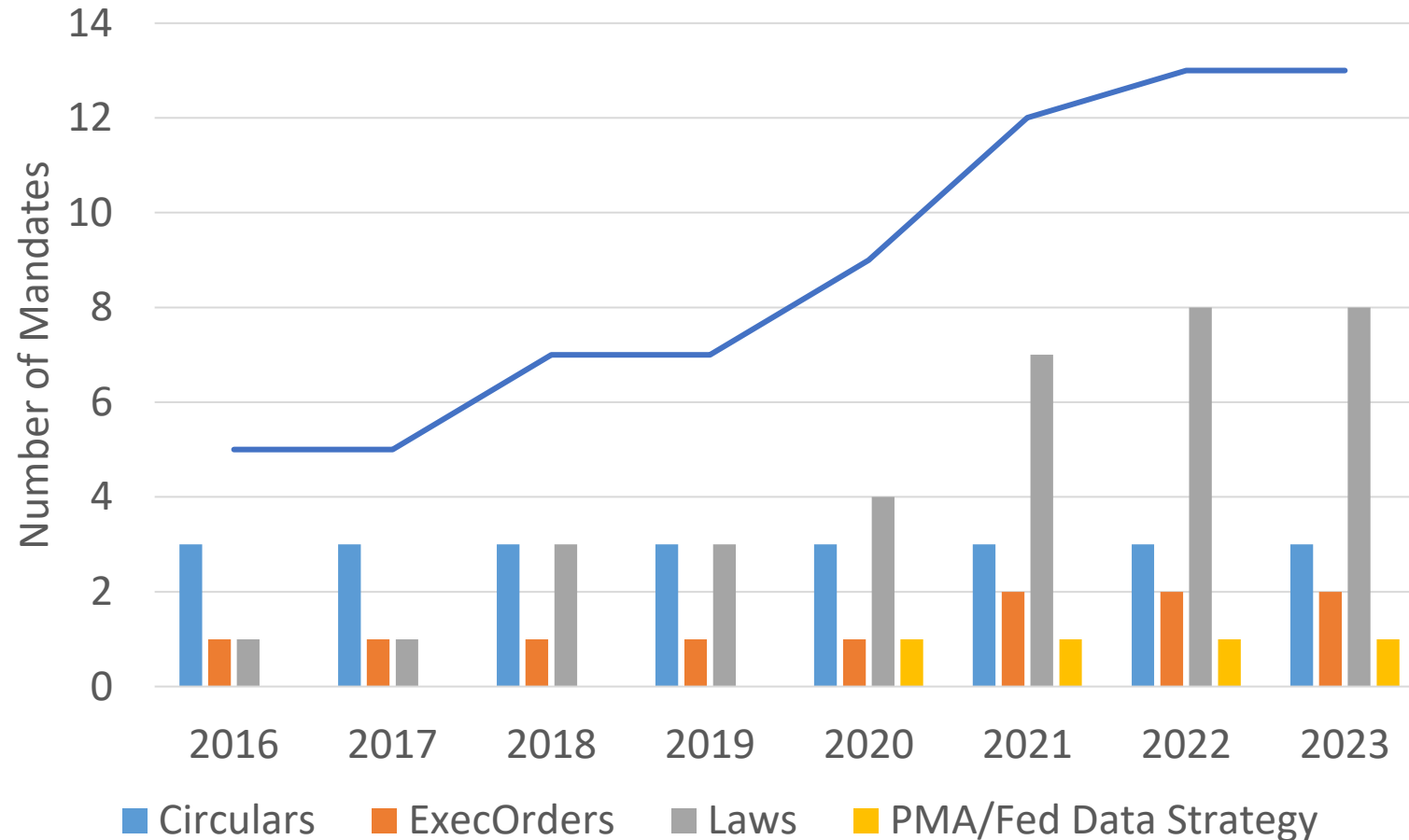
# FGDC Governance Structure

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- FGDC (Steering Committee):
  - All FGDC Member Agency SAOGIs and SAOGI alternates
  - Meet 3 – 4 times per year as necessary
- Executive Committee:
  - Subset of Steering Committee Agencies
  - Meets monthly
  - Establishes Task Teams for annual priorities
- GDA Working Group:
  - Covered Agency Representatives
  - Meets monthly
- NGDA Theme Working Group:
  - All NGDA Theme Leads
  - Meets monthly



# Mandates with FGDC Requirements by Year



**Laws:** FLAIR Act (cadastre), Digital Coast Act, National Landslides Preparedness Act, Broadband Act, Geospatial Data Act, Evidence Act\*, Open Data Act\*, E-Gov Act of 2002

**Executive Orders:** 14008 (Climate), 12906 (FGDC and NSDI)

**Executive Directives:** President's Management Agenda, Federal Data Strategy (FDS), FDS Action Plans

**Circulars:** A-16 (FGDC), A-16 Supplemental (FGDC), A-119 (standards)

\*Includes Federal data requirements

# Geospatial Data Act of 2018

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## Key Elements of GDA:

Codifies role & authorities of the  
FGDC

Established the NGAC as a statutory  
advisory committee

Policy & guidance to empower use of  
geospatial data and technology

Establishes agency responsibilities

GeoPlatform

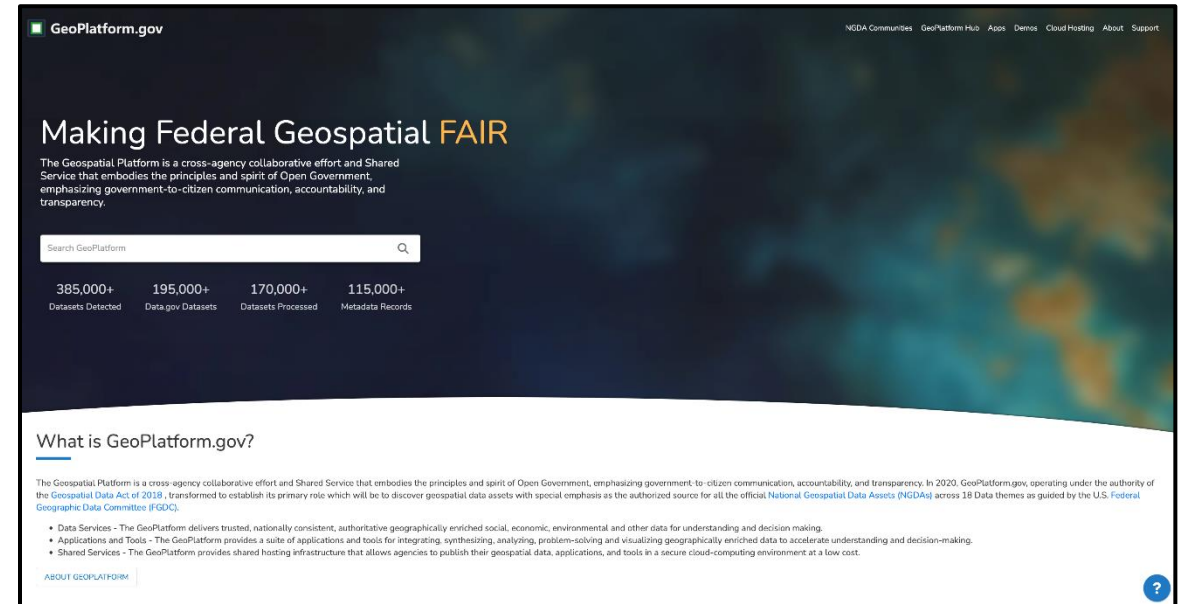
Stewardship of geospatial assets

National Spatial Data Infrastructure

Budgeting and reporting requirements

# GeoPlatform ([www.geoplatform.gov](http://www.geoplatform.gov))

“The Committee shall operate an electronic service that provides access to geospatial data and metadata for geospatial data to the general public to be known as the GeoPlatform” (GDA)



- Tod Dabolt, DOI Chief Data Officer – GeoPlatform Managing Partner on behalf of the FGDC agencies
- GeoPlatform and data.gov shared data registry (data.gov is the Federal data catalog)
- GeoPlatform collaboration communities – e.g., COVID-19, Disasters, Community Resilience, NGDA data themes, Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD)

# National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Themes and Datasets

NGDA Data Themes (# of NGDA datasets)	
Address (1)	Imagery (10)
Biodiversity and Ecosystems (7)	International Boundaries (1)
Cadastral (27)	Land Use – Land Cover (13)
Climate and Weather (4)	Real Property (15)
Cultural Resources (3)	Soils (5)
Elevation (13)	Transportation (15)
Geodetic Control (4)	Utilities (5)
Geology (2)	Water – Inland (5)
Gov. Units, Admin. and Statistical Boundaries (34)	Water – Oceans & Coasts (7)

**TOTALS (March 2024):**

**NGDA Data Themes: 18**

**NGDA Datasets: (171)**

# GDA Reporting Requirements

GDA Sec	Requirement	Type	Frequency	#
2802	OMB Guidance (section 2802(b)(3))	Guidance	Periodic	1
	FGDC NGDA/Covered Agency Evaluation & Summary Report (sections 2802(c)(10)(A) and 2802(c)(10)(B))	Report	Annual	1
	FGDC response to comments from NGAC on Annual Summary Report (section 2802(c)(11)(B))	Response	Annual	1
	FGDC Report to Congress (sections 2802(c)(11)(C) and 2802(c)(12)(B))	Report	Biennial	1
2803	NGAC Comments on FGDC Annual Summary Report (section 2802(c)(11)(A))	Comments	Annual	1
2804	FGDC NSDI Strategic Plan (section 2804(c))	Plan	Periodic	1
2805	Lead Covered Agency NGDA Plan and Standards Plan (sections 2805(b)(3)(B) and 2805(b)(3)(A)(iii))	Plan	Periodic	18
	Lead Covered Agency Annual Performance Report (section 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I))	Report	Annual	18
2808	Covered Agency Strategy (section 2808(a)(1))	Plan	Periodic	16
	Covered Agency Annual Report to FGDC (section 2808(b)(1))	Report	Annual	16
	Covered Agency Annual Report to Congress identifying Federal-wide geospatial data assets (section 2808(b)(2)(C))	Report	Annual	16
	Audits – IG Reports to Congress on Covered Agency compliance (section 2808(c))	Report	Biennial	16
<b>Recurring Planning/Reporting Documents – TOTAL</b>				<b>106</b>

# International Engagement

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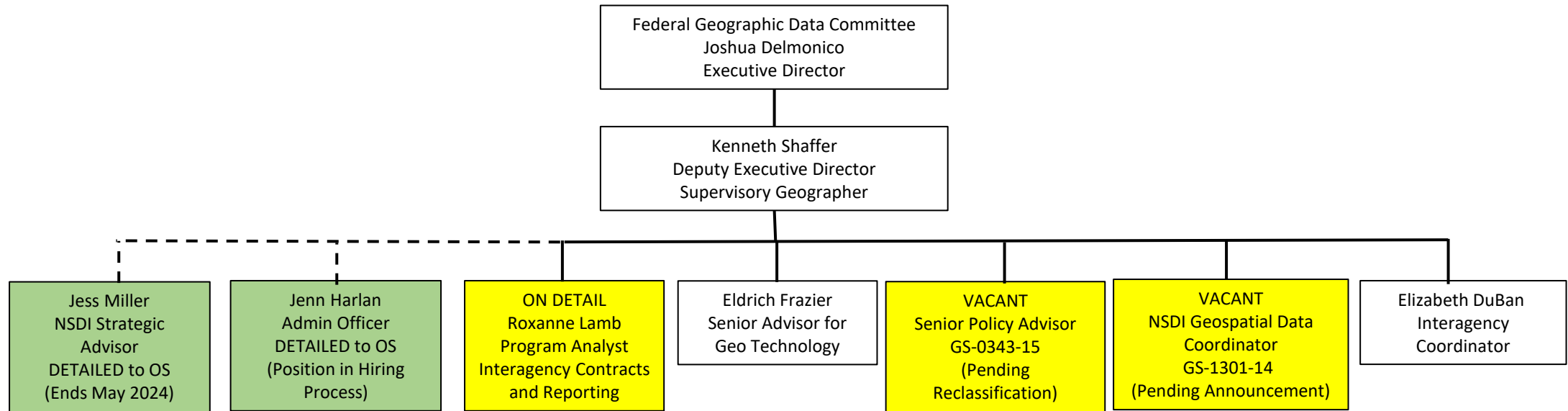
- United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
  - Agenda setting for global geospatial information and promoting its use to address key global challenges
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
  - Improving availability, access and use of Earth observations to benefit society
- AmeriGEO
  - Promotes collaboration among the GEO members on the American continent, regional decisions informed by sustained Earth Observations
- Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
  - Collective problem solving on critical issues with government, industry, nonprofits, and academia; make location information FARI – findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable, for an inclusive and sustainable future
  - Climate and Disaster Resilience Pilot
- International visitors presentations

# FGDC Office of the Secretariat

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- FGDC Office of the Secretariat (FGDC OS) – provides administrative support, strategic planning, funding, and technical support to the FGDC including GeoPlatform. FGDC OS is located within U.S. Geological Survey, Core Science Systems
- Administrative support to the NGAC.

# FGDC OS Staff Update



DETAILED TO THE OS

VACANT/ ON DETAIL



# Current FGDC Activities



# Topics

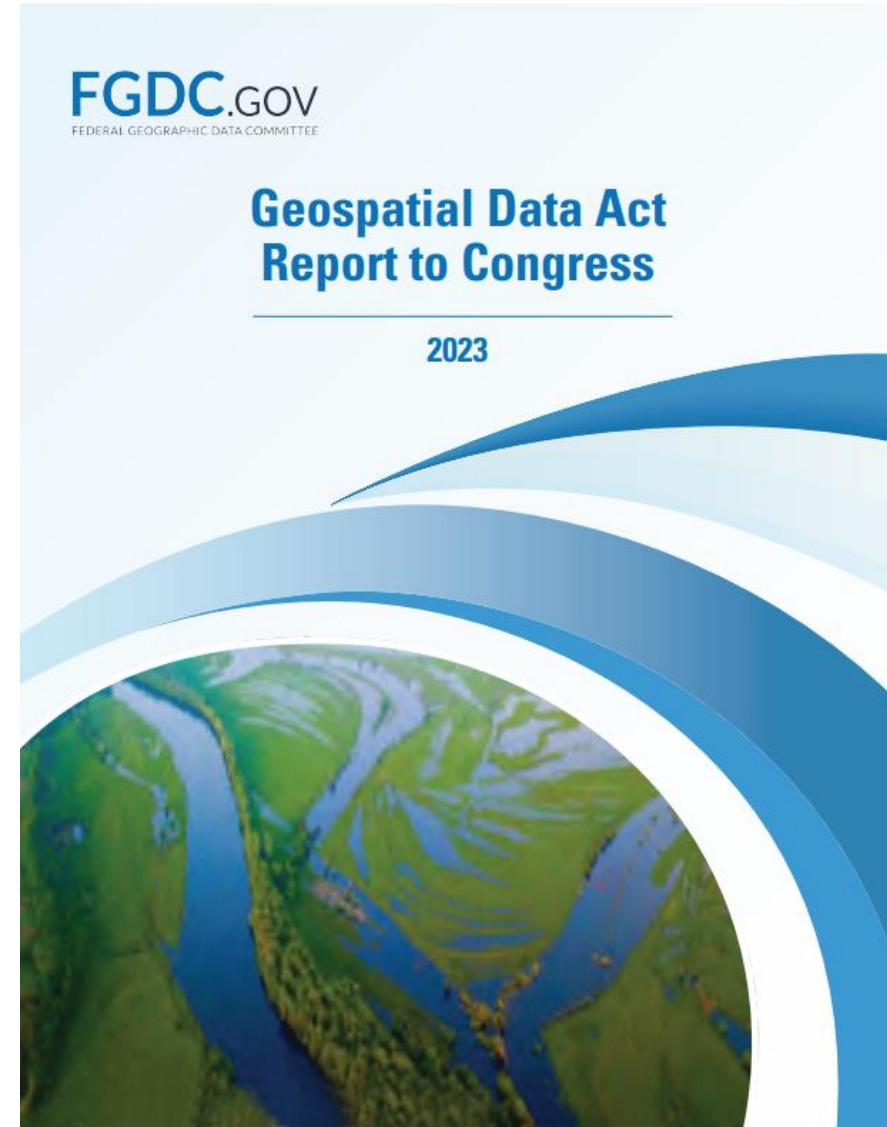
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- OMB Circular A-16
- GDA Reporting
  - Report to Congress
  - GDA Audits
  - FY2023 Annual Reports
- Steering Committee March 5<sup>th</sup> Recap
- NGDA Portfolio Updates

# 2023 Report to Congress

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- 2023 RTC was transmitted to Congress on February 29, 2024.
  - Activities of FY 2021 and 2022
- It will soon be posted on the FGDC website.



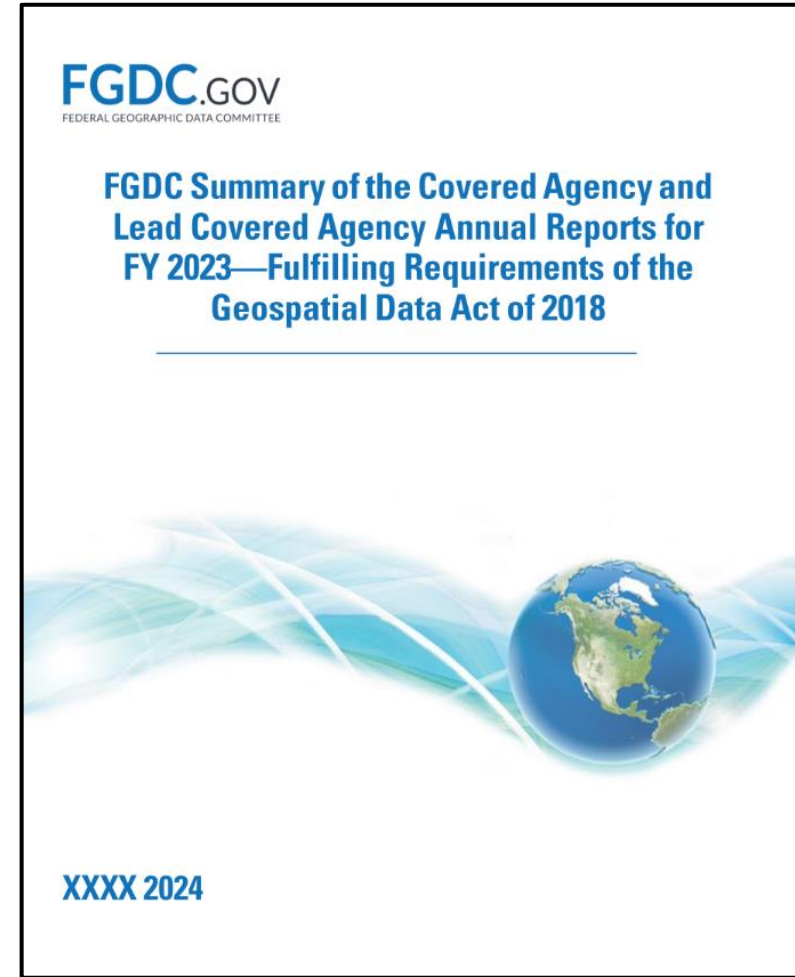
# FY2024 GDA Audits

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- The GDA requires the Inspector General of each GDA covered agency to submit to Congress an audit every two years on certain activities within the GDA.
- The FY2024 audits have begun for some of the 16 covered agencies.
- FGDC OS has discussed the GDA audits with the Council of the Inspector General on Integrity and Efficiency's Audit subcommittee (CIGIE).
- Audit results should be published in the fall 2024.
- FY2020 and FY2022 audit findings can be found here: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-ig-reports>

# GDA Annual Reports

- GDA Reporting
  - All FY2023 Covered Agency (16) and Lead Covered Agency (18) Reports are final and published on FGDC website  
[www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports](http://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports)
  - FGDC Summary Report is currently in NGAC review process
  - Tentative date to finalize and publish Summary Report is May/June



# Steering Committee March 5<sup>th</sup> Recap

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- Welcomed Mike Brain, FGDC Chair, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, DOI
- Steering Committee approved the following:
  - 2 subcommittees and 2 working groups retired due to inactivity
  - A suite of NGDA Portfolio updates
    - [ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatfrom.hub.arcgis.com/pages/portfolio](https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatfrom.hub.arcgis.com/pages/portfolio)
  - 2024 FGDC Priorities:
    - Geospatial Standards
    - Governance
    - GeoPlatform
    - NSDI Strategic and Implementation Plans
    - NGDA Portfolio Changes

# NGDA Portfolio Updates

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- Steering Committee approved a suite of NGDA Portfolio updates during the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 4 themes requested a total of 32 dataset changes within the NGDA Portfolio. (19 dataset retirements, 13 dataset realignments)

As of this vote, the current NGDA Portfolio has **171 Datasets**  
managed across  
**18 Themes, 12 Agencies, and 21 sub-agencies**



# NGDA Portfolio Updates – Inventory Changes

The following change requests were all **approved by the FGDC Steering Committee** on March 5

The NGDA Team has updated the NGDA Portfolio Official List and the Theme Hub sites

Theme	Lead Agency	Proposed Action	NGDA Dataset (NGDAID # and/or Name, as applicable)	Change Justification
<b>Biodiversity and Ecosystems</b>	DOI, USGS	<b>Retire</b> a single dataset	<b>NGDAID 1</b> – Bailey’s Ecoregions and Subregions	No longer meets the criteria to be an NGDA.
<b>Current Theme: Water – Oceans and Coasts</b>  <b>Proposed Theme: Cadastre</b>	DOC, NOAA  DOI, BLM	<b>Realign</b> 9 datasets from Water-Oceans and Coasts theme to Cadastre theme	<b>NGDAIDs 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177</b>	The baseline standards audit conducted by BOEM in 2020 revealed that the "Standards in Use" within the Water - Oceans and Coasts theme do not align with the SLA and 8G dataset. This dataset is a part of a collection of datasets that make up the Offshore Marine Cadastre, and are, therefore, more closely aligned with Cadastre dataset standards.
<b>Cadastre</b>	DOI, BLM	<b>Retire</b> and replace 18 datasets	<b>NGDAID 18 – 26; 169 – 177</b>	The BOEM datasets were originally separated by region extent; BOEM is moving to a national dataset approach. A national collection approach will reduce BOEMs review time and clean up datasets to match other DOI Bureau’s approach to data.
<b>Current Theme: Geology</b>  <b>Proposed Theme: Cadastre</b>	DOI, USGS DOI, BOEM  DOI, BLM	<b>Realign</b> 1 datasets from Geology theme to Cadastre theme	<b>NGDAID 51</b> - Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sand and Gravel Borrow Areas (Lease Areas)	The Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sand and Gravel Borrow Areas (Lease Areas) dataset is purely administrative in nature. The geology theme standards are not applicable. The Cadastre Theme already has the OCS Renewable Energy Lease dataset and believes that this dataset will make a great fit and broaden the theme definition.
<b>Current Theme: Geology</b>  <b>Proposed Theme: Utilities</b>	DOI, USGS DOI, BOEM  DOI, BSEE	<b>Realign</b> 3 datasets from Geology theme to Utilities theme	<b>NGDAID 53</b> - Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Wells - Alaska region NAD 83 <b>NGDAID 54</b> - Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Wells - Gulf of Mexico Region NAD 27 <b>NGDAID 55</b> - Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Wells - Pacific OCS Region NAD 83	BSEE (Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement) is the data steward for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas Well data. The Utilities Theme Lead is from BSEE, and the Geology Theme Lead is from BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management).  The Utilities Theme has the OCS Platform and OCS Pipeline datasets already, so moving the OCS Wells datasets from the Geology Theme will consolidate the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Nature Gas dataset collections with BSEE.



# 2024 FGDC Priorities



# 2024 FGDC Priorities

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- **Geospatial Standards** (presentation tomorrow)
- **GeoPlatform**
- **Governance**
- **NSDI Strategic and Implementation Plans** (presentation tomorrow)

# GeoPlatform

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- 2023 GeoPlatform Objectives included:
  - Ensure the GeoPlatform provides access to geospatial data and metadata for geospatial data to the general public, per the GDA.
  - Evaluate if there would be expanded use and adoption of the GeoPlatform across Federal Agencies by expanding available data products and services.
- Due to funding and contractual issues, the task team paused their analysis in order to restructure the task order contracts assigned to servicing GeoPlatform.
- In November, the FGDC OS and Managing Partner (DOI) determined that the funding agencies needed to come together to discuss what the future capabilities of the GeoPlatform
  - Balancing exercise between meeting the intent of the GDA and providing valued services within shared resources

# GeoPlatform Summit

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- GeoPlatform Summit hosted by FGDC OS and Managing Partner (DOI)
- April 11<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 4:30 pm ET
  - Attendance will be at the SAOGI and SAOGI-alternate level for the GeoPlatform funding agencies
- Projected outcome is for the funding agencies to provide their input and define a clear path forward for the future of the GeoPlatform

# Governance

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- FGDC OS completed an initial review of the historical/existing subcommittees and working group structure.
- Steering Committee approved retiring the following due to inactivity:
  - Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee
  - Spatial Water Data Subcommittee
  - Architecture and Technology Working Group
  - Users/Historical Data Working Group

# Governance – Next Steps

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- **Steering Committee**
  - Update Charter
  - Call for member updates – Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information (SAOGI)
- **Technical Guidance/Policy**
  - Develop process for drafting, vetting, and approving technical guidance and FGDC policies (in process)
- **Subcommittees/Working Groups**
  - **Charters** – Update the model charter so that they are consistent; Only need FGDC Executive Director approval rather
  - **Expand the GDA Working Group** so it includes broader topics and activities than just GDA-focused activities. (more inclusive membership beyond GDA covered/lead covered agencies)
  - **Subcommittee/Working Group Web Content** – develop consistent guidelines for where content is housed (FGDC.gov, working group website, GeoPlatform) and update sites.

# 2024 NGAC Schedule & Activities

• <b>April</b>	April 2-4, Public Meeting
	April 3 (pm) Administrative Meeting
• July	Tentative - NGAC webinar meeting
• <b>October TBD</b>	<b>NGAC Public Meeting</b>
• TBD	Call for 2024 NGAC nominations
• <b>December TBD</b>	<b>NGAC Public Webinar Meeting</b>

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# Questions?