

# NGAC

## Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources

### Subcommittee Report

NGAC Webinar Meeting  
May 8, 2019



# Original Problem Statement

There seems to be a lack of documented (or knowledge of) policies in place to address the protection of geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance. At a minimum, there is certainly no clear consistency concerning the management or protection of these types of geospatial data assets across federal agencies.

Audience: Federal agencies and/or agencies holding geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance.



# Our Approach

- Data Collection: Summer – Fall 2018
- Focused on federal agencies/divisions (12 interviews conducted)
  - Land holding agencies;  
Agencies with land stewardship responsibilities
- Used a standardized interview guide
  - Conversational interview, using the guide
- Analyzed interview notes
  - Identified points of convergence across interviews
- Plan to make recommendations



# Working Definitions

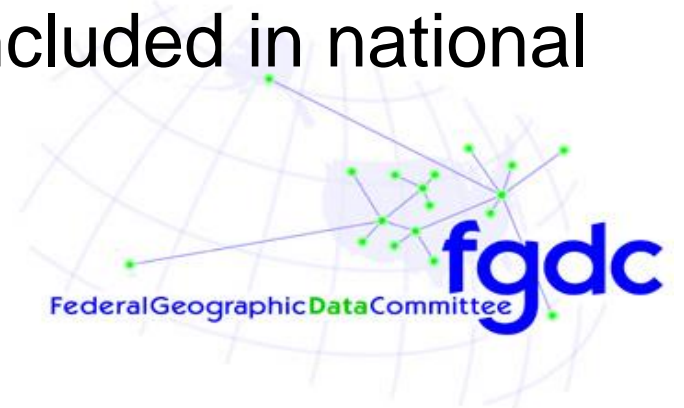
(As reported through interviews)

- Data that includes locations and boundaries
- Data that describes the character (historic/cultural) of a specific location
- Highly restricted data
- Identified using a data standard that prevails throughout the organization
- NHPA, although geospatial is not specified



# Findings in Brief

- Ambiguity & contradictions in applicable federal laws
- Clear need to develop a definition defining cultural & historical geospatial data
- Confirmed lack of consistency in procedures across agencies regarding cultural & historical geo data
- Most agencies possesses large amounts of highly detailed cultural & historical geospatial data that is not included in national inventories
- Security issues related to derived data



# Preliminary Recommendations

- Develop a definition for cultural & historical geospatial data
- Provide guidance to agencies to develop policies or procedures
  - Develop formal guidance to identify cultural and historical geospatial data
  - Define how said data should be protected and what process should be followed if data is to be released
  - Utilize documented data sharing agreements
  - Implement non disclosure agreements with organization staff including volunteers that have access to cultural & historical geo data
  - Consult with potentially affected entities (states, tribes, local) that have an interest in the resources included in a potential data release
- Provide more education and training

# Subcommittee Next Steps

Request NGAC members join the subcommittee

## Remaining Tasks

- Review analysis of interview data and agree on findings and recommendations
- Develop draft report (in progress)
- Distribute review draft report prior to September 2019 NGAC Meeting
- Solicit feedback from NGAC members
- Review comments and modify report
- Present final draft report for approval at September 2019 Meeting



# Committee Membership

- Garet Couch, Chair
- Frank Harjo, Vice Chair (former NGAC member)
- Gar Clarke
- Laxmi Ramasubramanian (former NGAC member)
- Jennie Stapp

Federal Liaison: Deidre McCarthy







We are currently looking for additional committee members

