

Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (MAPLand Act)

[Public Law 117-114](#)

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Outline

- MAPLand Act Background
- MAPLand Coordination
- MAPLand Progress
- Successes
- Challenges
- Recommendations



The MAPLand Act

*Requires the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to jointly **develop** and adopt interagency standards to ensure **compatibility** and **interoperability** among Federal databases for the collection and dissemination of **outdoor recreation data** related to Federal lands.*

Intent

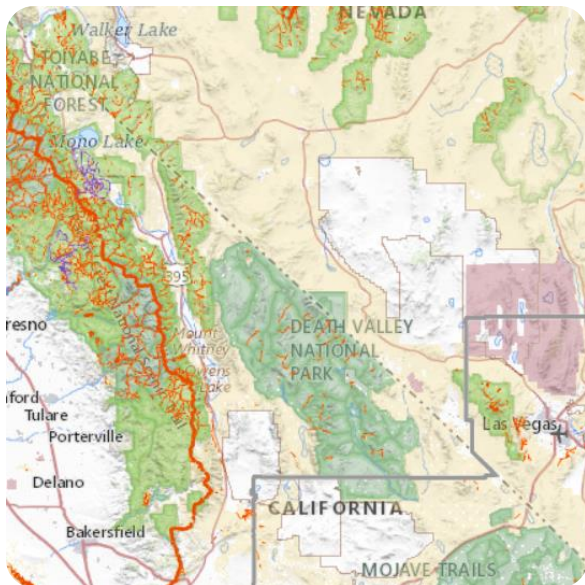
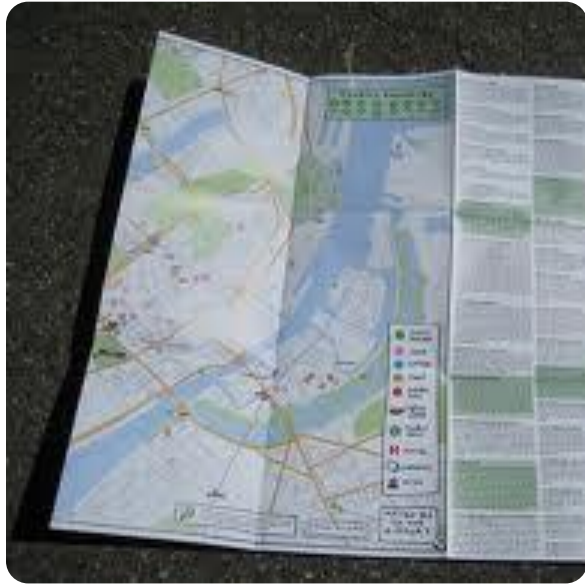
Provide easy to use, consistent digital data to the public about access to public lands for recreation.

Data

Roads, trails, access easements, recreation sites, hunting and shooting restrictions.

Aggregation

*USGS **may** aggregate, digitize, standardize, or publish data.*



Background

- Bipartisan Act
 - Introduced May 2021, signed April 2022
- Increasing use of public lands
- Provide public recreation access opportunities
- Data is inconsistent & can be difficult to find and incorporate into COTS tools
- Expectation of digital maps
- Agencies do not have the same legal requirements for the data sets identified in the law

Timeline

MAPLand Act Signed



Standards Approval by Secretaries

Easement Data Available

*Recreational Shooting and Hunting
Roads, Trails,
Recreation Sites
Data Available*

Ongoing
Data
Updates

Apr 2022 Sept 2022 Dec 2022 Aug 2023 Sept 2023 Oct 2023 Dec 2023 Oct 2024 Apr 2026 Apr 2027

MAPLand Act Coordination

- June 2022, first coordination meeting
- August 2022, Sharing from successful efforts
 - Protected Area Database of the United States
 - Federal Trail GIS Schema Working Group
- September 2022, Core Team
 - Geospatial representatives
- November 2022, Kick off coordination for subgroups
- January 2023, Subgroups begin



MAPLand Act Governance

- Governance
 - Charter
 - Action Plan & Milestones

Vision

The MAPLand Interagency Core Team shall coordinate and lead adoption of the Act requirements to improve the American public's understanding of recreational opportunities on federal lands by developing data standards, supporting data interoperability, and providing access to location information.

11.3 Members


Membership will consist of agency (USACE, FS, NPS, USFWS, BOR, BLM) representatives and consultation representatives from USGS.

Members will be prepared to engage in discussion and generate solutions and end products related to MAPLand implementation; including:

- Research topics and share perspectives
- Raise concerns, issues, new ideas and opportunities
- Propose solutions and best practices
- Identify and document solutions and best practices
- Review formal Decision Documents related to MAPLand implementation
- Communicate using the MAPLand Team Members spreadsheet through emails and Teams Chat
- Each member to actively engage and communicate during the working group meetings
- Each member to debrief their bureau representativesCommunication
- Utilize Pinyon/Box shared drive and folders for coordination
- Utilize MAPLand SharePoint



Standard Type Determination

- Transfer/translation standard
 - Agreed upon standard for use by agencies to translate and publish data in the same schema on agency websites.
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Real



Installation

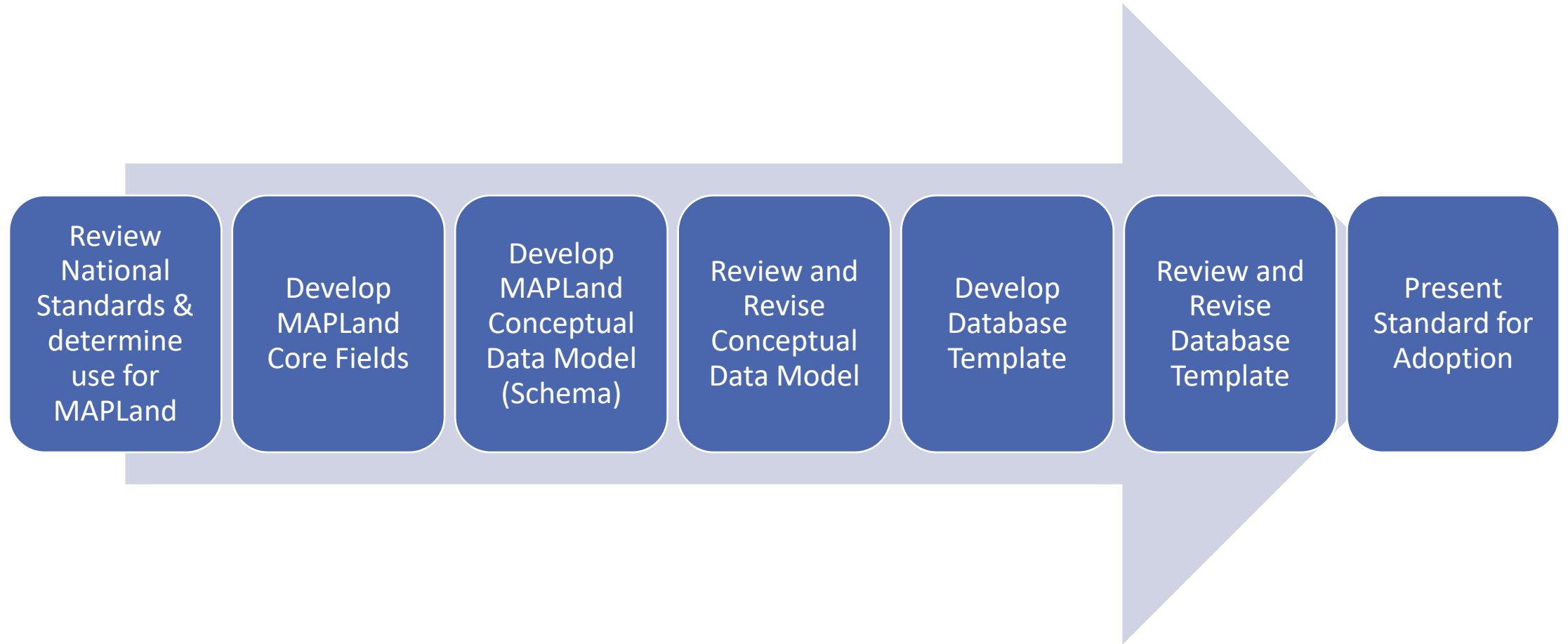


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Process



Coordination and Progress

- Core Team

- Determine Standards Process
- Determine Standard Type
- Develop MAPLand Core Fields
- Organize and facilitate subgroups
- Report to Congress Annually

- Subgroups

- Review current national standards to MAPLand requirements
- Determine if changes can be made to national standards
- Develop conceptual schemas
 - Determine attributes and definitions for transfer standards

Timeline Status

MAPland Act Signed

Interagency Core Group

Thematic Sub Teams

Standard Development

Review 1

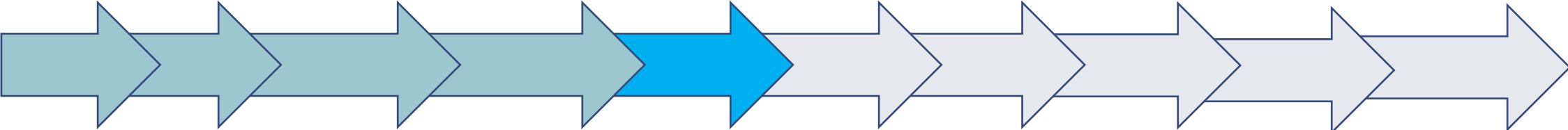
Revision

Review 2

Secretaries Approval

Easement Data Available

*Hunting, Roads, Trails,
Recreation Sites
Data Available*



Ongoing
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Successes

Law

- Geospatial data
- Public access
- Act language interpretations

Decisions

- Geospatial translation not database
- Authoritative data
- Charter

Learning

- Collaborative effort between seven agencies. No one really in charge
- Awareness and understanding of agencies, the laws that regulate us, the way we manage data.
- Learning from successful efforts

Coordination

- Office of Management and Budget
- Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council

Schemas/Conceptual Models

Other Priorities

- BIL - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law planning and implementation
- IRA - Inflation Reduction Act planning and implementation
- ATB - America the Beautiful data inventory and measurement committee support
- **GDA - Geospatial Data Act Implementation and Audits**
- **Evidence Act**
- FASAB - Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) standard 59 reporting
- FLAIR - Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act
- WCS - Wildfire Crisis Strategy
- Drought and Climate Change Resilience Planning
- Open Data and Enterprise Data Inventory Requirements Directive implementing the requirements of the Evidence Based Decision Making Act of 2018
- Current staffing levels are not equal with priorities and timelines

Challenges

- Legal Interpretations – Recreation Sites
- Legal spectrum ramifications
- No direction on aggregation
- Terminology
 - Cross government definitions
 - Attributes/definitions
 - Electric Bicycle determinations
- Are these new standards that need approval? What's the relationship with other current standards?
- Act specifically lists 3 departments and 6 agencies
- NGDA Theme leads not mentioned in Act
 - DOT, trying to collaborate
- Data digitization – spectrum of effort
- Feedback loop – how to accomplish if data isn't aggregated.
- Public comment need in short time frames

NGAC-FGDC Collaboration

- How does the NGAC/FGDC participate? What's the role of the NGAC/FGDC?
- Change Coordination by third party – Should FGDC be playing a primary facilitator role?
 - (charged to meet MAPLand language but how does this fit in with NSDI and getting data in sync together)
- Role for non-Federal partners
 - Is there a role for the organizations of the members of the NGAC?
- Does MAPLand data fit into the NSDI? Where does it fit?
 - Transportation
 - Cadastre Easements
 - Recreation/access
- Who manages once developed?
 - Long-term maintenance
 - What are models or best practices for managing multi-agency resource?
- How do we develop best practices for entities to download/update their versions of these data after agencies update?
- These types of laws are coming piece meal but really should be broader to meet GDA and include all entities.
 - Relationship to current standards

Questions

1. This effort is for others, not necessarily the agencies. Can you help us see what we cannot from where we sit with regards to what we are doing?
2. How can we make sure what we are doing can be leveraged across the country by other Federal Agencies, States, Counties, Commercial, Non-Profits, etc.?
3. What is the relationship between this effort and all the other work in these areas and how can we pull it together and leverage this for other work?
4. The Act requires a feedback loop for comments/questions. What does this look like? How does this function across agencies and get to the right person to answer the question or update the data?
5. How do we ensure that when these data are published by the agencies, they are ingested in a similar update cycle by other entities?