

# **FGDC Steering Committee Presentation**

**June 12, 2020**



# Agenda

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<b>10:00</b>	<b>Welcome/Introductions</b>	<b>Tim Petty (DOI), Rebecca Williams (OMB)</b>
<b>10:10</b>	<b>National Geospatial Advisory Committee Report</b>	<b>Mark Reichardt (NGAC Chair)</b>
<b>10:25</b>	<b>- GDA Team/Agency Reporting Templates - GDA Report to Congress - NSDI Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Tony LaVoi (DOC)  Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC) Carrie Stokes (USAID)</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Geospatial Platform</b>	<b>Tod Dabolt (DOI)</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Federal Data Strategy Actions and Pilot</b>	<b>Ken Shaffer (FGDC)</b>
<b>11:40</b>	<b>Proposal for New NGDA Theme</b>	<b>Lee Schwartz (DoS)</b>
<b>11:50</b>	<b>Wrap-up</b>	<b>Tim Petty (DOI)</b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

# Welcome and Introductions

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- Introductions
- Review of meeting objectives
- Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 2019 and March 2020)  
Tim Petty (DOI)
- Update on A-16 Revision and Federal Data Strategy  
Rebecca Williams (OMB)

# June 9-10, 2020 NGAC Meeting Summary



Mark Reichardt, NGAC Chair  
FGDC Steering Committee Meeting  
June 12, 2020

# NGAC Membership – June 2020

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**Mr. Mark Reichardt (Chair)**  
Open Geospatial Consortium

**Dr. Sarah Battersby (Vice-Chair)**  
Tableau Research

**Douglas Adams\***  
Baltimore County, MD

**Mr. Frank Avila**  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

**Mr. Chad Baker\***  
California Department of Transportation

**Mr. Byron Bluehorse**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Mr. Gar Clarke\***  
State of New Mexico

**Mr. Garet Couch\***  
National Tribal GIS Center

**Mr. Jack Dangermond\***  
Esri

**Dr. William Haneberg\***  
Kentucky Geological Survey

**Mr. Mike Hussey**  
State of Utah

**Mr. Sanjay Kumar**  
World Geospatial Industry Council

**Mr. Tony LaVoi**  
NOAA

**Ms. Roberta Lenczowski**  
Roberta E. Lenczowski Consulting, LLC

**Mr. Mark Meade\***  
Quantum Spatial

**Dr. Siva Ravada\***  
Oracle Corporation

**Ms. Felicia Retiz\***  
Texas Water Development Authority

**Dr. Vasit Sagan\***  
St. Louis University

**Ms. Amber Shultz**  
City of Lawrence, KS

**Mr. Cy Smith**  
State of Oregon

**Mr. Gary Thompson**  
State of North Carolina

**Mr. Tim Trainor\***  
Trainor Consultants

**Dr. May Yuan**  
University of Texas – Dallas

**\*New/reappointed members – 2020**

**Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC), Designated Federal Officer**

# June 2020 NGAC Meeting – Agenda

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- Leadership Dialogue
- FGDC Report
- NSDI Strategic Plan
- NGAC Subcommittee Reports
  - Cultural and Historical Geospatial Resources
  - Landsat Advisory Group
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - GDA Congressional Report
- GDA Report to Congress
- Future Topics – COVID 19

# NGAC Subcommittees

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## NSDI Strategic Plan Subcommittee

- **Decision:** The NGAC approved the paper, “Recommendations on the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan.”

## Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources Subcommittee

- **Action:** The subcommittee will work with FGDC staff to plan briefing sessions for FGDC Cultural Resources Subcommittee agencies and other key stakeholders on the recommendations included in the NGAC paper, “Protecting Federal Cultural and Historical Geospatial Resources.”

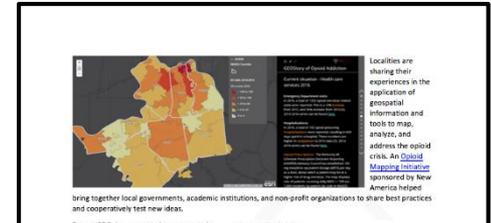
## Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee

- **Action:** The subcommittee will continue meeting on a bi-weekly basis. The subcommittee will provide a draft recommendations paper to the NGAC in September, and seek final approval at the October NGAC meeting.

# GDA Congressional Report Subcommittee

**Decision:** The NGAC approved the following use case papers, pending minor editorial changes:

- Addressing the Opioid Crisis
- Improving Foster Care Outcomes
- NC Flood Mapping Program
- Road Maintenance
- Successful 2020 Census Enabled with Geospatial Tools
- Summary of 2020 NGAC Use Cases



**National Geospatial Advisory Committee**  
**Geospatial Technology and Infrastructure Use Case:**  
**Successful 2020 Census Enabled with Geospatial Tools**

The importance of a complete and accurate 2020 Census count cannot be overstated. The use of geospatial data and technology to facilitate the most hard-to-count areas in the United States has enabled targeted outreach and mitigation strategies during the most challenging decennial census in recent history. The U.S. Census Bureau's (Census Bureau) partnership specialists rely upon the **Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROADM)** web application to both identify the hardest to count populations across the nation and allocate community resources using geospatial data. Stakeholders from tribal, state, and local governments, as well as businesses and community groups have rallied around creative outreach efforts (i.e., marketing campaigns and promotional events) to make it easier to connect with populations that have historically low self-response rates. ROADM is a geographic information system (GIS) that has enabled users to see geographic patterns for the U.S. population, as never before, resulting from an analysis of 25 data variables at the neighborhood or census tract level. In second time, ROADM empowered Census Bureau staff and external stakeholders to plan and mobilize a neighborhood-based network of community resources needed to conduct a census with an uncompromising mission: Count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

**Benefits of Geospatial Technology**  
 Every 10 years, as mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the Census Bureau conducts a full count of America's population. Geospatial technology has assisted the Census Bureau's processes of collection, tabulation, and dissemination since the 1980 Census aided by the development of the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) System—a massive geographic framework used for data tabulation and mapping. Since then, the Census Bureau has adopted technology at a rapid pace to improve the quality and geospatial accuracy of their population counts.

ROADM was developed to make it easier to identify hard-to-count areas, and to provide a socioeconomic and demographic profile for these areas using American Community Survey (ACS) data from the Census Bureau's online Planning Database (POE). The POE is the source for a metric known as the Low Response Score (LRS), which is the predicted final non-response rate expressed as a percentage of households for the 2020 Census. With this information visualized using ROADM, communities can plan outreach activities to boost self response to the 2020 Census (see map at right).

The Census Bureau relies on partnership specialists to engage with civic leaders to get the word out about the importance of an accurate count. ROADM helps partnership specialists identify census tracts with large concentrations of young children, people who have recently moved, non-English speaking households, persons of color, and other minority groups—populations predicted to have lower self-response rates—so they can tailor their outreach accordingly.

National Geospatial Advisory Committee (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) FINAL DRAFT 6-04-2020

ROADM helps partnership specialists identify census tracts with large concentrations of young children, people who have recently moved, non-English speaking households, persons of color, and other minority groups—populations predicted to have lower self-response rates—so they can tailor their outreach accordingly.

**Tips**  
 The 2020 Census features multiple modes of self-response, including online and by phone, and future data deliveries may look very different for the 2020 Census. ROADM and its companion tool, the 2020 Census Response Rate Map, have contributed to the success of the 2020 Census in ways that were unimaginable without the recent developments in geospatial technology. For 2030, the combination of insights and lessons learned from geospatial tools that link response rates to mission success will form the next generation of Census products.

For more information on how to use the ROADM tool, please see the extensive documentation at [www.census.gov/2020census/roadm](https://www.census.gov/2020census/roadm). For up-to-the-minute information about the status of Census responses, see the 2020 Census Response Rate Map at <https://2020census.gov/en/2020census-response-rate-map.html>.

National Geospatial Advisory Committee (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) FINAL DRAFT 6-04-2020

# NGAC Resolution on GDA (1 of 2)

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is encouraged by the progress the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) community is making in implementing the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). The NGAC has provided initial comments on GDA implementation through its paper, “Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation” (May 2019), and through ongoing inputs to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan and the FGDC’s GDA biennial report to Congress.

The NGAC recommends:

1. Given the vital and growing role that integrated geospatial information and technology plays in our society, ***the NGAC strongly supports the GDA and believes it to be a comprehensive approach and roadmap for advancing the NSDI.***
2. Given the NGAC believes 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.***

\*Approved by NGAC 6-10-20, pending minor editorial changes

# NGAC Resolution on GDA (2 of 2)

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3. Given the NGAC's May 2019 Comments on the GDA, the NGAC believes the FGDC community does not have sufficient resources, either within the FGDC Office of Secretariat or within FGDC covered agencies, to adequately meet the implementation requirements of the GDA. This lack of resources puts successful implementation of the GDA at significant risk. ***Specifically, NGAC recommends that FGDC work with congressional authorizing and appropriating committees to ensure adequate resources are made available to FGDC and covered agencies to:***
- a) Accomplish the coordination, planning, communication, reporting, and collaboration duties of FGDC as required by the GDA in Sections 753(c) and 755(c);
  - b) Enable lead covered agencies to provide the leadership, coordination, and management required in Section 756(b) of the GDA to advance nationwide development, maintenance, and open accessibility of the NGDA data themes for all organizations and the public, through partnerships with all appropriate stakeholders;
  - c) Transform interagency service delivery collaboration to take advantage of the most efficient and effective technologies for providing access to integrated geospatial data from all appropriate NSDI stakeholders, as required in Section 758 of the GDA;
  - d) Strengthen the content, quality, data management, and service delivery for each of the NGDA data themes by responsible covered agencies, as required in Sections 756 and 759 of the GDA.

# Future Topics/Next Steps

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**Action:** The NGAC established a team to explore and scope possible NGAC engagement related to geospatial support for COVID 19 response, leveraging feedback from a potential seminar/workshop in Summer 2020.

## Next NGAC Meeting

The next meeting of the NGAC is scheduled for October 6-7, 2020. Additional information will be provided prior to the meeting.

# Geospatial Data Act Update



# Geospatial Data Act Update

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## Topics:

- GDA Team/Agency Reporting Templates – Tony LaVoi, SAOGI, DOC
- Planning and Proposal for the 2020 GDA Report to Congress – Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, Executive Director
- Development of NSDI Strategic Plan – Carrie Stokes, USAID

# Background on GDA Planning

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- GDA provides multiple opportunities for the national geospatial community as well as significant requirements for planning, reporting, and performance measurement
- GDA passed in October 2018; multiple groups formed in December 2018 to begin addressing key components of the GDA
- Agencies looking forward to a GDA guidebook: OMB Circular A-16 Revised will provide the ‘what’ but not the ‘how’
- Initial focus was the development of a GDA Roadmap for FY20 and FY21 to guide agency activities

# Near-Term GDA Working Group Priorities

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- FGDC-sponsored Interagency Working Group formed in November 2019; over a dozen agencies (Covered and Non-Covered) meeting weekly to plan for successful implementation of the GDA
- Initial coordination priorities
  - Covered Agency Reports
  - Lead Covered Agency Reports (National Geospatial Data Asset)
  - Covered Agency Inspector General Audits
  - FGDC Report to Congress
  - National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and Covered Agency Strategic Plans

# Covered Agency Reports

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- GDA Section 759 identifies 13 requirements for Covered Agencies
- Developing a standardized approach to measure agency progress
- Recommending agencies perform a self-assessment of performance based on specific criteria and questions for each requirement
- Each of the 13 requirements has multiple sub-questions for Covered Agencies to assess their performance
  - Meets expectations
  - Made progress toward expectations
  - Fails to meet expectations
- Results in an overall rating for each of the 13 requirements, as well as an initial overall rating of Covered Agency performance

# Lead Covered Agency Reports

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- GDA Section 756 identifies requirements for Lead Covered Agencies
- Document implementation of the NGDA Data Theme and progress in achieving requirements under subparagraphs:
  - (A) Provide leadership for developing and implementing theme geospatial data standards
    - NGDA Standards Baseline Inventory of all Datasets (Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan Action 10 Milestone: Due Dec 31, 2020)
  - (B) Provide leadership and facilitate development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the data theme
  - (C) Establish goals that support the strategic plan for the NSDI
  - (D) Collect and analyze information from geospatial data users regarding user needs and incorporate those needs into strategies for the data theme

# Timeline

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- **June:** Finalize Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency self-assessment survey documents
- **July - September:** Develop and test online tool using GeoPlatform & Survey123
- **October - December:** Covered Agencies complete self-assessment measuring performance during FY20; Theme Leads (Lead Covered Agencies) complete similar assessment
- **January - March:** FGDC develops summary reports on agency and theme performance per GDA requirements for inclusion in Report to Congress

# GDA Report to Congress – Requirements

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- The biennial Report to Congress is one part of an extensive, complex planning and reporting process required by the GDA.
- The Report to Congress summarizes multiple agency reports and GDA requirements, including the following:
  1. A summary of the status and evaluation of the progress for each National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data theme based on reports submitted by lead covered agencies
  2. A summary and evaluation of the achievements of each covered agency, based on the covered agencies' annual reports to the FGDC on their achievements complying with GDA responsibilities
  3. Comments from the NGAC on the summaries and evaluations (items 1 and 2 above), and responses of the FGDC to the comments.
  4. Comments of the covered agencies on the FGDC summaries and evaluations (items 1 and 2 above), and responses of the FGDC to the comments.

# GDA Reporting – Challenges

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- GDA includes extensive annual/biennial reporting involving agency, OMB, Congressional, Inspector General, NGAC, and FGDC requirements
- There are interdependencies between many of these reports, and they include requirements for close engagement with non-Federal entities, the NGAC, and users of geospatial data
- GDA did not include additional resources to support the additional management and reporting requirements, changes in governance, or additional activities required for GDA implementation
- The FGDC Office of the Secretariat does not have staff or contract resources to fully support the GDA's reporting & coordination requirements. Additionally, FGDC agencies are attempting to address the new GDA requirements using existing agency resources, while also supporting the FGDC-led enterprise GDA planning & reporting activities.

# Status/Next Steps

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## Status

- FGDC staff has had a series of discussions with FGDC and DOI leadership, congressional affairs staff, and OMB about the approach and timing of the report to Congress.
- FGDC is proposing a two-phase approach – with a high-level GDA report being delivered to Congress this fall, followed by a more detailed GDA reporting appendix which will be completed and transmitted to Congress early next year.

## Next Steps

- Organizing team to develop report
- Establish timeline/work plan
- NGAC input on key messages and use cases
- Include both Agency and FGDC requirements

# Proposed 2-Phase Approach

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## Part 1: High-level GDA Report to Congress

- Will include:
  - Executive Summary
  - Background/Overview (Primary “messaging” component of GDA report)
  - GDA Implementation Activities to Date (Brief summaries of key GDA implementation activities)
  - GDA Reporting – Status Report (Summary of current status)
  - NGAC Inputs (Summary of comments and inputs from NGAC on GDA implementation)
  - Challenges/Recommendations
- **Delivery date: Submit to Congress in October 2020**

# Proposed 2-Phase Approach, cont'd

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## Part 2: GDA Reporting Appendix

- Will include:
  - A summary of the status of each NGDA data theme and an evaluation of its progress
  - A summary of achievements and a determination of progress of each covered agency in implementing their agency's strategy for advancing geospatial activities appropriate to their mission
  - Any comments from the covered agencies on the FGDC summary reports, NGAC comments on the FGDC summary reports, and any responses to those comments
- **Delivery date: Posted online and provided to Congress in April 2021**

# GDA Report to Congress

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SC Member ACTION: Concurrence on approach and identity reps to draft document.

**ACTION:** Designate Steering Committee Executive Champion(s) to lead effort and reps for the team.

**ACTION:** Work with OMB to define the review and submission process & timeline.

## Questions?

# NSDI Strategic Plan – Status/Next Steps

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- Draft plan developed with inputs from FGDC agencies, NGAC subcommittee, partners
- FGDC has held two NSDI Leaders Forum Sessions (March 10, May 28)
- Initial draft strategic plan (v1) distributed to FGDC Steering Committee & NGAC for review and comment in May
- **Dialogue/discussion – NGAC & FGDC meetings in June**
- Next draft version (v2) to be provided for public comment in July
- Final draft version (v3) to be provided for FGDC approval & NGAC endorsement in October
- FGDC agency geospatial strategies to be completed by December 2020

# NSDI Plan v1 – Summary of Feedback

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## **OVERVIEW:**

- Over 110 comments from 25 FGDC reps/NGAC members
- Comments/feedback from NSDI Leaders Forum group

## **KEY THEMES FROM COMMENTS:**

### **General/Editorial:**

- Suggestions on acronyms, use of hyphens, consistency, etc.
- Introduction should be more concise

### **Definitions:**

- Introduction should clearly define “geospatial data”
- Many similar terms are used in document (geospatial data, spatial data, geodata, etc.). Should be more consistent & define terms.

# NSDI Plan v1 – Summary of Feedback, cont'd

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## Goal 1:

- Very focused on GDA; consider broadening to address other NSDI issues
- Concern expressed that there was no mention about the leadership or convening role of the FGDC

## Goal 2:

- Need to address acquisition of data more clearly in Goal 2
- Goal 2 should address framework data & prioritization of NGDAs

## Goal 3:

- Comments generally recognized the importance of this goal and supported this goal & objectives
- Comments suggesting the language for each of the objectives be streamlined for clarity and understanding

# NSDI Plan v1 – Summary of Feedback, cont'd

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## Goal 4:

- Comments were generally supportive of this goal and objectives
- Need to focus on building partnerships and working together as a community
- Suggestions for wording changes and suggestions regarding objectives 4.3 and 4.4

## Implementation:

- Concerns about implementation – significant amount of work described in strategic plan; unclear about resources to accomplish the work
- Need to define relationship between monitoring/reporting for the NSDI plan and for GDA reporting
- Who is the project manager for implementation? Roles of FGDC OS & Champions need to be defined more clearly.

## Timeframe for plan

- Timeframe described in plan (2020-2022) seems too short. Consider making it a longer-term plan.

# Summary – Next Steps

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- Next draft version (v2) of strategic plan to be provided for public comment in mid-July
  - ***Please encourage your agencies to review and provide feedback on the public comment version***
- Final draft version (v3) to be provided for FGDC approval & NGAC endorsement in October
- FGDC covered agency geospatial strategies to be completed by December 2020

SC Member ACTIONS: Provide comments during public comment period (July). Prepare for final draft plan review and comment in September 2020 timeframe.

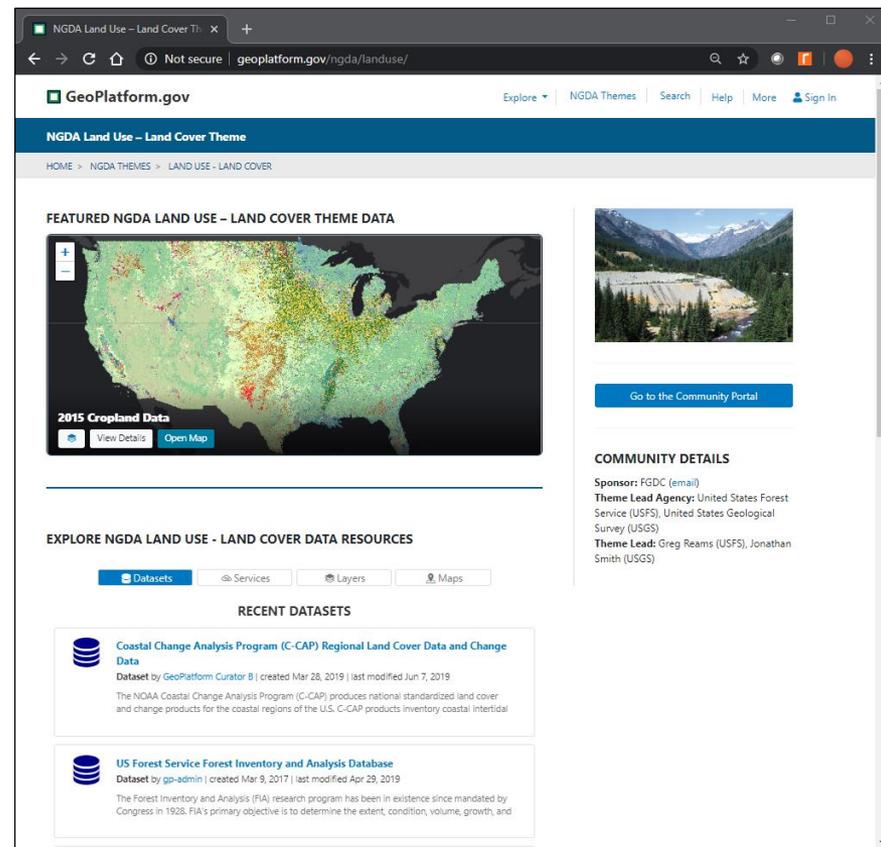
# Geoplatform Update & Goals for 2020

*Tod Dabolt, CDO, GIO*  
*US Department of the Interior*



# Geoplatform 2020 Goals

1. Simplify The Geoplatform Environment
2. Simplify The Geoplatform Experience
3. Continue to Focus on FAIR Data Principles
4. Support Implementation of GDA & NSDI Strategic Plan



# Quick Side Note

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With the award of new FGDC IDIQ contract, the Geoplatform task order transitioned to a new vendor

The transition went exceptionally smoothly with the two vendors collaborating daily for one month

- ❖ Demonstrates the soundness of the design, the quality of work, the quality of documentation, and the dedication to our mission the team provided under the previous contract.

The new vendor has brought on an excellent, experienced team with new ideas and enthusiasm to for the Geoplatform and FGDC mission and we are looking forward to their support.

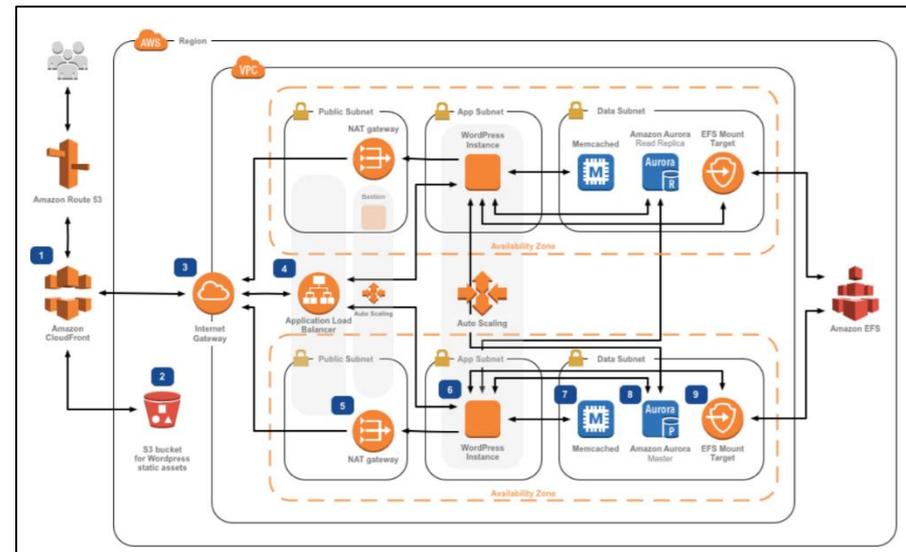
# Goal 1: Simplify The Geoplatform Environment

## Clean House and Reduce Technical Debt :

- ❖ Years of Incremental changes
- ❖ Outdated technology
- ❖ Sprawl

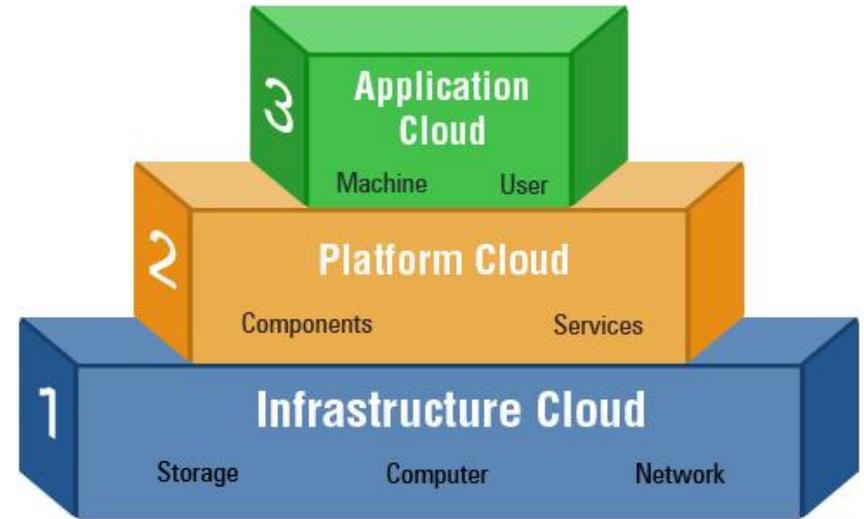
## Why?

- ❖ Lower Operating Costs (labor & compute)
- ❖ Improve Security
- ❖ Improve Performance, and
- ❖ Free up labor for more useful work



# House Cleaning:

- Geoplatform databases run on multiple servers using “Infrastructure Cloud” Model.
- We are eliminating many of those servers, migrating to “Platform Cloud” for databases and services whenever possible.
- This means few servers to patch, monitor and maintain



Amazon RDS database engines



[Image from: https://www.tatvasoft.com/blog/cloud-computing-models/](https://www.tatvasoft.com/blog/cloud-computing-models/)



# House Cleaning:

Geoplatform currently maintains user accounts and passwords for federal and non-federal users.

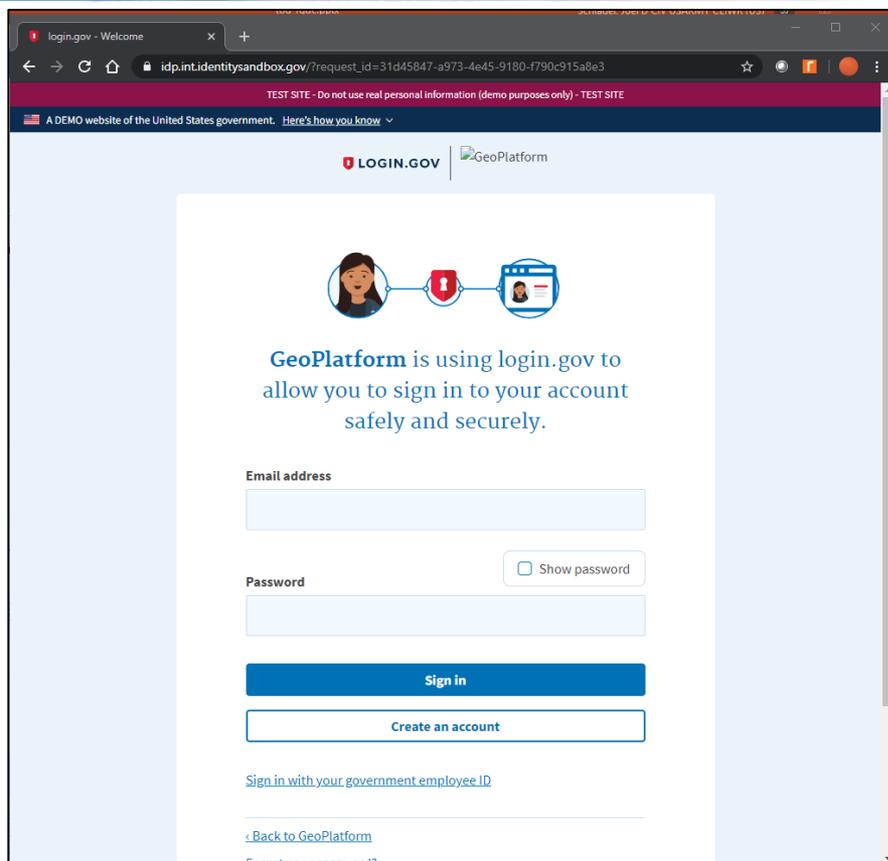
Support for users across federal, state and local users has been a key capability of Geoplatform.

Maintenance has been costly, and majority of HelpDesk tickets are account issues

Geoplatform will migrate to a shared GSA hosted authentication platform

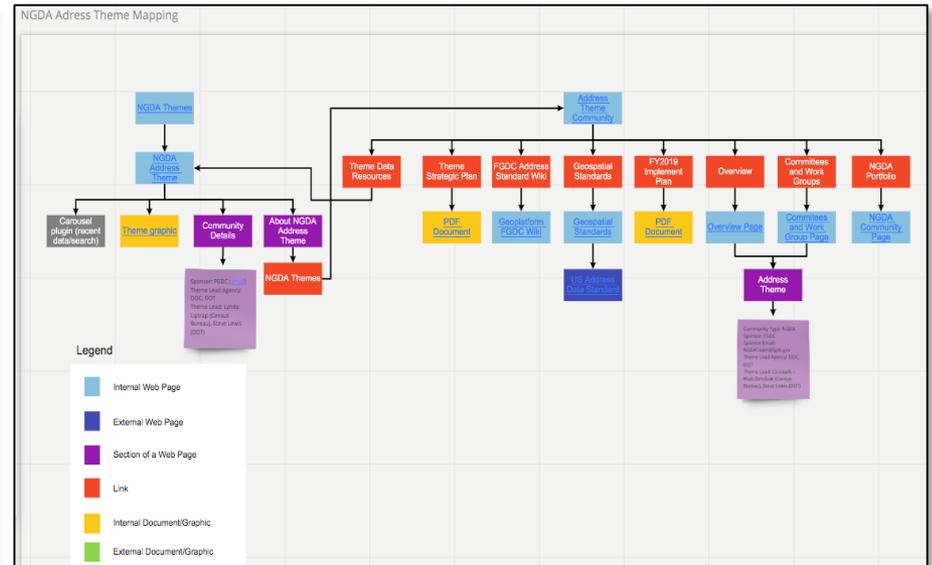
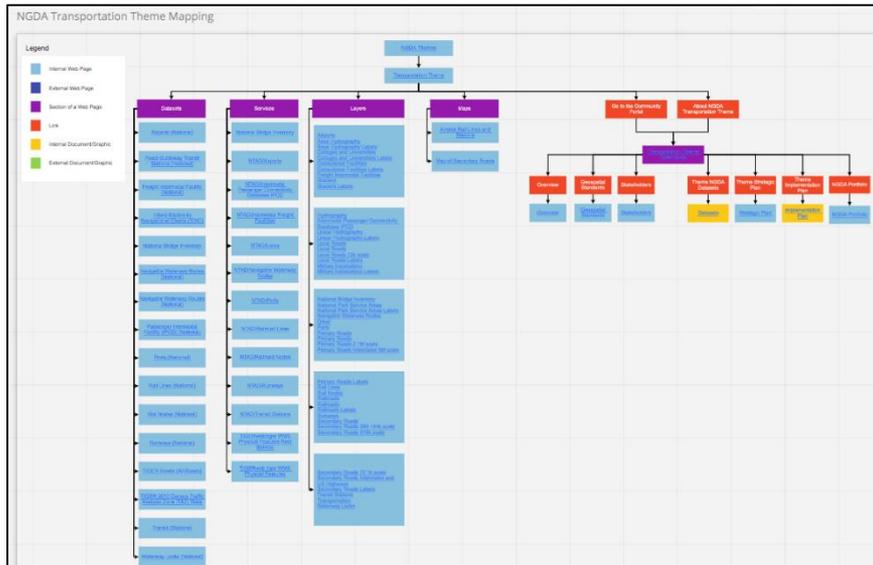


Using login.gov will simplify our code, improve security, and have the added benefit of allowing PIV holders to use their federal credentials to login, rather than having a separate Geoplatform account



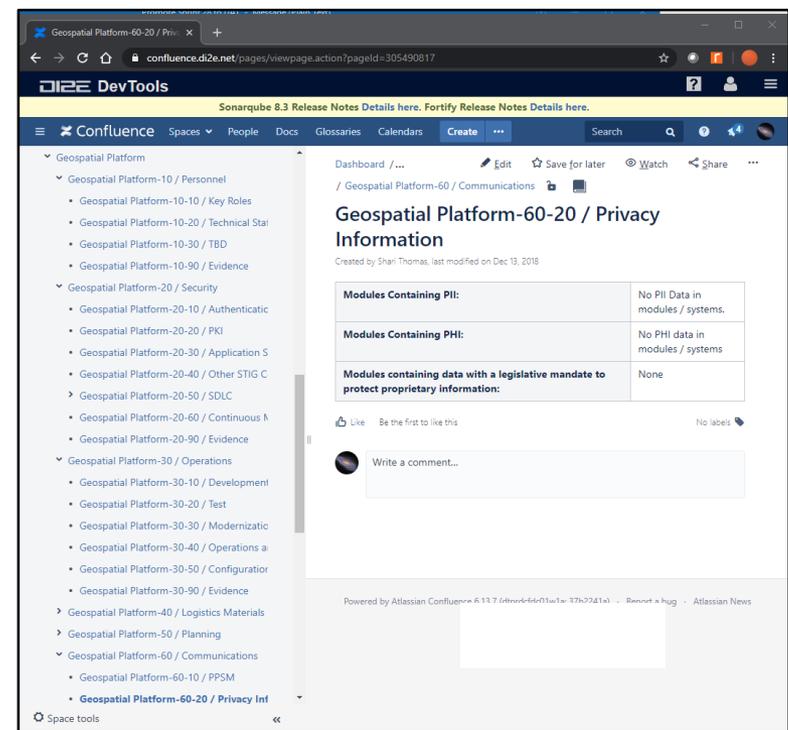
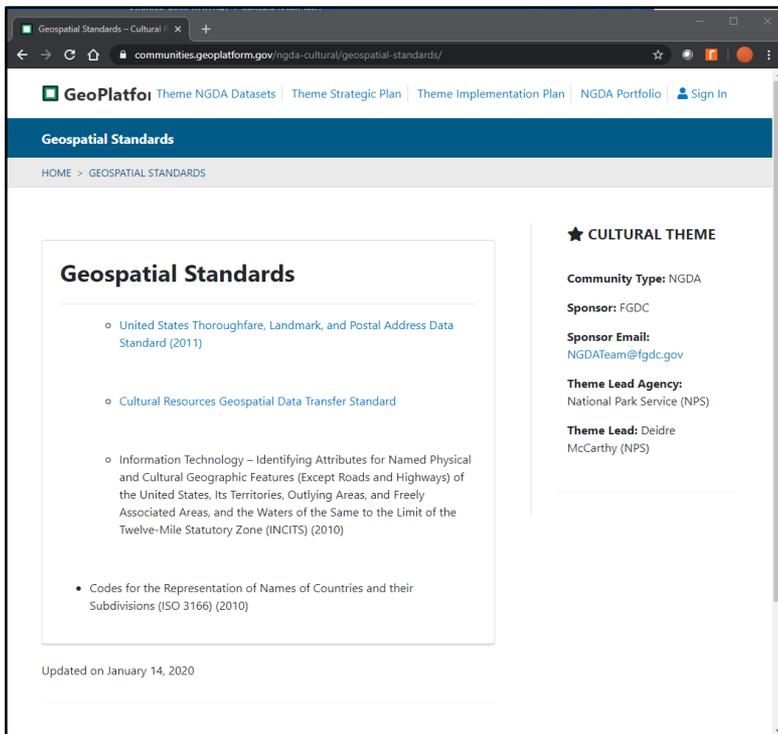
# Goal #2 Simplify The Geoplatform Experience

Problem: Organization of NGDA Theme Communities is Complex and Inconsistent, with relatively little current authoritative content



# Goal #2 Simplify The Geoplatform Experience

Solution: Reduce reliance on Wordpress as exclusive means for management of content in Geoplatform. Focus on content rather than design. Implement “community lite” format for easy maintenance.

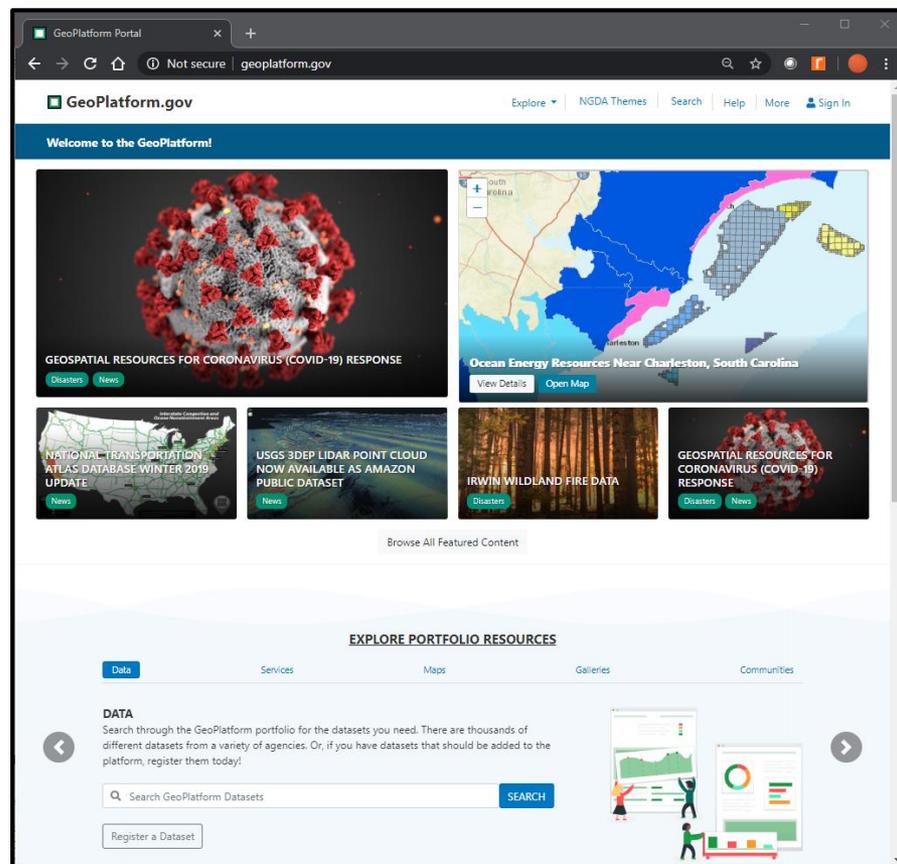




Problem: The Geoplatform Home Screen and Initial impression Is daunting to new and experienced users alike.

Solution: We will be working with user Interface/User Experience (UI/UX) to simplify access to the many functions of Geoplatform

- Datasets
- Services
- Layers
- Maps
- Galleries
- Communities
- Hosting
- Marketplace
- Portfolio
- Collaboration
- Search
- Performance
- Policy



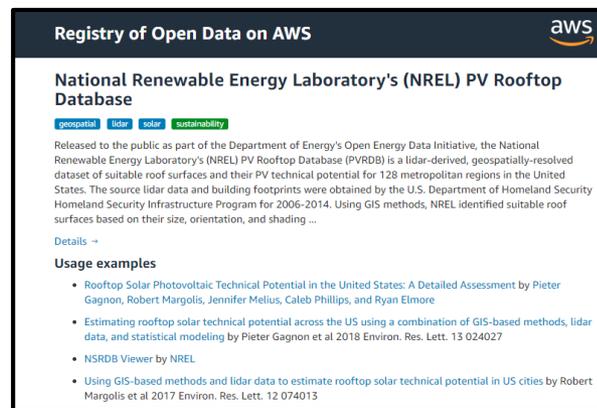
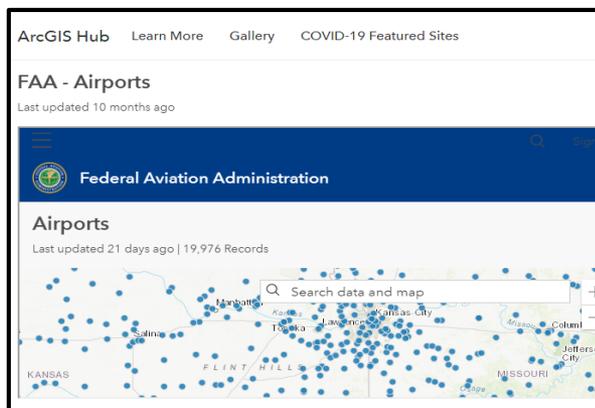
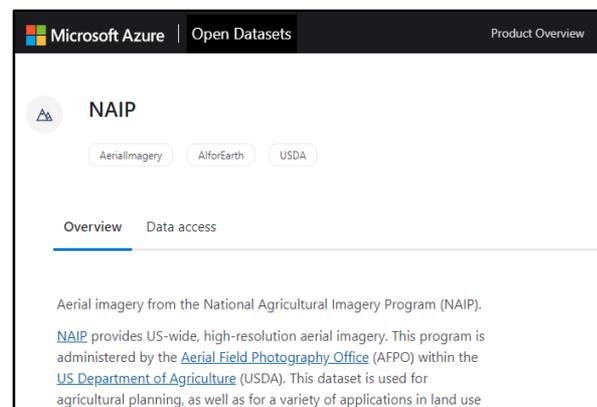
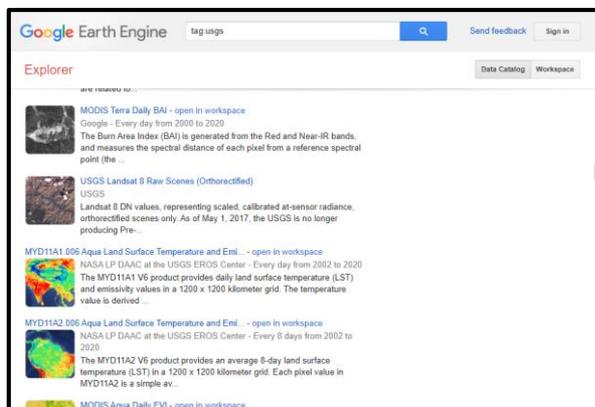


# Continue to Focus on FAIR Data

Problem: Geodata is everywhere but is it the “right” data!

Solution: Geoplatform will index new locations and support emerging metadata formats such as Project Open Data (POD) and Spatial Temporal Asset Catalog (STAC)

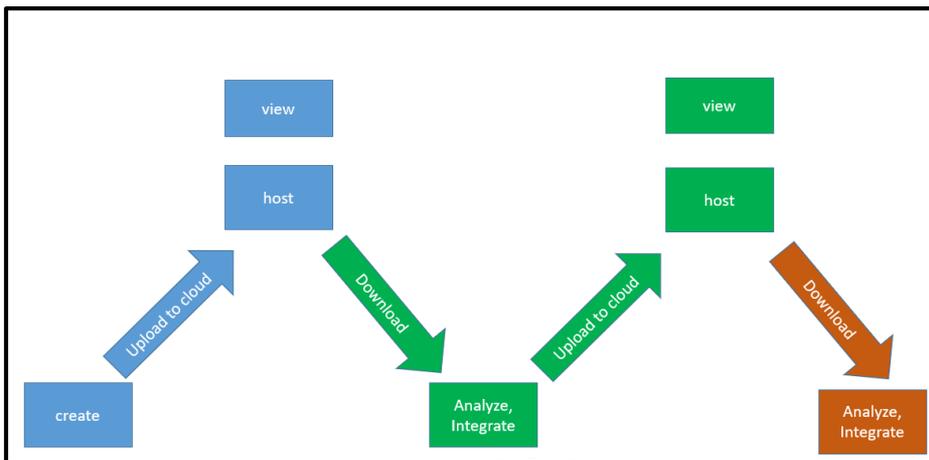
Recommend – reconsidering / revising existing practices with partner agencies.



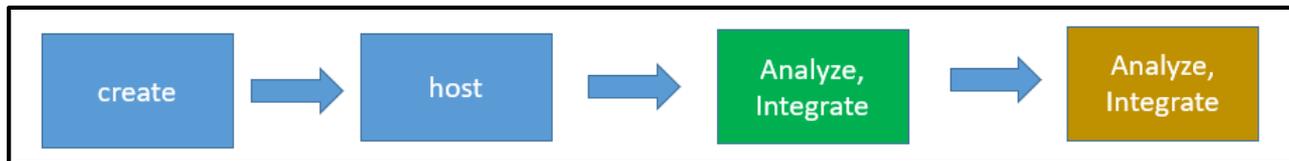
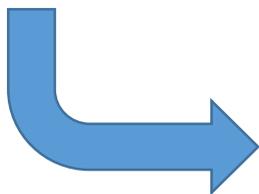
# From Metadata Discovery to Data Discovery

Legacy metadata and legacy tools support workflows that treat the cloud not much differently than an ftp site. Metadata becomes an index to a file to download to a local computer. In support of GDA implementation, Geoplatform will expand support for machine readable metadata, automated data discovery, linked open data, machine learning, and modern cloud-based workflows including open data caches.

This will provide the greatest value to public and industry for the investment in national spatial data.



Legacy Upload / Download Workflow



Modern Cloud Native Data Processing Pipeline

# Questions?

# Federal Data Strategy FGDC Actions

*Ken Shaffer*

*FGDC*

*Deputy Executive  
Director*



# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

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## **Action 10: Integrate Geospatial Practices into the Federal Data Enterprise**

By December 2020, FGDC, in coordination with the OMB Federal Data Policy Committee (FDPC), will improve the value of, and access to, geospatial data and services for use across the Federal data enterprise and the public through the implementation of the GDA.

Through this action, FGDC members will coordinate with their agency Data Governance Board (DGB), their SAOGI, and the FDPC on the use and integration of geospatial data into broader Federal efforts.

# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

SC Member ACTIONS: Provide comments during public comment period (July).  
Prepare for final draft plan review and comment in September 2020 timeframe.

## Part 1: **Develop an NSDI Strategic Plan**

Milestone: Establish the NSDI strategic Plan

Measure: Completion

Status: Progressing on schedule

Approach: NSDI Core Team is executing this action

Co-leads: Carrie Stokes (USAID) and Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC OS)

# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

SC Member ACTIONS: 1) Identify members who are also CDO Council members/representatives. 2) Identify a lead for this action from those members.

Part 2: **OMB SAOGI will assist the FGDC in ensuring FGDC cross-representation on appropriate data oversight bodies to help spatially enable the Federal data enterprise.** To establish a process to develop consistent identification of the spatial attributes of both spatial datasets (that contain spatial geometry) and non-spatial datasets to facilitate machine interpretable methods of relating or joining data for analytics and innovation.

Milestone: Engage with other relevant councils

Measure: Number of engagements

Status: Pending

Approach: FGDC to identify CDO representatives. Once CDO Council is operational, representatives are to determine how this topic is best addressed within the council structure and recommend next steps to the FGDC. NOTE: The CDO council just met for the first time and is still establishing itself.

# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

SC Member ACTIONS: Identify FGDC lead.

**Part 3: Operate the GeoPlatform to provide access to geospatial data and related metadata for all National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA), ...** and provide standards-compliant metadata and web services for all NGDA data assets, registered with data.gov and available as web services through the GeoPlatform.

Milestone: Publish a GeoPlatform providing standards-compliant web services for NGDAs

Measure: Completion

Status: On-going

Approach: Leverage on-going efforts between the FGDC's portfolio management team, GeoPlatform.gov team and Data.gov teams to improve agency metadata guidelines and technical processes to increase the number of successfully registered NGDA datasets with Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

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## Part 3 Status continued:

- The latest version of recommendations for publishing any geospatial metadata to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.gov has been published.
- Combines specific guidance for NGDA datasets to improve efficiency and communications.
- Exemplar metadata records in ISO 19115 and CSDGM formats have been created and shared.
- The Theme Leads have been briefed on these guidelines.
- NGDA Portfolio Team will continue to work with the GeoPlatform.gov and Data.gov teams to ensure we have unified guidance for Agencies.
- These guidelines become the basis for the on-going bi-annual metadata reviews.
- Please visit: [fgdc.gov/technical-guidance](https://fgdc.gov/technical-guidance)

# FDS FY 2020 Action Plan – FGDC Action

SC Member ACTIONS: 1) Identify FGDC lead. 2) Develop FGDC policy on assessing when standards are required.

**Part 4: GDA Lead Covered Agencies for NGDA data assets will identify, inventory, and publish the status and standards being used for each of the NGDA data themes and content and services metadata.**

Milestone: Track NGDAs for implementation of standards

Measure: Percentages of NGDAs with: i) metadata standards, ii) established content standards, iii) standards in process, iv) data assets not requiring standards, v) no established standards

Status: On-going

Approach: The NGDA Portfolio Team is in conjunction with the DOI SAOGI to 1) provide an online survey to NGDA theme and dataset managers to create a baseline of standards to report initial measures, 2) propose FGDC technical guidance defining when a standard is required.

# FDS FY 2020 Pilot Project

SC Member ACTIONS: 1) Identify FGDC lead. 2) Develop a small team to oversee and guide this contractor executed survey assessment.

## OMB awarded FGDC an FDS Pilot

- Geospatial Data Act high-value federal investments and incentives assessment – survey of Federal agencies
- Where will potential investments/partnerships/innovation provide key improvements/advancements/high-value services, etc. for the NSDI
- Includes elements from the GDA, NSDI, GeoPlatform, Covid-19

## Next Steps

- 1) Identify contract vehicle and work with GSA on funding transfer. (FGDC OS) – complete
- 2) Compete and award Task Order (TO) – TO in final review, FGDC OS identifying 2 interagency reviewers
- 3) Identify SMEs to support contractors (e.g. FDS, FGDC, OSTP) (OMB) - pending

# NGDA Changes Vote - Pending

SC Member ACTIONS: Review and respond to the pending vote to be sent to SC members via email.

- Changes to National Geospatial Data Asset data themes and datasets must be approved by the Steering Committee with OMB concurrence (executed by vote).
- The Data Theme Community provides recommendations for changes.
- Due to changes in the FGDC Governance structure, the pending list of recommended changes will be going directly to the Steering Committee for consideration and endorsement.
- New NGDA datasets must meet all the management, metadata, registry, services and reporting requirements of the GDA.
- Dataset removal requires Steering Committee endorsement to identify any datasets other agencies may utilize so that potential gaps can be identified.
- The pending vote will include a number of additions and removals from the current NGDA dataset list, and potentially the addition of a new theme.

# Proposal for New NGDA Theme

*Lee Schwartz*

*Director*

*Office of the Geographer  
and Global Issues*

*DoS*



# International Boundaries as a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Theme

Lee Schwartz, The Geographer

U.S. Department of State

Office of the Geographer and Global Issues



FGDC Steering Committee Meeting

June 12, 2020



US Dept of State Geographer  
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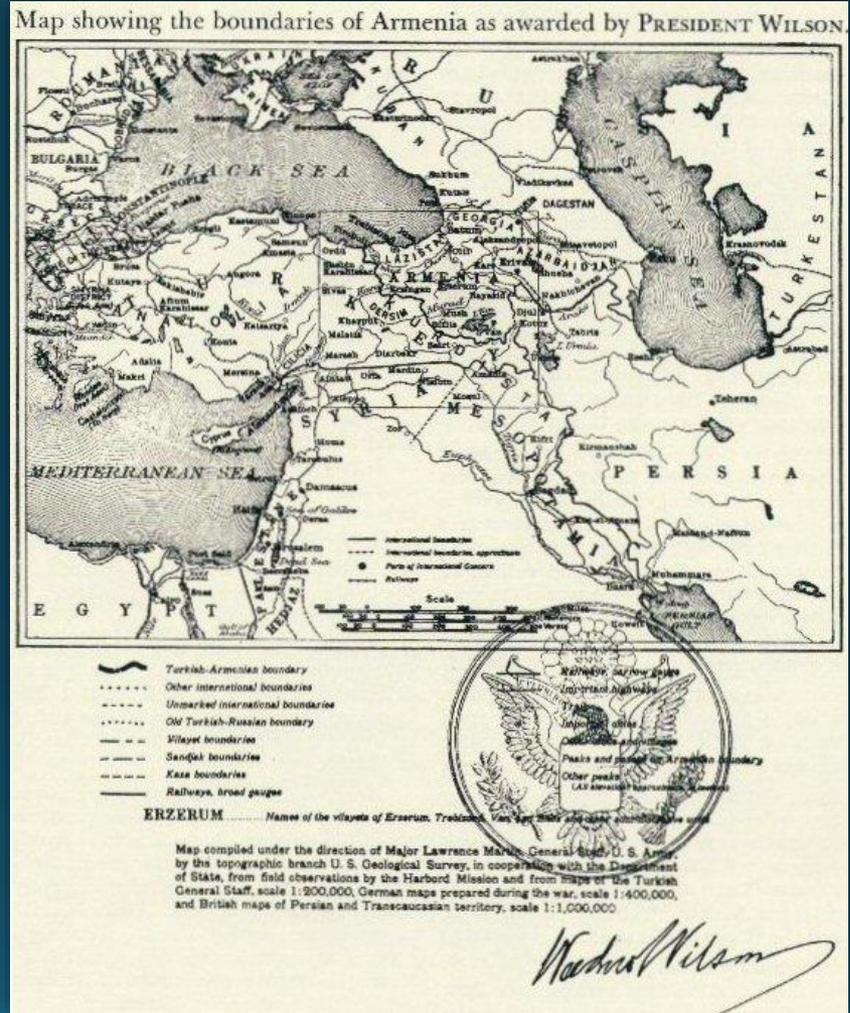
Google Earth

Given the intersection of foreign policy and geography, **the Department of State feels strongly that international boundaries\* require being returned to the status of a “theme” (as it was under OMB A-16, Appendix E) in the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) portfolio list.**

\*Other than the U.S-Canada and U.S.-Mexico boundaries.

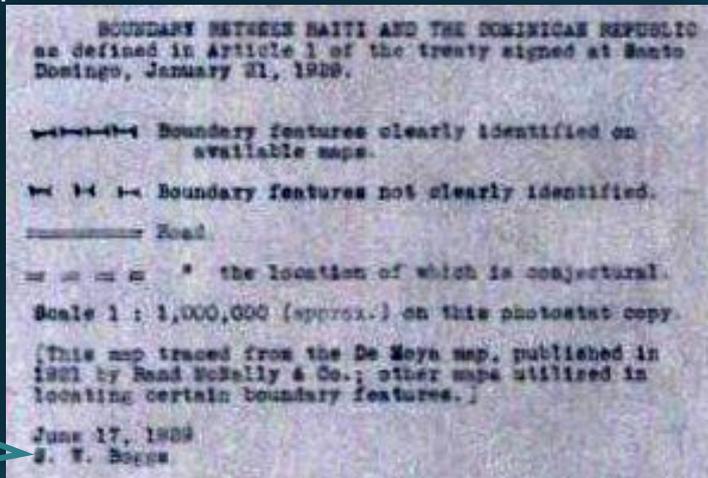
# History and Background

- International land boundaries are a fundamental expression of the extent of a state's sovereignty.
- Their depiction on US Government products has strong foreign policy implications.
- The State Department is the preeminent U.S. government agency that has primacy over foreign policy.



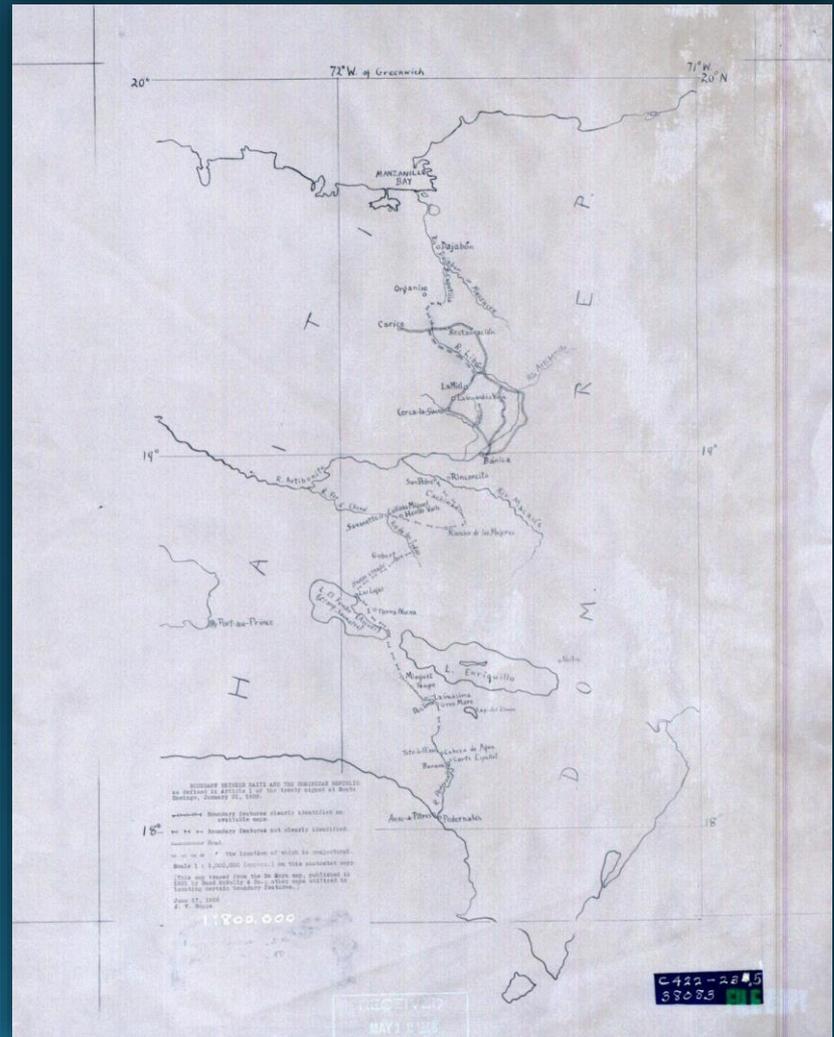
# History and Background

The State Department's Office of the Geographer began analysis of international boundaries for the DoS in the 1920s. The Office disseminated guidance on how to portray and label sensitive boundaries on USG maps.



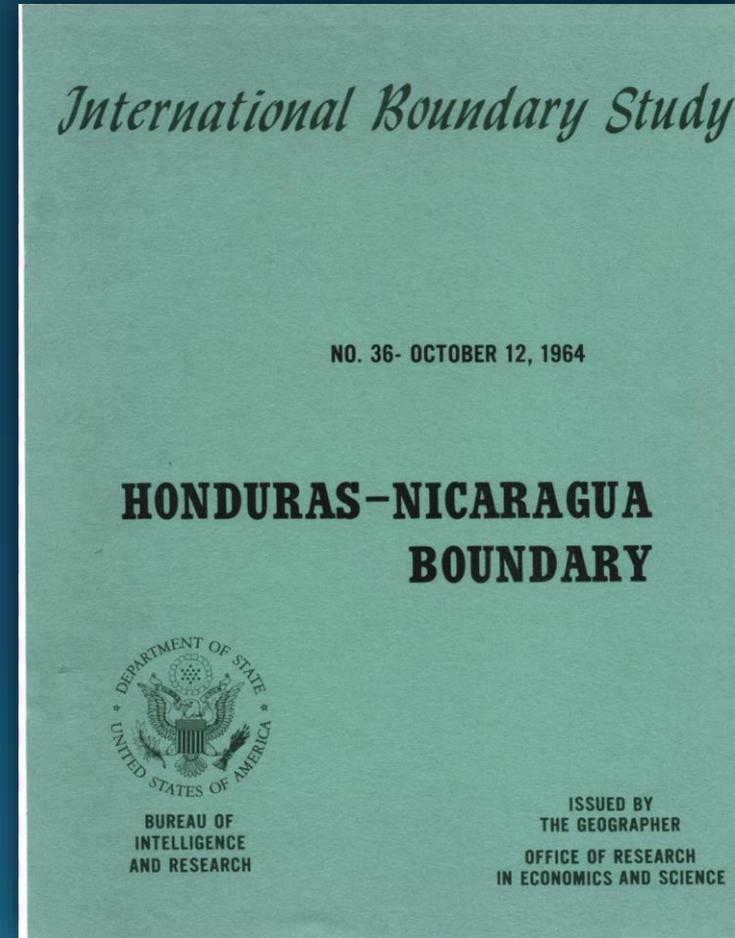
S.W. Boggs

BOUNDARY BETWEEN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC as defined in Article 1 of the treaty signed at Santo Domingo, January 21, 1929



## History and Background

- The Department of State, as the US foreign affairs agency, has for decades issued guidance on international boundary depiction to ensure Government-wide conformity and geographic continuity with the Department's public policy positions.



## Office of the Budget Circular A-16

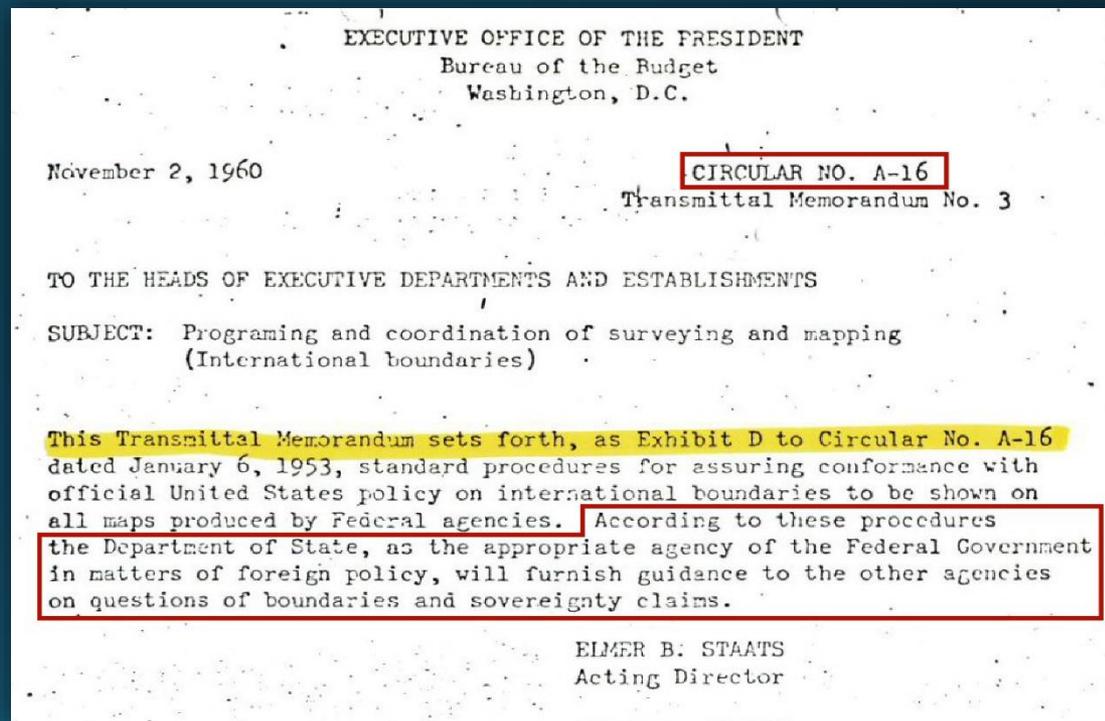
“To achieve consistency among map and chart producing agencies of the Federal Government in cartographic representation of boundary information, and conformity with official United States foreign policy, all such agencies... shall consult with the Office of the Geographer, Department of State, on international boundary or sovereignty claims questions.”

From 1967 revision of Circular A-16, Appendix C

### 3. Responsibility for Coordination

c. The Department of State exercises Government-wide leadership to assure that cartographic representations of international boundaries, other than those of the United States with Canada or Mexico, by all Federal agencies are consistent and conform to United States foreign policy

<https://www.nap.edu/read/10987/chapter/10#80>



1953 OMB Circular A-16 first identified Department of State as the lead agency for international boundaries (other than U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico) and sovereignty issues.  
Revised: 1960, 1967, 2010, 2013

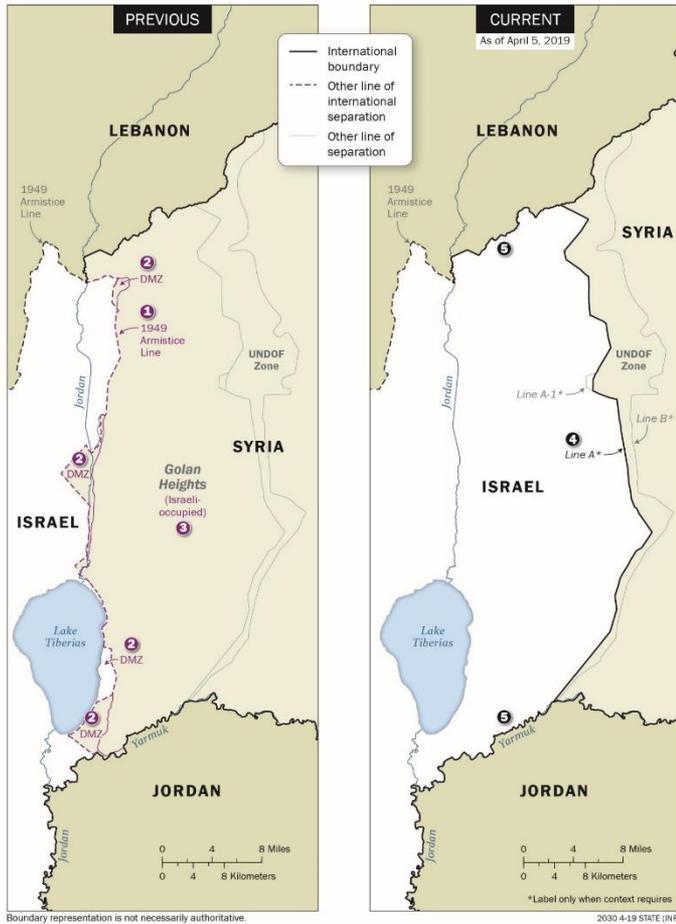
Unclassified



13042 10-13 State (INR)

# Cartographic Guidance

## Israel: Golan Heights New Boundary Policy



OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 36

April 5, 2019

### GOLAN HEIGHTS: MAPPING GUIDANCE

On March 25, 2019, President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In accordance with the Proclamation, U.S. Government maps should henceforth adopt the following cartographic guidelines (see maps on next page):

- Do not depict the 1949 Armistice Line that divided the Golan Heights between its intersection with the former Lebanon-Syria boundary and the Yarmuk River. ①
- Do not depict the four demilitarized zones (DMZs) established by the 1949 Armistice Agreement. ②
- When context requires a label for the Golan Heights, remove “Israeli-occupied” from the label. ③
- Show Line A (1974 Israeli Disengagement Line) as a full international boundary between Israel and Syria. ④
- Continue to show the former Syria/Lebanon and Syria/Jordan international boundaries that formed the northern and southern limits of the Golan Heights as full international boundaries with Israel. ⑤
- When context requires or scale permits, show the limits of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Zone as follows:
  - The western limit formed by Line A, which is now the Israel-Syria international boundary.
  - The eastern limit formed by Line B (1974 Syrian Disengagement Line), using a line less prominent than the line symbology used to show an international boundary or those showing other lines of international separation.
  - Show Line A-1 with the same line symbology as that used for Line B. The area between Line A-1 and Line A is sovereign Israeli territory.
- When using separate color tones for countries:
  - Show the Golan Heights, west of the new international boundary between Israel and Syria (Line A), in the color for Israel.
  - Show the UNDOF Zone (between the international boundary and Line B) in the same color as Syria, unless context requires otherwise.

Please contact [internationalboundaries@state.gov](mailto:internationalboundaries@state.gov) with questions.

Lee R. Schwartz  
The Geographer  
U.S. Department of State

# Large Scale International Boundaries

Version 10

Release Date: March 10, 2020



## Overview

The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. Department of State produces the Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset. These lines and those generalized from this dataset are the only international boundary lines approved for use on U.S. Government maps, databases, and other geographic products such as annotated imagery. They reflect U.S. Government policy, and not necessarily de facto control.

## Details

The lines are believed to be accurate to within 100 meters. Sources for these lines include treaties, relevant maps, and data from boundary commissions as well as national mapping agencies. The research and recovery of the lines involves analysis of satellite imagery and elevation data. Where available, the dataset incorporates information from courts, tribunals, and international arbitrations.

### Where to find the LSIB?

- <https://geoplatform.gov> --> Search "International Boundary".
- <https://www.data.gov/> → Search "LSIB"
- <http://geonode.state.gov/>
- ArcGIS Online → U.S. Federal Government Basemap

# International boundaries as part of a global foundation data set

The Large Scale International Boundaries Data Set (LSIB) provides the Federal Government with an accurate dataset that matches the foreign policy of the United States.



## International boundaries as part of a global foundation data set

The LSIB is also the foundation for other highly accurate and edge-matched associated data (rivers, internal boundaries, etc.) that are produced and maintained by GDA-excluded interagency partners. Taken together, the combined datasets are key to the execution of U.S. foreign policy and national security missions.



LSIB is available on multiple platforms with metadata in attribute fields.

The screenshot shows the Data.Gov website interface. At the top, there is a search bar labeled "Search Data.Gov" and a navigation menu with links for DATA, TOPICS, IMPACT, APPLICATIONS, DEVELOPERS, and CONTACT. Below the navigation is a blue header with "DATA CATALOG" and buttons for "Datasets", "Organizations", and a help icon. The main content area is for the "Department of State" organization, with buttons for "Submit Data Story" and "Report Data Issue". The dataset title is "Eurasia LSIB Lines Detailed 2019 July 16", with a metadata update date of July 24, 2019. The description states: "This is the detailed version of the detailed Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset. The boundary lines reflect all current US government policies on boundaries, boundary disputes, and sovereignty. There are no restrictions on use of this public domain data. This dataset will be updated as needed and is current as of July 16, 2019." The "Access & Use Information" section includes a license notice: "License: No license information was provided. If this work was prepared by an officer or employee of the United States government as part of that person's official duties it is considered a U.S. Government Work." On the left side, there is a sidebar with the Department of State logo, contact information (HIU\_DATA@state.gov), and social media sharing options.

Search Data.Gov

DATA GOV

DATA TOPICS IMPACT APPLICATIONS DEVELOPERS CONTACT

DATA CATALOG

/ Datasets Organizations ?

/ Department of State

Submit Data Story Report Data Issue

**Eurasia LSIB Lines Detailed 2019 July 16**

Metadata Updated: July 24, 2019

This is the detailed version of the detailed Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset.

The boundary lines reflect all current US government policies on boundaries, boundary disputes, and sovereignty.

There are no restrictions on use of this public domain data. This dataset will be updated as needed and is current as of July 16, 2019.

**Access & Use Information**

**License:** No license information was provided. If this work was prepared by an officer or employee of the United States government as part of that person's official duties it is considered a U.S. Government Work.

Department of State

Contact

HIU\_DATA@state.gov

Share on Social Sites

## Explore Layers



### World LSIB Lines Detailed 2020March10

Boundaries by hiu

Large Scale International Boundaries Version 10, Release Date: March 10, 2020. The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. Department of State produces the Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset. **These lines and those generalized from this dataset are the only international boundary lines approved for use on U.S. Government maps, databases, and other geographic products such as annotated imagery. They reflect U.S. Government policy, and not necessarily de facto control.** The lines are believed to be accurate to within 100 meters. Sources for these lines include treaties, relevant maps, and data from boundary commissions as well as national mapping agencies. The research and recovery of the lines involves analysis of satellite imagery and elevation data. Where available, the dataset incorporates information from courts, tribunals, and international arbitrations. Attributes: The dataset uses the following attributes: Attribute Name Explanation Country Code Country-level codes are from the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes Standard (GENC). The UU code denotes a line representing the boundary of an area of unusual sovereignty. Country Names: Names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

# Attributes

Attribute Name	Explanation
Country Code	Country-level codes are from the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes Standard (GENC). The UU code denotes a line representing the boundary of an area of unusual sovereignty.
Country Names	Names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Label	Text label required for the line segment where scale permits
Rank/Status	<p>Rank 1: International Boundary</p> <p>Rank 2: Other Line of International Separation</p> <p>Rank 3: Special Line</p> <p>Rank 4: Special, scale dependent line</p> <p><i>Usage: Ranks 2 and 3 must be shown in a manner visually subordinate to Rank 1 lines. Rank 4 replaces Rank 1 lines at scales indicated in the Notes field. When replaced, show Rank 4 in the same manner as the corresponding Rank 1.</i></p>
Notes	Explanation of any special circumstances

## Recommended Language for Theme Paragraph

International boundaries delineate the geographic extent of sovereignty of foreign areas as understood by the United States. These boundaries between sovereign states, political entities, and other special geographic areas have distinct foreign policy implications for the United States, as determined by the Department of State. The representation of these boundaries must, when possible, follow the legal instruments that create them and must mirror United States Government foreign policy relative to recognition, dispute status, and depiction. International boundary data includes both textual information to describe, and GIS digital cartographic data to depict, foreign land and maritime international boundaries, other lines of separation, limits, zones, enclaves/exclaves and special areas between sovereign states and dependencies. The international boundaries between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada are excluded from this theme. Boundaries associated with internal administrative divisions of a foreign sovereign state do not fall within this theme.

*Thank you*

Lee Schwartz

Office of the Geographer and Global Issues

U.S. Department of State

[SchwartzLR@state.gov](mailto:SchwartzLR@state.gov)

# Next Meetings

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**Steering Committee (tentative)**

**Oct 8 (1:00 - 3:00?)**

NGAC:

Oct 6-7: NGAC meeting @ DOI

# Meeting Wrap-up and Actions

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**Questions?**