Theme Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources

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Theme Lead Agency(ies): National Park Service
Executive Theme Champion: Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science
Executive Champion Agency: National Park Service

NGDA Datasets in **Cultural Resources:**

'*Theme Name'* NGDA Dataset	Dataset Manager Agency
National Register of Historic Places	Matt Stutts, NPS
Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)	Lou Yost, USGS

It is important to note that not all of NGDA Datasets are managed by the National Park Service. Management of the Cultural Resource Theme is an interagency effort.

Goal 1: Formulate strategies to develop and manage the data sets within the Cultural Resource theme

> **Objectives 1.1**
> Develop and implement strategy to formally explore the incorporation of additional data sets to the Cultural Resource theme by the end of 2017.
>
> **Anticipated Outcomes**
> The addition of at least one NGDA data set to the Cultural Resource theme by 2018
>
> > **Actions 1.1.1**
> > Draft policy to explore other critical cultural resource data sets with a national scope, targeting existing data developed by multiple sources, with the goal to reduce redundancy and provide central authoritative access.
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> **Objectives 1.2**
> Expand the use of the GeoPlatform Cultural Resource community webpage
>
> **Anticipated Outcomes**
> Increase coordination and communication between agencies creating and disseminating cultural resource data
>
> > **Actions 1.2.1**
> > The Cultural Resource Theme Lead will begin posting information regarding the Cultural Resource Subcommittee meetings, outcomes of the meetings and policies established by the Subcommittee in FY16 Quarter 4

External Factors, Challenges, and Opportunities
The NPS faces several challenges in meeting this goal:
- State, Tribal and local governments create and develop many cultural resource data sets based on existing laws and regulations requiring significant coordination efforts among federal agencies to generate centralized data sets
- The definition of "cultural resource" is not necessarily consistent between federal agencies, leading to confusion between agencies regarding what data should be included in the theme

- Existing data sets within the Cultural Resource theme are not all managed by the same agency, which may result in different funding and resources applied to the continued FGDC portfolio management plan and goals based on agency priorities

The NPS has experienced several opportunities related to this goal:
- Increased collaboration between federal agencies in the Cultural Resource theme has led to the development of new agreements to partner and share responsibility in the improvement of data quality in the National Register of Historic Places data set
- Increased exposure of the data sets within the Cultural Resource theme has led to increased emphasis by the NPS to improve the quality and availability of data sets
- Enhanced management of the NGDAs, development of lifecycle management assessments and other factors has led to improved understanding of contributing federal agencies, helping to better define what constitutes an NGDA in the Cultural Resource theme

Goal 2: Facilitate the sharing of the data sets within the Cultural Resource theme

Objectives 2.1
Complete the development of the cultural resource spatial data transfer standard currently in development by the Cultural Resource Subcommittee

Anticipated Outcomes
The final approval of the cultural resource spatial data transfer standard by the FGDC Coordination Group

Actions 2.1.1
Produce a working draft of the cultural resource spatial data transfer standard for review by the Cultural Resource Subcommittee by December 2016.
Actions 2.1.2
Produce a Committee draft for review by the FGDC Standards Working Group, FGDC Coordination Group and public review by FY17 Quarter 2.
Actions 2.1.3
Produce a final draft for review by the FGDC Steering Committee and achieve FGDC endorsement by FY18 Quarter 2.

External Factors, Challenges, and Opportunities
The NPS faces several challenges in meeting this goal:
- The NPS, Chair of the Cultural Resource Subcommittee, has been leading the effort to create the cultural resource spatial data transfer standard for many years, with little funding and/or staff dedicated to the effort
- The development of the cultural resource spatial data transfer standard, while a federal standard, must consider the State, Tribal and local governments who generate the majority of the cultural resource data which must be exchanged between agencies and to federal agencies
- The development of the cultural resource spatial data standard constitutes an unfunded effort for all of the partners and contributors involved, resulting in slow progress

The NPS has experienced several opportunities related to this goal:
- Between 2014 and 2016, the NPS has led the Cultural Resource Subcommittee to better define the purpose and scope of the standard, generating more wide spread support among partners
- Between 2015 and 2016, the NPS has made significant progress, with the help of its partners, in developing more tangible products related to the standard, such as an agreed upon data model and basic components, leading to a more robust working draft