

Note: This document has been superseded by a newer version. Visit www.fgdc.gov for the updated list.

NGDA Theme (List endorsed by FGDC Steering Committee August 19, 2011)	NGDA Theme Description
Biota	Pertain to, or describe, the dynamic processes, interactions, distributions, and relationships between and among organisms and their environments.
Cadastre	Past, current, and future rights and interests in real property including the spatial information necessary to describe geographic extents. Rights and interests are benefits or enjoyment in real property that can be conveyed, transferred, or otherwise allocated to another for economic remuneration. Rights and interests are recorded in land record documents. The spatial information necessary to describe geographic extents includes surveys and legal description frameworks such as the Public Land Survey System, as well as parcel-by-parcel surveys and descriptions. Does not include Federal government or military facilities.
Climate and Weather	Meteorological conditions, including temperature, precipitation, and wind, that characteristically prevail in a particular region over a long period of time. Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a given time and place, with respect to variables such as temperature, moisture, wind velocity, and barometric pressure.
Cultural & Demographic Statistics	Characteristics of people, the nature of the structures in which they live and work, the economic and other activities they pursue, the facilities they use to support their health, recreational and others needs, the environmental consequences of their presence, and the boundaries, names and numeric codes of geographic entities used to report the information collected.
Cultural Resources	Features and characteristics of a collection of places of significance in history, architecture, engineering, or society. Includes National Monuments and Icons.
Elevation	The measured vertical position of the earth surface and other landscape or bathymetric features relative to a reference datum typically related to sea level. These points normally describe bare earth positions but may also describe the top surface of buildings and other objects, vegetation structure, or submerged objects. Elevation data can be stored as a three-dimensional array or as a continuous surface such as a raster, triangulated irregular network, or contours. Elevation data may also be represented in other derivative forms such as slope, aspect, ridge and drainage lines, and shaded relief.
Geodetic Control	Collection of control points that provide a common reference system for establishing coordinates for geographic data.
Geology	Geographically-referenced data pertaining to the origin, history, composition, structure, features, and processes of the solid Earth, both onshore and offshore. Includes geologic, geophysical, and geochemical maps, stratigraphy, paleontology, geochronology, mineral and energy resources, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, coastal erosion, and landslides. Does not include soils.
Governmental Units	Political, governmental, and administrative (management) type boundaries that are used to manage people and resources. Includes geopolitical boundaries (county, parish, state, city, etc), Tribal Boundaries, Federal land boundaries and Federal Regions, International Boundaries, Governmental administrative units such as Congressional Districts, international lines of separation, limits, zones, enclaves/exclaves and special areas between States and dependencies as well as all jurisdictional offshore limits within U.S. sovereignty. Boundaries associated with natural resources, demography, and cultural entities are excluded and can be found in the appropriate subject themes.
Imagery	Georeferenced images of the Earth's surface, which have been collected via aerial photography or satellite data. Orthoimagery is prepared through a geometric correction process known as orthorectification to remove image displacements due to relief and sensor characteristics, allowing their use as base maps for digital mapping and analyses in a GIS. Specific imagery data sets created through image interpretation and classification, such as a land cover image, can be found under themes specific to the subject matter. Includes imagery such as Landsat, NAIP, DOQQs.
Land Use-Land Cover	LU/LC is a term referring collectively to natural and man-made surface features that cover the land (Land Cover) and to the primary ways in which land cover is used by humans (Land Use). Examples of Land Cover may be grass, asphalt, trees, bare ground, water, etc. Examples of Land Use may be urban, agricultural, ranges, and forest areas.
Real Property	The spatial representation (location) of real property entities, typically consisting of one or more of the following: unimproved land, a building, a structure, site improvements and the underlying land. Complex real property entities (aka "facilities") are used for a broad spectrum of functions or missions. This theme focuses on spatial representation of real property assets only and does not seek to describe special purpose functions of real property such as those found in the Cultural Resources, Transportation, or Utilities themes.
Soils	Depicts the geography and attributes of the many kinds of soils found in the landscape at both large and small map scales. A Living dynamic resource providing a natural medium for plant growth and habitat for living organisms, soil recycles nutrients and wastes, stores carbon, and purifies water supplies. Soil has distinct layers (called 'horizons') that, in contrast to underlying geologic material, are altered by the interactions of climate, landscape features, and living organisms over time. For more information on Soils, see http://soils.usda.gov/

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Transportation	Means and aids for conveying persons and/or goods. The transportation system includes both physical and non-physical components related to all modes of travel that allow the movement of goods and people between locations.
Utilities* * Includes sub themes for Energy, Drinking water and Water treatment, and Communications	Means, aids, and usage of facilities for producing, conveying, distributing, processing or disposing of public and private commodities including power, energy, communications, natural gas, and water. Includes sub themes for Energy and Communications.
Water – Inland	Interior hydrologic features and characteristics, including classification, measurements, location, and extent. Includes aquifers, watersheds, wetlands, navigation, water quality, water quantity, and groundwater information.
Water – Oceans and Coasts	Features and characteristics of salt water bodies (i.e. tides, tidal waves, coastal information, reefs) and features and characteristics that represent the intersection of the land with the water surface (i.e. shorelines), the lines from which the territorial sea and other maritime zones are measured (i.e. baseline maritime) and lands covered by water at any stage of the tide (i.e. Outer Continental Shelf), as distinguished from tidelands, which are attached to the mainland or an island and cover and uncover with the tide.

NGDA Theme (list endorsed by the FGDC Steering Committee August 19, 2011)	Appendix E Theme* (Theme Lead Agency)
Biota	Biological Resources (DOI-USGS) Vegetation** (USDA-FS)
Cadastre	Cadastral** (DOI-BLM) Cadastral Offshore (DOI-BOEMRE (MMS)) Public Land Conveyance (patent) Records (DOI-BLM) Federal Land Ownership Status (DOI-BLM)
Climate and Weather	Climate** (DOC-NOAA)
Cultural & Demographic Statistics	Cultural & Demographic Statistics** (DOC-Census) Law Enforcement Statistics (DOJ) Public Health (HHS)
Cultural Resources	Cultural Resources (DOI-NPS) Geographic Names (DOI-USGS)
Elevation	Elevation Bathymetric (DOC-NOAA and USACE) Elevation Terrestrial (DOI-USGS)
Geodetic Control	Geodetic Control** (DOC-NOAA)
Geology	Geologic** (DOI-USGS) Offshore Minerals (DOI-BOEMRE (MMS))
Governmental Units	Governmental Units (DOC-Census) International Boundaries** (State Dept.) Marine Boundaries (DOC-NOAA and DOI-BOEMRE (MMS))
Imagery	Digital Ortho Imagery** (DOI-USGS)
Land Use-Land Cover	Earth Cover (DOI-USGS)
Real Property	Buildings and Facilities (GSA) Housing (HUD)
Soils	Soils** (USDA-NRCS)
Transportation	Transportation** (DOT-BTS) Transportation (Marine)** (USACE)
Utilities	N/A
Water – Inland	Hydrography** (DOI-USGS) Watershed Boundaries** (DOI-USGS and USDA-NRCS) Flood Hazards/Flood Plain (DHS-FEMA) Wetlands** (DOI-FWS)
Water – Oceans and Coasts	Baseline/Maritime Zones (DOC -NOAA and DOI-BOEMRE (MMS)) Outer Continental Shelf Submerged Lands** (DOI-BOEMRE (MMS)) Shoreline** (DOC-NOAA)

* Appendix E themes were developed as part of the 2002 revision to OMB Circular A-16

** Theme has (or had) an associated FGDC Thematic Subcommittee or Working Group