



**2020 Covered Agency Annual Report  
and Self-Assessment**  
*for*  
**Department of State**

Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section 759(a) Requirements

March 19, 2021



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## Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ATO	Authorization to Operate
CA	Covered Agency
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
GDA	Geospatial Data Act
NGAC	National Geospatial Advisory Committee
NGDA	National Geospatial Data Asset(s)
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
<b>Agency Acronym</b>	<b>Agency</b>
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
ED	Department of Education
GSA	General Services Administration
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Treasury	Department of Treasury
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

*Table of Acronyms.*

## Introduction

Section 759 (b) of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) requires each covered agency<sup>1</sup> to submit to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) “an annual report regarding the achievements of the covered agency in preparing and implementing the strategy described in subsection (a)(1) and complying with the other requirements under subsection (a).” [<https://fgdc.gov/gda/online>]

This document serves as the Department of State’s baseline annual report to the FGDC covering the period from October 5, 2018 – when the GDA was enacted – through Fiscal Year 2020 (September 30, 2020). The report was developed through a self-assessment template developed by the FGDC agencies. Subsequent annual reports will each span one fiscal year. The report includes a rating for each covered agency responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations," as required by the GDA. A summary and evaluation of all of the covered agency reports will be generated by FGDC and provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for review and comment. The summary reports, along with the NGAC comments, will also become part of the biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will be published online.

This report is based on a standardized questionnaire and self-assessment score for each covered agency responsibility. The Department of State has maintained documentation supporting the responses provided for this assessment. This information may be reviewed as part of the biennial Inspector General (IG) audits of covered agencies.

A recommended self-assessment key has been provided for each responsibility. In some cases, optional text is provided for additional insights or to justify a self-assessment selection. Any optional responses provided are not a factor in the self-assessment. Please note that covered agencies are not expected to “meet expectations” in all areas for this first reporting cycle.

Where data or datasets are referenced,<sup>2</sup> information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of State that are, or should be, available to the public.

To support a more comprehensive picture of agency compliance and related activities, each agency had the option to submit up to a 2-page document, using the survey, as part of the agency’s submission. If provided, the document may include highlights and examples that can supplement the FGDC report to Congress, support the feedback process with the NGAC, or provide context to Office of the Inspector General (OIG) findings.

The Department of State self-assessment GDA Covered Agency Annual Report was initially submitted during February 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> GDA definition of *agency*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-“covered-agency”—means—an-executive-department-as-def>

<sup>2</sup> GDA definition of *geospatial data*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98geospatial-data%E2%80%99%E2%80%99%E2%80%94%E2%80%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a>

## Self-Assessment for Department of State

### 759(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 1.4</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Clarifying Text:** FGDC developed and released a new national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [GDA Sec. 755(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [GDA Sec. 759(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, are due to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021, per FGDC guidance. For more information, please visit <http://fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>.

#### 1.1 Has your agency reviewed the draft NSDI strategic plan?

- Yes

#### 1.2 Has your agency developed a plan and timeline to complete development of the Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy appropriate to the agency's mission as required by GDA Sec.759(a)(1)?

- Yes

#### 1.3 Is your Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy on schedule to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021?

- Yes

#### 1.4 Has your agency completed and implemented your plan?

- No

#### 1.5 If your plan is online? If yes, please provide the URL:

- No

**1.6 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(1), "Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission."**

To achieve success and produce evidence of measurable outcomes under each of the 13 CA responsibilities, the Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) has drafted the Geospatial Data Strategy (GDS) outlining the Department's goals and objectives relative to geospatial data and technologies. The purpose of the GDS is to strengthen and optimize the coordination and coherence of geospatial data management across bureaus and amongst the broader external geospatial community. The goals and objectives in the GDS align with the Department's Enterprise Data Strategy, and as such, are set out with a three-year timeline cycle. This document will serve as the first iteration of the GDS and will be implemented through a coordinated and iterative process. The GDS is on track for approval by February 28, 2021 and it establishes the vision and plan for fulfilling the other 12 CA responsibilities, some of which have already been partially or fully completed.

**759(a)(2) Support Data Sharing**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>all</b> agency appropriate parties for Question 2.1 and Yes to Questions 2.2 and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>some</b> appropriate parties for Question 2.1, <b>or</b> Question 2.2 and 2.3 have a mix of answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Clarifying text:**

- This section does not include efforts related to partners, which are covered under Question 7, Section 756(a)(7).
- Review the [GDA definition of geospatial data](#) to consider the questions in this section.
- Remember, your answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public, not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.
- Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.

- Additional detail on the definition of geospatial data may be provided by OMB Circular A-16 when finalized.
- Data that will not or cannot be distributed to the public does not need to be considered for GDA-related responses.

**2.1 Does your agency ensure that all eligible geospatial data is managed so it can be shared and is it provided in standard formats, as appropriate? (This will include agency open government and transparency guidelines.)**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>1</sup>

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.

**2.2 Does your agency disseminate eligible geospatial data in a way that can be readily shared in open formats (for example using machine readable formats or searchable metadata)?**

- Some geospatial data, and its metadata, is shared in open formats.

**2.3 Are maintenance processes in place to ensure other Federal agencies and non-federal users have access to the most recent data in addition to data and metadata updates and corrections?**

- Some programs/datasets have maintenance processes in place.

**2.4 Optional Question: Use the following section to document up to 5 key examples of ongoing or planned activities that ensure eligible geospatial data and associated metadata can be easily shared, understood, and re-used by others, now and in the future.**

Title	Description
<b>GeoState</b>	Operational unclassified enterprise GIS providing tools for mapping, visualization, analytics, and geospatial data management available to authorized users across the Department.
<b>Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset</b>	Considered a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) within the NSDI, this dataset is shared via the State GeoNode and referenced by the GeoPlatform under the International Boundaries theme passing FGDC inventory review for open metadata and format.
<b>Data.State portal</b>	Planned activity for the Department’s enterprise data platform will seek to centralize access to data visualization products, including those identified through the Center for Analytics (CfA) Enterprise Data Management (EDM) Data Inventory and Data Catalog (DI/DC).

**2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(2), "collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other Federal agencies and non- Federal users."**

The Department of State currently employs a variety of software platforms and network domains to drive data discovery and collaboration and strives to increase integrating systems where appropriate. The Department of State GDS creates the strategic goal: "Increase geospatial data sharing and accessibility" to advance collection, maintenance, dissemination, and preservation of geospatial data. This goal is set to be achieved with the following objectives: 1) Improve geospatial data discovery and collaboration across internal and external geospatial catalogs and platforms; 2) Promote interoperability by employing international geospatial data standards; 3) Implement formal data governance and lifecycle management of geospatial data; 4) Improve the quality and the speed of geospatial support services delivery. Each of these objectives will contribute toward making data qualified for release available to federal agencies and non-federal users.

**759(a)(3) Promote Data Integration**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**3.1 Has your agency taken action to promote integration of data from multiple sources?**

- Yes. The agency has taken appropriate action to promote data integration.

**3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>ii</sup>

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.



**3.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources."**

The Department launched an enterprise GIS for unclassified use called GeoState to drive data discovery and collaboration. Operated and maintained by the Center for Analytics (CfA) within the Bureau of Management/Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) with significant support from the Bureau of Information Resource Management (IRM), GeoState provides tools for mapping, visualization, analytics, and geospatial data management. Authorized users use GeoState to publish and steward geospatial data services, discover other’s services, and create and run geospatial applications. Additionally, the GDS creates the Goal “Increase geospatial data sharing and accessibility” with an objective to “Improve geospatial data discovery and collaboration across internal and external geospatial catalogs and platforms.” The Department is building interconnectivity between different systems enabling users to discover, use, and integrate geospatial data more easily across system boundaries.

**759(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 or</li> <li>○ No to either 4.1 or 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**4.1 To ensure approved National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) schedules are in place, does the appraisal process for your agency to determine which data is archived include geospatial data?**

- Yes. The agency program's archiving appraisal process is inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.2 Are geospatial data assets included on agency record schedules?**

- Yes. Agency record schedules are inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(4), "ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration."**

Since 2018, the Department has been actively collaborating with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to update and consolidate its records disposition schedules. These consolidated records disposition schedules follow NARA's flexible scheduling approach. Likewise, each records schedule now covers records in multiple series and/or electronic systems that relate to the same subject matter, business function, or work process. By design, geospatial data and activities are already included in these updated records schedules.

**759(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**5.1 Are adequate geospatial program resources (including full- or part-time federal employees or contractors) allocated to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee?**

**Clarifying text:** Analyses of the requirements for the GDA are ongoing and it is anticipated that agencies will answer based on currently understood or anticipated requirements. Additional details can be provided in the 5.2 Brief Summary and in your agency's 2-page PDF.

- Partial.

**5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(5), "allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee."**

The Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) employs temporary contract support staff in FY 2020 and FY 2021 in support of the SAOGI to lead the development of the GDS and successful execution of actions towards GDA compliance. While the initial funding for the Department’s compliance to the GDA was provided from INR’s base budget, the Department needs to identify and advocate for additional resources in FY 2022 and beyond. The additional funding will directly support the Department’s implementation of the GDS goals and objectives and its contributions to agency- and federal-level efforts on this topic. Additionally, the Department’s GDS creates an objective to “Plan, fund, and deploy modern geospatial technologies, to include resource acquisition and timely software approval” to support this requirement.

**759(a)(6) Use Data Standards**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>iii</sup>

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119.

## **6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format?**

**Clarifying text:** Question does not include legacy datasets that are static and no longer modified or otherwise managed. Also, see the list of endorsed FGDC-endorsed standards <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/>.

**The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>iv</sup>**

- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed, or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.

## **6.3 Is your agency geospatial metadata available through GeoPlatform.gov?**

**Clarifying Text:** For the scope of the requirement, Section 758(b)(1)(A)(iv) provides for “includ[ing] download access to all open geospatial data directly or indirectly collected by covered agencies” and Section 759(a)(6) requires that “metadata [be] available through the GeoPlatform.”

- Partial. Some metadata for some public datasets are available via GeoPlatform.gov.

## **6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(6), "use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform."**

The Department has used ISO 19115/19139 standard metadata for many of its key geospatial data releases since 2012. The Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB) dataset, considered a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) of the NSDI, has been disseminated in FGDC-approved GIS formats and published as OGC compliant web services on the State Department's geospatial data catalog that are federated to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform. The Department's GDS sets the specific objective "Promote interoperability by employing international geospatial data standards" in order to achieve the strategic goal "Increase geospatial data sharing and accessibility" to set standards to other Department geospatial datasets.

759(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 7.1 and Yes or Not applicable to Question 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Not applicable, Partial, or No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**7.1 Are there processes in place to ensure that, when appropriate, partners and stakeholders have visibility into agency geospatial data management activities (e.g., collection, integration, maintenance, dissemination and preservation)?**

- Yes. There are processes in place, but some mission areas do not have requirements for geospatial data management partnerships.

**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?**

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA Section 754(b)(C).

- Other federal agencies
- Local governments
- Private sector entities
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?**

**Clarifying text:** When answering this question think about activities such as using surveys, listening sessions, Request for Information, booths at stakeholder conferences.

- Partnership outreach activities
- Expert consultations
- Advisory committee(s)
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Memoranda of Understanding

**7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?**

- Partial. Agency builds upon some existing non-federal geospatial data.

**7.2.a If yes or partial to Question 7.2, what ways do you build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?**

- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- MOAs/data sharing agreements

**7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(7), "coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-Federal geospatial data to the extent possible."**

The Department's Bureau of INR builds international strategic partnerships with geospatial professionals and humanitarian practitioners to facilitate open geospatial data creation and to expand its availability. The World-Wide Human Geography Data (WWHGD) Working Group, co-chaired by the SAOGI and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), hosts webinars and a dedicated geospatial portal to highlight the importance of human geography. The WWHGD portal provides data sharing capabilities for thousands of participants from across the globe to include agencies and organizations both inside and outside of government. The flagship MapGive Initiative publicly encourages the global mapping community (i.e., non-governmental organizations, academic partners, local governments, and the private sector) to create quality open-data and analysis, to include recent virtual "mapathons" (mapping parties) and a foreign assistance-funded COVID-19 second order impact mitigation mapping program.

759(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use geospatial information to— (A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; (B) enhance operations; (C) support decision making; and (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Partial and No to Questions 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

759(a)(8)(A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;

**8.1 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public?**

- Yes

759(a)(8) (B) enhance operations;759(a)(8) (C) support decision making

**8.2 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to improve operations and decision-making?**

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information in operations improvements or decision-making.

759(a)(8) (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress

**8.3 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting to the public or to Congress?**

- Partial. Agency leverages some geospatial information to enhance either public or Congressional reporting.

**8.3.a If yes or partial, for which of these audiences does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting?**

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, Annual reports, other published Agency reports).
- Congressional Reports.
- Internal Agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.

**8.4 Optional Question: You may provide up to 5 key examples and links that demonstrate how geospatial data assets are used, internally and externally, to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and/or enhance reporting to the public and to Congress.**

Example
HIU.State.Gov ( <a href="https://hiu.state.gov/">https://hiu.state.gov/</a> )
Travel.State.Gov ( <a href="https://travelmaps.state.gov/">https://travelmaps.state.gov/</a> )
Instability Monitoring & Analysis Platform (IMAP; <a href="https://cso.geciq.com/portal/">https://cso.geciq.com/portal/</a> )
State GeoNode ( <a href="https://geonode.state.gov/">https://geonode.state.gov/</a> )
DS Infinity (not public)

**8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(8), "use geospatial information to—**

- (A) make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;**
- (B) enhance operations;**
- (C) support decision making; and**
- (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;"**

Across the Department many programs use geospatial data to support decision-making, to manage mission workflows and logistics, and to enhance operations through monitoring/tracking resources and geographic visualization. HIU.State.Gov identifies, creates, and disseminates multidisciplinary information and analysis to U.S. Government decision makers and humanitarian partners. The public facing Travel.State.Gov website provides critical travel advisory information to over 800 million unique visitors a year. Although not accessible to the general public, the Department’s IMAP platform uses evidence-based analysis to visualize conflicts, predict outcomes, identify gaps, outline priorities, and allocate resources. The Department also maintains a Climate Security & Resilience Program utilizing best available natural hazard exposure data for the present day and projected future scenarios to assess the resilience of assets to the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



759(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**9.1 Are agency Privacy Threshold Assessment or Privacy Impact Assessment (PTA/PIA) processes inclusive of your geospatial data?**

**Clarifying Text:** The Privacy Threshold Assessment/Analysis would be the mechanism that agencies use to determine if PII is, or is not collected, and whether a Privacy Impact Assessment needs to be done for an information system.

- Yes. The agency's PTA/PIA processes are inclusive of all agency data.

**9.2 Are the IT systems and applications that maintain and support your geospatial data covered by a current Authorization to Operate (ATO)?**

- Partial. Some Agency geospatial data is housed in a system covered by a current ATO in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(9), "protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law."**

The Department employs a Privacy Office within the Records Program of the Bureau of Administration led by the Chief Privacy Officer. This office applies applicable privacy compliance laws and best practices inclusive of any personally identifiable information to geospatial data (i.e., ensuring least privileges with need-to-know access to data, ensuring notification and consent, reviewing business processes, and potentially suggesting rules of behavior, etc.), however there are no known active instances in current collections.

759(a)(10) Declassified Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Fails to Meet Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Not applicable to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**10.1 If your Agency handles classified geospatial datasets, does it have a process to review declassified datasets for inclusion in the NSDI?**

**Clarifying text:** Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.

- No. The agency does not have a process to review declassified datasets for inclusion in the NSDI.

**10.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(10), "participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure."**

While the Department has extremely limited equity in classified geospatial data under Executive Order 13526, it is one of five agencies comprising the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel, which reviews all agency classification and declassification guidance related to geospatial data per Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information. The Department has a robust declassification program that is fully engaged in declassification review for those equities, primarily through the National Declassification Center established by Executive Order 13526. INR participates in regular deliberations of the Historical Imagery Declassification Panel established under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) to comply with Executive Order 12951, Release of Imagery Acquired by Space-Based National Intelligence Reconnaissance Systems, section 2. The Panel coordinates declassification of imagery and other geospatial data collected by national technical means.

759(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 11.1 <b>or</b></li> <li>○ Yes to Questions 11.1 and 11.2 and all agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and Partial or No to Question 11.2 and agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and No to Question 11.2 and <i>No additional assessments are done</i> selected for Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**11.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection for the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** “Expended funds” may include grant distribution, agency collection, or procurement of data.

- Yes

**11.2 As per [OMB Circular A-11 Guidance](#) (Section 25, Page 3), has your agency searched the [GeoPlatform Marketplace](#) prior to making planned geospatial data investments to determine if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements?**

- Partial. Agency has searched GeoPlatform Marketplace prior to some geospatial data investments.

**11.3 Has your agency searched other sources to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?**

**The following items were selected from a picklist:’**

- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search

**11.4 Optional Question: You may provide examples of cases where the agency did find existing data that met its needs or partnered on a joint data acquisition.**

- Not applicable.

**11.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(11), "Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection."**

The survey results of the Department’s geospatial practitioners indicate that several methods are used to search and discover geospatial data fitting their unique project needs. Methods include exploring reputable search engines/repositories available to the public (e.g., Census American Community Survey, UN Int’l Org. for Migration, Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, GeoPlatform and Living Atlas), performing outreach to stakeholders, querying internal databases, and generating/deriving data through geoprocessing (e.g., geocoding, surveying). While the Department uses these methods to limit unnecessary or redundant data acquisitions/stewardship, the GDS has created goals and objectives to further address this requirement such “Improve geospatial data discovery and collaboration across internal and external geospatial catalogs and platforms” and “foster geospatial communities of practice across the Department for sharing geospatial analytic techniques and tradecraft.”

**759(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 12.1 <b>or</b></li> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>all</b> appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>some</b> agency appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <i>No official documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data selected for Question 12.2</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**12.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection from non-federal sources during the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** The requirement for “a person receiving Federal funds” has been interpreted to mean non-federal organizations or corporations who are, for example, contract or grant recipients.

- Yes

**12.2 What methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>vi</sup>

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.

**12.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(12), "to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data."**

The survey results of the Department’s geospatial practitioners indicate that there are very few existing geospatial programs that purchase data. However, for those reporting past purchases, the high-quality of the data is a key consideration when making purchasing decisions or funding data collection programs such as imagery taskings. The Department’s GDS has created several goals and objectives that will further help ensure a standard of high-quality such as, “Improve the quality and the speed of geospatial support services delivery”, “Encourage best practices for the creation, collection, and structuring of geospatial data”, as well as “Promote robust quality assurance controls and measures.”

**759(a)(13) Point of Contact**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**13.1 Has your agency appointed a POC to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the NGDA data themes used by the covered agency?**

**Clarifying text:** OMB Circular A-16 may include additional guidance on covered agency responsibilities for theme coordination.

- Yes. An agency POC has been appointed.

**13.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(13), "appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency."**

The State Department Geographer, resident in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), also serves as the OMB-mandated Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI). In this capacity, the SAOGI is the formal representative of the Department to the Steering Committee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and is also responsible for coordinating with lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes.

## Appendix A: Survey Picklists

This appendix provides the full set of choices presented in the self-assessment survey as “check all that apply” responses used to generate this covered agency report.

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### <sup>i</sup> Question 2.1 Picklist

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.
- No data is currently shared to other federal agencies or non-federal users. (Note: For some agencies, this may be an appropriate response).

### <sup>ii</sup> Question 3.1.a. Picklist

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Develops data integration processes to promote integration of non-agency data into applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.
- Other (Textboxes provided)

### <sup>iii</sup> Question 6.1 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- No. Eligible agency geospatial datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed data standards or standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

### <sup>iv</sup> Question 6.2 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible non-legacy datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata, that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.
- No. Agency datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standards.

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<sup>v</sup> Question 11.3 Picklist

- Market research
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy
- No additional assessments are done
- Other (Textboxes provided)

<sup>vi</sup> Question 12.2 Picklist

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Independent verification and validation (IV&V).
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.
- The agency acquires data from another federal agency that is responsible for QA/QC.
- No official documented QA/QC process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data.
- Other (Textboxes provided).