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FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE

2020 Covered Agency Annual Report and Self-Assessment
for
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Geospatial Data Act of 2018
Section 759(a) Requirements

March 19, 2021

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Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
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
Agency Acronym	**Agency**
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[1] 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 Agriculture'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 Agriculture 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,[2] information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Agriculture 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 Agriculture submitted a 2-page document that has been included in this report as Appendix B.

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

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[1] GDA definition of *agency*: https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-''covered-agency''—means—an-executive-department-as-def

[2] 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%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a

Self-Assessment for Department of Agriculture

759(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Meets Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	  ○ Yes to Question 1.4
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	  ○ Yes to Questions 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	  ○ No to Questions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4

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?

- Yes

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

- Yes. https://www.ocio.usda.gov/enterprise-geospatial-strategic-plan

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."

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prepared a strategic plan to advance geographic information and related geospatial data and activities in support of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. USDA reported on achievements and how it is complying with requirements of the GDA. To facilitate those tasks, USDA developed a geospatial assessment survey and distributed it to agencies that currently use geospatial data, tools, and applications to produce a USDA geospatial baseline. That information was used to inform the USDA Geospatial Strategic Plan and its associated follow-on activities, and to support additional GDA requirements and tasks.

759(a)(2) Support Data Sharing

GDA Requirement	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.
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**
KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =** 　　o *Data is currently shared* selections for **all** agency appropriate parties for Question 2.1 and Yes to Questions 2.2 and 2.3 • **Made progress toward expectations =** 　　o *Data is currently shared* selections for **some** appropriate parties for Question 2.1, **or** Question 2.2 and 2.3 have a mix of answers • **Fails to meet expectations =** 　　o No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

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:[i]

- 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.)

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
USDA Forest Service	Planned Activity: Corrective action to get our FGDC compliant metadata to be harvested directly into GeoPlatform. Description: The US Forest Service is working with USDA, data.gov and Geoplatform.gov to resolve issues with the DCAT configuration to allow geospatial records to be harvested directly into GeoPlatform. USFS is piloting an effort with the GeoPlatform support team to add metadata as an additional distribution in our agency data.json that is harvested from the Geospatial Data Discovery Catalog into Data.gov on a monthly basis. The intent of this pilot is to resolve the issues that have been preventing GeoPlatform from correctly reading the necessary metadata elements from the data.

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."

Within USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the following network of networks is being rapidly expanded through the Partnership for Data Innovation (PDI) program: https://agcros-

usdaars.opendata.arcgis.com/. Additionally, ARS is advancing ISO metadata capacity building work; specifically, ARS and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) work with several USDA agencies: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Forest Service (FS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) to gather metadata workflow requirements to transition to using ISO 19115 to describe their geospatial data assets. At the USDA Forest Service (FS) ongoing work assesses agency-stewarded geospatial data assets for inclusion in the Enterprise Data Warehouse for either internal or external use. For externally approved geospatial datasets, the data is published via web services that can be consumed (shared) with many entities both inter-governmentally and with the public.

759(a)(3) Promote Data Integration

GDA Requirement	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	   o Yes to Question 3.1
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	   o Partial to Question 3.1
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	   o No to Question 3.1

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

- Partial. The agency has taken appropriate action to promote data integration from some sources.

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:[ii]

- 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.

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."

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) has established management directives (decision memos) to adopt authoritative data sets for PLSS (Department of Interior) and State/County boundaries (Department of Commerce/US Census Bureau). RMA strives to identify sources of Federal authoritative data sets and replace internally developed and maintained data sets with these sources. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and hosts applications that integrate and serve data from a large number of public and private sources, such as: USDA and NASA Global Agricultural Monitoring (GLAM) (https://glam1.gsfc.nasa.gov/), Crop Explorer (https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/), Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS) (https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html), International Production Assessment (IPAD) (https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/)

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

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	  ○ Yes to Questions 4.1 and 4.2
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	  ○ Yes or Partial to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 **or**
	  ○ No to either 4.1 or 4.2
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	  ○ No to Questions 4.1 and 4.2

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?

- Partial. Some agency programs are included in the archiving appraisal process for data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

4.2 Are geospatial data assets included on agency record schedules?

- Partial. Some 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."

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) has established management directives (decision memos) to adopt authoritative data sets for PLSS (Department of Interior) and State/County boundaries (Department of Commerce/US Census Bureau). RMA strives to identify sources of Federal authoritative data sets and replace internally developed and maintained data sets with these sources. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) develops and host applications that integrate and serve data from a large number of public and private sources, such as: USDA and NASA Global Agricultural Monitoring (GLAM) (https://glam1.gsfc.nasa.gov/), Crop Explorer (https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/), Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS) (https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html), International Production Assessment (IPAD) (https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/)

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

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**
KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =** ○ Yes to Question 5.1 • **Made progress toward expectations =** ○ Partial to Question 5.1 • **Fails to meet expectations =** ○ No to Question 5.1

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."

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) has designated programmatic data stewards for each Agency core geospatial data assets. These are documented in agency procedure and reviewed by the Agency's Combined Mapping Team Steering Committee annually with reports to Agency Executive management. USDA Forest Service (FS) develops best practices technical guides for efficiently collecting geospatial data that are used alongside established data standards for the core data themes like roads, trails, cadastral, and hydrology.

759(a)(6) Use Data Standards

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**
KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =** 　　o Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 • **Made progress toward expectations =** 　　o Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 • **Fails to meet expectations =** 　　o No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3

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:[iii]

- 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.
- 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.

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:[iv]

- Yes. Eligible 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.

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."

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) is reviewing existing geospatial metadata and releasing metadata through the GeoPlatform for Agency authoritative data sets. RMA has designated programmatic data stewards for each Agency core geospatial data assets. These are documented in agency procedure and reviewed by the Agency's Combined Mapping Team Steering Committee, annually, with reports to Agency Executive management. USDA Forest Service (FS) maintains publicly available Geospatial Data Discovery Catalog, leveraging the Esri ArcGIS Hub platform, and updates 374 geospatial records and 63 non-geospatial records daily for a total of 437 records, as of 12/2020, including FS' 8 NGDA feature classes. USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Agriculture Library (NAL) confirmed with GeoPlatform personnel in June 2019, that the ISO metadata would be compatible with GeoPlatform's requirements and could be delivered via web services.

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	    o Yes to Questions 7.1 and Yes or Not applicable to Question 7.2
	 • **Made progress toward expectations =**
	    o Any combination of Yes, Not applicable, Partial, or No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2
	 • **Fails to meet expectations =**
	    o No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2

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)?

- Partial. There are processes in place for some agency mission areas, but not others.

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
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia
- Licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals

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.

- Market research
- Partnership outreach activities
- Expert consultations
- Advisory committee(s)
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Steering committees
- Engage with trade groups
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Federal Register Notices
- 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?

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- 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 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) both coordinate and are in partnership with the following entities: Federal: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); Satellite Image Archive – Cost-sharing of satellite imagery inputs USDA; The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) – Access to their Common Land Unit (CLU) Program data for agricultural training and validation; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): National Soil Survey Center – Use of their National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI) Version 2.0 USDA; USDA Forest Service: Tree Canopy Layer United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation – Use of their Lower Colorado River Water Accounting System (LCRAS).

The USDA Forest Service (FS) participates in the 3-D Elevation Program (3DEP). The FS also participates in the effort to pool resources with other federal agencies for the collection/acquisition of high-resolution LiDAR and ifSAR data.

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

GDA Requirement	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;
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	  ○ Yes to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	  ○ Any combination of Yes, Partial and No to Questions 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	  ○ No to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3

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?

- Partial

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?

- Partial. Agency leverages geospatial information in operations improvements or decision-making in some programs.

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).
- Internal Agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.
- Not applicable: Agency does not leverage geospatial information in published reports.

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
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) public content links are found at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/   Many secure reporting products serving internal stakeholders that cannot be shared here.
US Forest Service has a Geo-Enabled Performance Accountability System (gPAS): http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/results/xfst/local-resources/scripts/pullContent.php?directory=/results/pdb/Reports/&pagename=Reports   USFS Enterprise Content Open Data Hub: https://data-usfs.hub.arcgis.com/   Enterprise-wide use of ArcGIS Online to share content with internal and external stakeholders: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html and https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/home/group.html?id=20d35cbebf174f2d96edcab24c8027e4&view=grid&showFilters=false&sortField=modified&sortOrder=desc#content
USDA Food and Nutrition Services has developed geospatial tools for communities to make better decisions and plan to address child nutrition gaps (https://www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder). Reporting, though, is usually in counts of locations of SNAP retailers and summer sites.

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;"

USDA Rural Development (RD) A. The RD rural designation data is integrated into the Eligibility web site: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/ as well as an open web service API for third party lenders to use for property location eligibility. B. All geospatial data is available via ESRI map services on the ArcGIS enterprise infrastructure allowing for spatial analysis to be integrated into business systems automated applications rather than desktop analysis. C. RD Rural Utility Services use geographic information gathered by loan intake systems to determine potential borrowers' eligibility for loans and grants. Geospatial maps integrated into management dashboards to assist program leadership. Geospatial projects for analysis of program performance. D. The geocoding an addition of geographic information to borrowers allows for reporting obligations to the county and congressional district level.

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

GDA Requirement	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**
KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =** ○ Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2 • **Made progress toward expectations =** ○ Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 **or** 9.2 • **Fails to meet expectations =** ○ No to Questions 9.1 **or** 9.2

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.

- Partial. The agency's PTA/PIA processes are inclusive of some 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."

At USDA Forest Service (FS), for any data under a system with authority to operate (e.g., FS Application Cloud Environment (ACE – VDC) and FSGeoCloud (ArcGIS Online\Esri Managed Cloud Services), etc. there are standard processes to annually review PTA\PIA for compliance. In addition, the agency follows guidelines established by the CIO Cyber and SecureCAP procedures.

The USDA Environmental Research Service (ERS) protects PII data as an agency and ensure that staff complete PII and confidential data training annually. USDA Rural Development's (RD) Cyber Security Group manages the ATO that covers the RD enterprise geospatial system and is periodically reviewed.

759(a)(10) Declassified Data

GDA Requirement	Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	  ○ Yes or Not applicable to Question 10.1
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	  ○ No to Question 10.1

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.

- Yes. The agency has 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."

A process is in place; however, the majority of agencies don't review or require declassified datasets.

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	   o No to Question 11.1 **or**
	   o Yes to Questions 11.1 and 11.2 and all agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	   o Yes to Question 11.1 and Partial or No to Question 11.2 and agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	   o Yes to Question 11.1 and No to Question 11.2 and *No additional assessments are done* selected for Question 11.3

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:[v]

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

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."

At USDA Forest Service (FS), when assessing the need to acquire and store Geospatial data for use by Forest Service, the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) researches external sources including other federal agencies to determine suitable candidates. Those candidates are evaluated as to whether they are the best alternative available. Such datasets include geopolitical boundaries from the Census, Hydrography (NHD) and Elevation (3DEP) data from US Geologic Survey, and many datasets that are curated through the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level (HIFLD) data repository. This repository includes privately stewarded data that is licensed for use. For example, a nation-wide transportation network is available through this source licensed by Here. Other sources such as Data.gov and the GeoPlatform will be included in our search sources as these platforms mature.

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

GDA Requirement	To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data
Agency Self-Assessment	**Made Progress Towards Expectations**
KEY to Self-Assessment	**Meets expectations =** - No to Question 12.1 **or** - Yes to Question 12.1 and **all** appropriate selections for Question 12.2 **Made progress toward expectations =** - Yes to Question 12.1 and **some** agency appropriate selections for Question 12.2 **Fails to meet expectations =** - Yes to Question 12.1 and *No official documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data* selected for Question 12.2

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:[vi]

- 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.
- No official documented QA/QC process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data.

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 USDA is working to ensure that the Department is compliant with Sec. 759(a)(12) Ensuring High Quality Data. Provided are examples of mission area actions and accomplishments.

Mission Area: Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP); within MRP, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) adopts core data standards, and standard cooperative agreement language, in which APHIS ensures, to the extent possible, that an entity receiving federal funds collects high-quality data.

Mission Area: Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC); within FPAC, the Risk Management Agency (RMA), ensures that Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data. RMA details requirements for geospatial data quality standards in the contract documents and upon receipt Agency staff experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.

GDA Requirement	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
Agency Self-Assessment	**Meets Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	   o Yes to Question 13.1
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	   o No to Question 13.1

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."

In October 2020, USDA established an executive level Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) position at the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The GIO is the point of contact that will coordinate with lead covered agencies, on behalf of the USDA.

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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[i] 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).

[ii] 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)

[iii] 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.

[iv] 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.

- 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)

^vi 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).

Appendix B: Optional 2-Page Document

United States Department of Agriculture
GDA Covered Agency Assessment Report
Comprehensive Summary - February 19, 2021

The US Department of Agriculture was required to prepare a strategic plan for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities in support of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. USDA was also required to report on achievements and how it is complying with requirements of the GDA. To facilitate those tasks, a geospatial assessment survey was developed and distributed to agencies that currently use geospatial data, tools, and applications to produce a USDA geospatial baseline. That information was used to inform the USDA Geospatial Strategic Plan and its associated follow-on activities, and to support additional GDA requirements and tasks. The US Department of Agriculture is composed of different agencies. The term 'agencies', in this document refers to the components of the Department. This overall document uses a composite approach that includes references to the proportion of its component agencies that characterize a given response that is representative of the Department ("Agency" in the language of the Geospatial Data Act corresponds to the US Department of Agriculture).

The following fifteen USDA agencies were represented within this assessment: Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Inspection Services (APHIS), Economic Research Service (ERS), Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) , Food and Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Forest Service (FS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Office of the Chief Economist OCE), Rural Development (RD) and Risk Management Agency (RMA). Highlights documented in the survey include the following:

At most USDA agencies (73%) geospatial data is already openly shared to the public; 47% of the agencies currently share geospatial data on a limited basis with Federal partners; 40% of the agencies share data on a limited basis with non-Federal users. Thirteen percent of agencies do not share geospatial data. Seven percent indicated that they have collaborated with internal agencies to build capacity for managing geospatial data. The data shows that one third of the agencies have taken action to promote data integration; 40% have taken partial action; 20% have taken no action and 7% have developed actual partnerships and programs to promote data standardization and integration.

In terms of data integration, the data shows that all responding agencies in USDA host a data sharing infrastructure where partners can share and discover selected geospatial data; 60% develop a data integration toolkit of API to promote geospatial data in external applications; 20% provide data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages and 80% develop data sharing agreements or MOUs with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.

The composite summary shows that 20% of the agencies have both data and metadata that is shared in open formats; 20% have data shared in open formats but not metadata; 47% of the agencies share some geospatial data and its metadata in open formats and 14% of the agencies do not share geospatial data nor metadata in open formats. Establishing an enterprise approach to incorporate metadata standards is part of USDA's FY21 implementation plan.

In terms of geospatial program resources to support the GDA, fifty-percent of agencies noted that only partial resources are allocated to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection,

production and stewardship; twenty-one percent responded that resources were adequate; fourteen percent determined resources were not adequate and fourteen percent replied 'other'. Two agencies replied 'other' indicating that resources are not an issue due to the absence of a geospatial data collection requirement within their agency; and there are covered themes are maintained by their agency.

Most agencies (53%) responded that some geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed standards; forty percent noted that some geospatial datasets use standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119; one third of the agencies (33%) replied that yes, all geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed standards; thirteen percent noted that all geospatial data sets use OMB Circular A-119 standards and seven percent replied that they do not use data standards. Most agencies (53%) noted that no metadata is available through GeoPlatform.gov; one-third (33%) replied that some metadata for some public datasets is available via GeoPlatform.gov; and thirteen percent noted that metadata for all public datasets is available through GeoPlatform.

Nearly half (43%) of the agencies noted that they partially coordinate with other Federal and state agencies, tribal, local governments, institutions of higher education and the private sector for the cost effective collection and management of geospatial data. Twenty-nine percent replied in the affirmative. Twenty-one percent replied that there is no coordination and seven percent noted that there is coordination in place in compliance with Sec 759(a)(7).

The majority of the agencies that constitute USDA (57%) do not build upon existing non-federal geospatial data; such effort is not applicable for some agencies (7%) and there is partial to no building on existing non-Federal geospatial data at 14% of the agencies. Most agencies (71%) leverage geospatial information to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public. An additional 21% stated that they leverage geospatial information in operations improvements of decision making in some areas and 7% stated that they do not leverage geospatial information.

In terms of leveraging geospatial information in operations improvements or decision making, most agencies (87%) replied 'yes', seven percent stated 'partial' and seven percent did not leverage geospatial information. Overall, 50% of the agencies use Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) and Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for geospatial data; an additional 36% have partial processes in place and 14% do not have PTA/PIA processes. Most agencies (75%) confirmed that geospatial data is covered by authority to operate reviews and 25% had partially established ATOs for geospatial data.

In terms of avoiding duplication of data, 42% of the agencies search GeoPlatform Marketplace prior to all geospatial investments, 25% partially search GeoPlatform and 33% do not search GeoPlatform. In December 2020, USDA published its first ever enterprise level strategic plan. It is currently deploying an implementation roadmap to address all GDA recommendations and establish a long-term vision for geospatial developments that is consistent with the GDA as well as related statutory obligations including the Evidence Act, FITARA and others. The baseline captured here is a snapshot of our Agency status as of FY20. Our FY21 posture includes the noted strategic plan as well as an implementation roadmap that identifies specific actions to address GDA requirements throughout USDA.

The US Department of Agriculture is committed to addressing all requirements of the Geospatial Data Act. In October 2020, it established an executive level Geospatial Information Officer position at the Office of the Chief Information Officer. In December 2020, it completed its first ever Enterprise Geospatial Strategic Plan. During the second quarter of FY21, USDA has completed the first Covered Agency report on behalf of all the constituent organizational units at the Department. During FY21, USDA expects to deploy an implementation roadmap and make systematic progress in addressing the requirements of the GDA as well as other relevant statutory mandates.