



**2022 Covered Agency Annual Report  
and Self-Assessment**

*for  
Department of Veterans Affairs*

Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section USC 43 Sec 2808(a) Requirements

February 4, 2023



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## Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018. The GDA was included as a component of the FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 302, P.L. 115-254). The GDA is now in [U.S. Code, Title 43 – Public Lands, Chapter 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA](#).

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 Veterans Affairs’ annual report to the FGDC covering Fiscal Year 2022, October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The report was developed through a self-assessment template developed by the FGDC agencies. Annual reports 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 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 via the [FGDC GDA pages \[https://fgdc.gov/gda\]](#).

This report is based on a standardized questionnaire and self-assessment score for each covered agency responsibility. The Department of Veterans Affairs 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.

Where data or datasets are referenced,<sup>2</sup> information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs 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.

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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%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a>

# Self-Assessment for Department of Veterans Affairs

## USC 43 Sec 2808(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>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 1.1 and 1.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 1.1 and No to Question 1.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 1.1 and 1.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

**Table 1. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**Clarifying Text:** FGDC developed and released a national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2804(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, were 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 Is your agency’s strategy complete, approved, and being implemented?

- Yes

### 1.2 Is your agency’s strategy published? If yes, please provide the URL or briefly describe how public access is being provided.

- Yes

<https://www.va.gov/oei/docs/va-spatial-data-strategy.pdf>

### 1.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(1), "Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission." If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.

VA's Spatial Data Strategy was completed in 2021, approved by VA’s Data Governance Council and routed through the agency concurrence process in 2022. It was published to the internet in December 2022. Following approval of the strategy, the Geospatial Data Workgroup developed implementation plans that are currently in progress with target completion dates no later than FY2023 Q4.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 Toward 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> |

**Table 2. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(2) Support Data Sharing Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**Clarifying text:**

- ✓ This section does not include efforts related to partners, which are covered under Question 7, USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7).
- ✓ Review the [GDA definition of geospatial data](#) to consider the questions in this section.
- ✓ Remember, your agency’s answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public in accordance with agency statutory authorities and missions; not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.
- ✓ Sharing data on the Internet using open standards, 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.
- ✓ Geospatial data that will not or cannot be distributed to the public does not need to be considered for GDA-related responses as per the GDA.

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

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

**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)?** (Select all that apply)

- Eligible geospatial metadata are shared in open formats, but not all data are open format.

**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? (Select all that apply)**

- Some programs/datasets have maintenance processes in place.

**2.4 Optional Question: Would the agency like to provide 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?**

- Yes

| Planned or Ongoing Activities   | Description   |
|---|---|
| VHA Rurality - Overview (arcgis.com)  | This dataset was created to geographically depict urban, rural and highly rural land areas of the United States as defined by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).<br><a href="https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=213f6b7bacc44650997f7a455c2b08aa">https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=213f6b7bacc44650997f7a455c2b08aa</a>  |
| Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Medical Facilities - Overview (arcgis.com) | This dataset was created to geospatially account for all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) approved health care delivery sites. This is the only authorized dataset released for use in AGOL by the VHA for public use. Updated Monthly.<br><a href="https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=c6821e66523a46f5b32893641b9bd0dd">https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=c6821e66523a46f5b32893641b9bd0dd</a>  |
| VHA Facilities VW - Overview (arcgis.com)                                       | This dataset was created to geospatially account for all VHA approved health care delivery sites in the VAST database. Updated Monthly.<br><a href="https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=1db8e589e53d464dbf5ef5af50511b2e">https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=1db8e589e53d464dbf5ef5af50511b2e</a>  |
| VHA Rurality - Overview (arcgis.com)  | This dataset was created to geographically depict urban, rural and highly rural land areas.<br><a href="https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=a7fa9d010c0a49ba8d1312a89b856227">https://vha.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=a7fa9d010c0a49ba8d1312a89b856227</a>  |
| Veteran Population Projections  | The Veteran Population Projection Model 2018 (VetPop2018) provides the latest official Veteran population projection from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VetPop2018 is a deterministic projection model developed by the office of Predictive Analytics to estimate and project the Veteran Population from Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to FY2048.<br><a href="https://vetdata-vanvcas.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/e499f7e28f6b49bdafc45e936674f8e2_0/about">https://vetdata-vanvcas.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/e499f7e28f6b49bdafc45e936674f8e2_0/about</a> |

**Table 2.a. Optional Information Regarding Ongoing or Planned Geospatial Data Sharing Activities.**

**2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

VHA spatial data utilized in applications or shared with other users must include metadata. Users format metadata records to a common standard, they facilitate location and readability for both humans and machines. VHA promotes the use of ISO 19115-1 and 19115-3 metadata standards. Geospatial data is maintained and preserved inside a well-defined MSSQL RDBMS using ESRI software. ESRI software and datasets are industry standards allowing interoperability across other systems. NCA geospatial data is published/exported, shared, and consumed/imported with other VA and non-VA agencies in varying formats enabling usage by the consuming agency. VA-wide efforts are underway to adopt spatial data standards, streamline data sharing, both internally and externally.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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> |

*Table 3. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3) Promote Data Integration Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**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? (Select all that apply)**

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- 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 2000 characters or 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

VHA continued its leadership role in promoting integration of geospatial data and spatial analysis across the enterprise in 2022. Membership of the geospatial workgroup evolved as more spatial data users/interests were identified. VHA publishes authoritative data through Portal for ArcGIS so the most current and complete data can be used agency wide. VHA also migrated the GIS platform to the VA Enterprise Cloud so it can better serve all VHA programs and offices. In addition, VHA consumes U.S. Census Bureau, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Indian Health Services (IHS) spatial data and we work with HHS and IHS to ensure they have access to current VHA data. NCA has continued to both share and consume data externally in 2022. Examples of non-agency data integration include: ESRI published datasets and base map imagery, published US Census Bureau data, and Data.gov published data. Data has been shared internally to aid other internal and external initiatives, such as site location data for VA Facility Locator and grave marker data for Veteran’s Legacy Memorial.



USC 43 Sec 2808(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> |

**Table 4. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**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 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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." If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

As part of VHA-GIS migration to the cloud, they engaged with VA/VHA Records Officers to verify data archiving and disposal processes comply with federal records management policies. NCA created a schedule, with NARA, for the retention of cemetery locations and boundaries. Other NCA geospatial data created and maintained is typically intermediary, or changes frequently, and will be retained according to NCA record retention policies.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 Toward 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> |

**Table 5. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**5.1 Are 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?** (Select the most appropriate answer and provide context for your agency’s response in Question 5.2.)

**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 in Appendix B (if provided).

- Partial

**5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words):** Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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." If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.

VHA allocated funding to VA's Cloud Operation and Migration Services to develop and maintain the VHA-GIS operating platform; they onboarded a Cloud/Systems Engineer to provide direct support for GIS operations and secured assistance with our Authority to Operate to maintain compliance with security protocols. In addition, VHA obtained/allocated funding to assist with a GIS pilot implementation for an indoor environment and secured future funding to expand VHA's GIS workforce by 4 full-time equivalent employees. VHA also worked with NCA and VA geospatial leaders to expand the VHA GIS Enterprise Agreement to an agency wide agreement and completed the initial steps for securing an ATO for ArcGIS Online. Daily collection efforts to capture burial operations data were ongoing in 2022 and will be every year forward. This is completed by procuring and maintaining high accuracy GNSS equipment and training cemetery staff on collection techniques. GNSS collection support

(training, troubleshooting, maintenance) occupies much of the workday hours of NCA GIS staff, leaving little time for program advancements. NCA approved an additional employee for Fiscal Year 2024 to assist with field support and should enable re-allocation of resources to focus on improving the program and meeting the requirements of the GDA. Additionally, a VA-wide enterprise license agreement with ESRI and an ATO for ArcGIS Online were both actively being worked on across VA. Both of which will help VA fully meet GDA responsibilities.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 Toward 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> |

*Table 6. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(6) Use Data Standards Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**Clarifying Text:**

- ✓ Reestablishment of an active, resourced, and sustainable standards process with supporting governance is currently under consideration by the FGDC (Committee).
- ✓ The FGDC has not yet established any standards under the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2806.
- ✓ Answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public in accordance with agency statutory authorities and missions; not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed?** (Select all that apply)

- 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.

**6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format?** (Select all that apply)

**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/>.

- 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, USC 43 Sec 2808(b)(1)(A)(iv) provides for “includ[ing] download access to all open geospatial data directly or indirectly collected by covered agencies” and Sec 2808(a)(6) requires that “metadata [be] available through the GeoPlatform.”

- No. Agency geospatial metadata is not available through GeoPlatform.gov.

**6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

VHA began revisions to the governance documents for web GIS (Portal and ArcGIS Online), including a revision of metadata standards. All VHA spatial data that are used in applications or shared with other users must follow ISO 19115-1 or ISO 19115-3 metadata standards; VHA expects to have the new standards fully implemented by the end of the 2023 fiscal year. Burial operations data is agency specific and no voluntary consensus standards can be practically applied. NCA has developed a well-defined data schema to be used for all incoming data. The schema is reviewed and updated periodically. A description of the schema is published for NCA contracts on the CFM Technical Information Library (11 83 02 GeoData).

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 toward 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> |

**Table 7. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**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)?** (Select all that apply)

- Yes. There are processes in place for all agency mission areas.

**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?** (Select all that apply)

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2803(b)(C).

- Other federal agencies
- Geospatial information user identities
- Academia
- Other: Veteran Service Organizations (VSO)

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?** (Select all that apply)

**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
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Other: Mission-related projects performed in partnership with other entities

**7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data? (Select all that apply)**

- 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? (Select all that apply)**

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- MOAs/data sharing agreements

**7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

The programs and offices, utilizing the VHA-GIS platform or Enterprise Agreement, coordinated and worked in partnership with the Health and Human Services (HHS), Indian Health Services (IHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of Defense. VHA Portal and ArcGIS Online users have access to and frequently utilize data available in the Esri Living Atlas of the World. The Living Atlas is a rapidly growing part of the ArcGIS Platform, providing users with easy access to a rich set of high-quality, ready-to-use content published by Esri and the ArcGIS user community, including federal agencies, state, tribal and local governments, academic institutions, and the private sector. NCA's MOA with USGS is effective until July 2023. There were no changes in 2022 requiring an updated dataset to be provide per the MOA. NCA began utilizing ArcGIS Online (AGOL) in 2022 to aid in daily collection of burial activities. AGOL enables entities to easily consume (and share) data using web services. NCA has not share data via AGOL but the ability is now in place to do so. Additionally, AGOL allows NCA to consume base maps and some feature services published publicly.

USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>GDA Requirement</b>        | Use geospatial information to—<br>(A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;<br>(B) enhance operations;<br>(C) support decision making; and<br>(D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;  |
| <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 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> |

*Table 8. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**USC 43 Sec 2808(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?**

**Clarifying Text:** A number of examples of leveraging geospatial information for public use include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Making the data accessible
- ✓ Providing data in ingestible services
- ✓ Providing maps or visualizations of geospatial data - like a map of an agency’s jurisdictional regions so the public can identify their region on a website
- ✓ Provided data in an online application – like the COVID-19 case tracker
- ✓ Outreach/communications for user feedback
- ✓ Making data open, standardized, or machine readable
- Yes

**USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8)(B) enhance operations; USC 43 Sec 2808(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.



**USC 43 Sec 2808(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? (Select all that apply)**

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information to enhance public and Congressional reporting.

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

- 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: Would the agency like to 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?**

- Yes

| Example  | Link  |
|--|---|
| VA Facility Locator uses "Lighthouse" to provide the public a way to locate VA facilities based on a city, state, or zip code. NCA, through VA's EGT Team managing NCA's GIS Enterprise.   | <a href="https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=cemetery">https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?facilityType=cemetery</a> |
| The Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of the nearly 4.5 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries. VLM consumes an internal web service providing the location and photo of gravemarkers from the GIS database. | <a href="https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/ROBERTCHARLESTHOMAS/DEFF9B2">https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/ROBERTCHARLESTHOMAS/DEFF9B2</a>     |

*Table 8.a. Example Benefits of Federal Geospatial Data Assets.*

**8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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;"

**If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

VHA-GIS migrated operations to the VA Enterprise Cloud, allowing us to easily expand as our user base increases. Among the offices taking advantage of the VHA Enterprise Agreement and Cloud Platform are

Readjustment Counseling Services, VHA Office of Emergency Management, VHA Researchers, Office of Academic Affiliations, and several VISN Capital Asset Management Offices. In addition, VHA began development of a new/enhanced portal for planners that will provide the data and tools in 2023 that are needed for the congressionally mandated Market Assessments. VHA also partnered with Esri and North Florida on a pilot implementation of ArcGIS Indoors that will facilitate space management decisions and hoteling and VHA provided data and maps to facilitate PACT Act estimates. NCA used geospatial information to: (A) make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public by collecting and enabling cemetery and grave marker locations, maintained in a GIS, to externally facing website applications. (B) enhance operations by collecting burial activities with high accuracy GNSS equipment and digital cameras to document and verify/confirm interment locations. (C) support decision making by leveraging internal and external spatially enabled demographic data to determine locations for new National and State Veteran cemetery locations. (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress in determining percentages of veteran population within 75 miles of access to Veteran burial options.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 Toward 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> |

**Table 9. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**9.1 Are the agency’s Privacy Threshold Assessment or Privacy Impact Assessment (PTA/PIA) processes inclusive of your agency’s 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 agency’s 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 and appropriately protected in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9), “protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law.” If the assessment is “made progress toward expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

Spatial data that’s published to ArcGIS Online was cleared through the VA Privacy Office prior to publication allowing for further access to VA geospatial data and providing an additional layer of privacy protection review. Display methods for aggregating PII data receive approval from a privacy officer before dissemination. Geospatial data in the CDW follows PHI rules in HIPAA for access, use, and sharing. The Office of Data Governance and Analytics continues to follow recommended procedures and practices, and VA rules and regulations, for authenticated access to data systems. Limited, controlled access systems support protection of information, and VA remotes personally identifiable information before sharing to users without appropriate access. VHA-GIS maintains the PTA/PIA/ATO for the system and data hosted on the VA Enterprise Cloud platform. In addition, VHA has partnered with NCA and Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) to obtain an ATO at the Fed Ramp moderate level for the data and application hosted on Esri’s ArcGIS Online. VHA is working with VA’s Digital Transformation Center and

expect to complete the work before the end of 2023. NCA's GIS does not house any PII or PHI data. NCA's on-premise GIS is within VA's CDW and by default inherits all PTA/PIA/ATO requirements there. NCA has partnered with VHA and CDW on obtaining an ATO for ArcGIS Online by the end of 2023.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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>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 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> |

*Table 10. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(10)Declassified Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**10.1 If your agency handles declassified geospatial datasets, does it have a process to review these 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.

- Not applicable: The agency does not handle declassified data.

**10.2 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(10), “participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.” If the assessment is “fails to meet expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

VA does not collect, hold, manage, or consume declassified geospatial data.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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>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>○ No to Question 11.1 or</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> |

**Table 11. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**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 If yes to Question 11.1, and as per [OMB Circular A-11 Guidance](#) (Section 25, Page 3), has your agency searched the [GeoPlatform](#) prior to making planned geospatial data investments to determine if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements?**

- Yes. Agency has searched GeoPlatform prior to all geospatial data investments.

**11.3 If yes to Question 11.1, 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? (Select all that apply)**

- Market research
- Expert consultation
- Other: <https://www.findagrave.com/> and <https://billiongraves.com/>

**11.4 Optional Question: If yes to Question 11.1, would the agency like to provide up to 5 examples of cases where the agency did find existing data that met its needs or partnered on a joint data acquisition?**

- No

**11.5 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

VA is unable to use data in the GeoPlatform because the United States Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics database requires a current address to be associated with Veterans' names, and no data set on the GeoPlatform meets this requirement. In addition, the data presented on the GeoPlatform is not in real time. Therefore, both OEI and the Planning System Support Group determined GeoPlatform's data sets did not meet specific program requirements. NCA used funds to purchase GNSS collection equipment, equipment subscriptions, and collection software to aid in the self-collecting of daily burial activities. Since these activities are collected at the time the activity is performed (e.g. when grave marker is set or when interment is conducted), the data would not be available via any other means.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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>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>○ 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> |

**Table 12. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.**

**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 If yes to Question 12.1, what methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?** (Check all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods used to ensure quality for geospatial data acquired by procurement or grant process)

- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.
- Other: Contract Scope of Work (SOW) requires survey grade accuracy, and each deliverable is certified as being 100% accurate with surveyor stamp.



**12.3 Brief Summary (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(12), "to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data." If the assessment is "made progress toward expectations," include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the "meets expectations" level.**

Spatial data that is collected is reviewed and compared against other self-collected data, readily available imagery, and data from other sources. Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) scripts and routines are used to verify data integrity and completeness.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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> |

*Table 13. GDA USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(13) Point of Contact Requirement and Self-Assessment Criteria.*

**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:** According to the GDA Definitions, USC 43 Sec 2801(12), NGDA data theme means “the NGDA core geospatial datasets including electronic records and coordinates relating to a topic or subject designated under USC 43 Sec 2805.” Also, 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 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2022 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(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." If the assessment is “fails to meet expectations,” include the actions your agency is taking to achieve the “meets expectations” level.**

VA has designated representatives to represent the agency on the Federal Geographic Data Committee’s Steering Committee and Address Subcommittee.

## Appendix A: Survey Picklists

This appendix provides the full set of choices presented in the self-assessment survey for questions that have multiple response options, including those that are “select all that apply.”

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

- 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)?**

- Yes, eligible geospatial data and metadata are shared in open formats.
- Eligible geospatial data are shared in open formats, but not all metadata is open format.
- Eligible geospatial metadata are shared in open formats, but not all data are open format.
- Some geospatial data, and its metadata, is shared in open formats.
- No geospatial data is shared, or geospatial data is only shared in proprietary 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?**

- Yes, agency policies exist to ensure all programs implement data maintenance processes.
- Some programs/datasets have maintenance processes in place.
- Maintenance processes are in development or are partially implemented.
- No maintenance processes are currently in place or in development.

### **3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources? (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods)**

- 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 (Textbox provided)

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed? (Select all that apply)**

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC endorsed data standards under OMB A-16, 2002, or more current versions of those endorsed 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.

**6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format? (Select all that apply)**

**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/>.

- 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.

**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 for all agency mission areas.
- Yes. There are processes in place, but some mission areas do not have requirements for geospatial data management partnerships.
- Partial. There are processes in place for some agency mission areas, but not others.
- No. There are no processes in place. (Skip to question 7.3)

**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional partners or stakeholders)

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2803(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
- Other (Textbox provided)

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional processes)

**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
- Councils
- Engage with trade groups
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Federal Register Notices
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Use other public comment processes
- Other (Textbox provided)

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

- Yes. Agency builds upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible.
- Not applicable: no existing applicable data exists.
- Partial. Agency builds upon some existing non-federal geospatial data.
- No. Agency does not build upon 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?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to add additional ways)

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- MOAs/data sharing agreements
- Other (Textbox provided)

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

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information to enhance public and Congressional reporting.
- Not applicable: Agency does not leverage geospatial information in published reports.
- Partial. Agency leverages some geospatial information to enhance either public or Congressional reporting.
- No. Agency does not leverage 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?** (Select all that apply)

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, Annual reports, other published agency reports).
- Congressional reports.
- Internal agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.
- Not applicable: agency does not leverage geospatial information in published reports.

**11.3 If yes to Question 11.1, 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?** (Select all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional sources)

- 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 (Textbox provided)

**12.2 If yes to Question 12.1, what methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?**

(Check all that apply and use the “other” textbox to briefly describe additional methods used to ensure quality for geospatial data acquired by procurement or grant process)

- 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 (Textbox provided)