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FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE

2023 Covered Agency Annual Report and Self-Assessment

for

Department of Commerce

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

January 19, 2024

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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[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 Commerce's annual report to the FGDC covering Fiscal Year 2023, October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. 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 Commerce 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,[2] information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Commerce 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 as part of the agency's submission. If provided, the document may include highlights and examples that can supplement the FGDC annual summary report, the FGDC biennial 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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[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 Commerce

USC 43 Sec 2808(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 1.1 and 1.2
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	  ○ Yes to Question 1.1 **and** No to Question 1.2
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	  ○ No to Question 1.1 and 1.2

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.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/US-Dept-of-Commerce-Geospatial-Strategy-FY21-24.pdf

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	**Meets Expectations**

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	   ○ *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 =**
	   ○ *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 =**
	   ○ No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

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.

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.

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.

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
Commerce Geospatial Data Catalogs on the GeoPlatform	Listed below are the completed NGDA Theme Community pages for Commerce: https://ngda-climate-and-weathergeoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/ https://ngda-elevation-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/ https://ngda-geodetic-control-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/ https://ngda-water-oceans-and-coastsgeoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/ https://ngda-gov-units-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/ https://ngda-address-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/
Data.gov Catalogs	Both Census and NOAA have published agency data catalogs via the data.gov website. These can be found at: https://catalog.data.gov/organization/census-gov https://catalog.data.gov/organization/noaa-gov
NOAA OneStop Data Search Platform	The NOAA Data Catalog can be accessed here: https://data.noaa.gov/onestop/. This is an inventory of all NOAA data collections and includes over 104,000 collections and over 3,000,000 granules available to search with fully compliant metadata. OneStop is a distributed, scalable, event-driven database and search engine for environmental data. The user interface allows web-based searching by keywords and other attributes, and machine-to-machine searching is available as well.
NOAA provides a variety of our geospatial mission related data to the public using standard protocols and formats such as ArcGIS rest services.	NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) GIS Portal: www.weather.gov/gis/for importing data into a GIS, map viewers, or web pages. NOAA's climate observations and monitoring data: gis.ncdc.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services. NOAA's mosaic of gridded forecasts of sensible weather elements: ncei.noaa.gov/products/weather-climate-models/national-digital-forecast-database. NOAA's variety of nautical charts in many formats: nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
Census Bureau Geographic Support Program (GSP)	Many of the GSP datasets are available in formats that can be imported directly into a GIS or custom map viewers or web pages, i.e., Shapefiles, KML, web services (see https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography.html). Census geography can be combined with statistical data collected from censuses and surveys. 2020 Census data can be found at https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennialcensus/decade/2020/2020-census-main.html.

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

2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

All geospatial data that Commerce produces from its programs and partnerships is openly available online except for data protected from disclosure. For example, Commerce does not release Personally Identifiable Information (PII) as defined by the Privacy Act of 1974. In addition, some NOAA Fisheries data are protected from disclosure under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and some Census Bureau data including addresses and structure points are protected by 13 U.S.C. § 9. Commerce provides long-term stewardship and preservation of our data per NARA guidelines. The NOAA Data Documentation Procedural Directive provides guidance on documenting geospatial data using federal/international metadata standards before dissemination. Commerce follows the Open Geospatial Consortium's (OGC's) Implementation Standards for geospatial data: Web Map Service (WMS), REST, GeoPDF, and KML. The new NOAA Data Management Handbook provides guidance on documenting geospatial data using federal/international metadata standards before dissemination. Commerce follows the Open Geospatial Consortium's (OGC's) Implementation Standards for geospatial data: Web Map Service (WMS), REST, GeoPDF, and KML.

The NOAA Chief Scientist published the following addressing the 2022 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) updated guidance on Public Access to Research Results PARR): https://libguides.library.noaa.gov/OSTP_PARR-Implementation. The NOAA Science Council and the NOAA Observing Systems Council approved Terms of Reference for a NOAA PARR Working Group that is developing a new NOAA PARR Policy and Plan. The working group is co-chaired by representatives from the NOAA Research and Development Enterprise Committee (RDEC) and the Data Governance Committee (DGC). The PARR Working Group has been working to address data requirements and policy so that a final draft PARR Policy & PARR Implementation Plan is completed by the end of FY24.

GDA Requirement	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations

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

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 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 3000 characters or 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources." If your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

Commerce promotes the integration of geospatial data from all sources. The Census Bureau continued to integrate high-quality address, feature, and boundary data provided by more than 40,000 tribal, federal, state, and local government partners through our partnership programs, such as the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), into the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System. All geographic data stored in the MAF/TIGER System is reviewed for accuracy and completeness, including roads, rivers, lakes, railroads, addresses, and geographic boundaries. The Census Bureau uses geospatial data from tribal, state, and local governments as sources for national datasets to improve the accuracy of data tabulated and disseminated by the Census Bureau including the Decennial Census, the Economic Census, the American Community Survey, and Population Estimates Program. The Census Bureau also utilizes data from federal partners such as the United States Postal Service (USPS) to maintain and update the MAF with

new and updated address information twice annually using information from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) and to update geocodes for existing addresses in the MAF using the Enhance Line of Travel (ELOT) file. The integration of data from trusted sources at all levels of government ensures the geospatial framework for the MAF/TIGER System is continuously maintained with quality data. NOAA promotes data discovery and access platforms such as the NOAA GeoPlatform, US GeoPlatform, Digital Coast, and other systems to enhance data availability and promote data integration.

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	**Meets 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

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 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

The most recent Census Bureau geospatial data products and records have been entered into the 2020 Census Bureau Records Schedule (DAA-0029-2019-0004) approved by the NARA in December 2019. See also: "Updates to the 2020 Archiving Operation Detailed Operational Plan" 2020 Census Program Memorandum Series: 2021.13. All Census Bureau employees must have records management language in their performance plans to adhere to the records schedule and to ensure that the Agency complies with federal laws and regulations, Census Bureau policies, and best practices for managing records. All employees are required to complete two annual Records Management courses. The Census Bureau's Decennial Information Technology Division (DITD) transfers the files from the MAF/TIGER System to the Census Enterprise Data Lake (EDL). From there, the files are transferred to NARA. The following have

been transferred in 2023: 1) Final Collection and Tabulation Master Address File Extracts; 2) Master Address File Identification State Change File; 3) Census 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles; 4) Tabulation Geographic Reference Files-Codes. NOAA records management program responsibilities are outlined in NAO 205-1, NOAA Records Management Program (https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-205-1-noaa-recordsmanagement-program). NOAA has numerous records schedules covering geospatial content related to remote sensing, nautical charts, forecasting maps, aerial photography and geodetic surveys. The NOAA records schedules associated with geospatial records can be found in chapters 1300, 1400, 1500, and 1600 of the NOAA Records Schedules and are accessible with a NOAA account. The applicable record schedules specify whether records and data are transferred to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) data archive, Federal Records Center (FRC), or if they are destroyed or accessioned in NARA for permanent preservation. NOAA federal employees and contractors are required to take annual Records Management training.

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	**Meets 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

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.)

- Yes

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 optional 1- to 2-page Appendix B summary document (if provided).

5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

For the current reporting period, Commerce was able to allocate sufficient resources to fulfill these required GDA planning and reporting responsibilities. Staff across the department devoted substantial time to data collection, production, and stewardship along with GDA action planning and reporting, including extensive reviews of the Covered Agency (CA) and Lead Covered Agency (LCA) reporting templates, in addition to the usual mission-related geospatial data management. As GDA implementation continues to ramp up in the future, there is concern that level funding would create a conflict between mission requirements and GDA reporting/administrative and mission responsibilities.

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	Meets Expectations

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	    ○ Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	    ○ Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	    ○ No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3

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

Clarifying Text:

✓ The FGDC Executive Committee has established a Standards Task Team to evaluate the requirements, options, processes, resources, and decision structure required to establish an operational and sustainable FGDC standards process.

✓ The FGDC has not yet established any standards under the GDA, USC 43 Sec 2806.

✓ Refer to the FGDC Standards webpage (https://www.fgdc.gov/standards) for additional information.

✓ 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 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.

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.

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."

- Yes. Metadata for all public datasets are available via GeoPlatform.gov.

6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

In FY23, as part of the FY22 OIG Audit Recommendations 1-3, Commerce expanded Quality Control checks to ensure compliance with the FGDC Technical Guidance: Data.gov and The GeoPlatform Metadata Recommendations. In October 2022, the Census Bureau successfully harvested metadata for 33 NGDAs and 19 non-NGDAs, representing 52 datasets, to Data.gov and GeoPlatform.gov. In FY23, the Census Bureau expanded Quality Control checks to ensure compliance with the FGDC Technical Guidance: Data.gov and the GeoPlatform Metadata Recommendations (December 6, 2022). Additionally, the Census Bureau expanded harvesting of geospatial metadata to include 934 Cartographic Boundary File products.

NOAA has successfully harvested metadata for 24 NGDAs and over 100,000 non-NGDAs to data.gov and 58,000 to GeoPlatform.gov. Members of the Commerce Geospatial Standards Users Group (CGSUG) participated on the FGDC Geospatial Standards Working Group, a working group cosponsored by FGDC and the Chief Data Officer Council, to address the current FGDC standards process and propose a process moving forward. Commerce currently uses ISO 19115-2 "Geographic information - Metadata - Part 2: Extensions for imagery and gridded data" for its metadata formatting. The CGSUG met regularly to discuss standards processes across the Department of Commerce and plans to update standards and the NGDA Standards Inventory.

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	**Meets 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

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

7.1 Are 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.

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
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit associations
- Academia
- Licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals
- Other: International Boundary Commission and International Boundary and Water Commission boundaries are integrated

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.

- 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 process
- Other: Puerto Rico Listening Tour conducted by the Census Bureau

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.

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
- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- MOAs/data sharing agreements

7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

The Census Bureau continues to integrate high-quality address, feature, and boundary data from more than 40,000 tribal, federal, state, and local government partners through partnership programs, such as the BAS and School District Review Program (SDRP) into the MAF/TIGER System (see https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/partnerships.html). In FY23, the Census Bureau established one and renewed ten state level agreements supporting the BAS. These state level agreements promote partnership and data integration from all non-tribal governments within each state

and streamline processes for providing boundary and feature updates to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau also continued developing a Partner Portal, which will enable users to receive customized and controlled access to Census Bureau geographic and statistical information unique to their government. Within the new Partner Portal will be the web version of the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS). GUPS is an application that provides participants with the ability to review and update geospatial data and attributes for the Census Bureau's geographic partnership programs such as the BAS and SDRP.

In FY23, NOAA released enhancements to the Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) portal in response to user needs and stakeholder feedback. The site was originally launched by the White House and federal agency partners in September 2022. As introduced, the portal featured a popular real-time dashboard showing where five climate-related hazards are occurring today. The site's Assessment Tool provided easy access to county-scale information from global climate models. The portal also offered information on the five hazards, lists of federal funding opportunities, and access to open data. Now, users will find more context for why and how they can use CMRA. The update includes specific guidance for checking observation-based data such as FEMA's National Risk Index and NOAA's Billion-Dollar Disasters. The site also helps users move forward in time to recognize how climate-related hazards that occurred in the past might change under conditions projected for the future. Among CMRA's other improvements, opportunities to apply for federal funding for resilience and adaptation projects are now more obvious, and a new hazard—extreme cold—has been added to the site. Users can also find updates to federal plans, policies, and standards related to climate. The site will continue to evolve through 2024, incorporating results from the latest global climate model experiments.

USC 43 Sec 2808(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	**Meets Expectations**

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

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?

- Yes

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
- ✓ Outreach/communications for user feedback
- ✓ Making data open, standardized, or machine readable

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?

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

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?

- 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
The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Census Quality Metrics Viewer. This map provides a visual tool for exploring the recently released operational quality metrics for counties and census tracts. The metrics show how the 2020 Census collected data within the counties and census tracts and can provide insight on the quality of the census.	https://maps.geo.census.gov/qmv/map.html
The U.S. Census Bureau released the Community Resilience Estimates Viewer for Puerto Rico to the public. The Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) for Puerto Rico Viewer shows the social vulnerability in Puerto Rico in the event of a disaster. Using restricted microdata from the 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) and small area modeling, the CRE creates population estimates based on ten individual/household level risk factors.	https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=e851575739ca4b4281037d92cc62cbd4
NOAA led an interagency effort to support the Biden Administration's launch of the Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) portal, an interactive mapping website that helps people assess their local exposure to climate-related hazards. The CMRA Assessment Tool allows users to determine which people, property, and infrastructure could be impacted by climate-related hazards in their location, and what options are available to protect these assets.	https://resilience.climate.gov/

Example	Link
The National Climate Assessment (NCA) Interactive Atlas is a companion to the static 5th National Climate Assessment (NCA5) Report. The NCA Interactive Atlas offers interactive maps that show projections of future conditions in the U.S. and allows users to zoom to any county of interest and view a summary of projected conditions, compare projected conditions at four global warming levels, view an illustrated summary of NCA5 in 15 maps, and access the data as web services.	https://atlas.globalchange.gov/
The NOAA Digital Coast Partnership is a prime example of the benefits of connecting the federal government with local leaders. This group of eight non-governmental membership organizations has expertise in a wide range of policy and technical issues. The Digital Coast also provides an effective platform for these groups to work together to address coastal issues. Partnerships are covered by Memorandums of Agreement, Memorandums of Understanding, and other similar agreements.	https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/about/partnership.html

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

8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Census Bureau successfully released the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) web-based application to the cloud for the BAS and SDRP. This application will provide a web-based option for tribal, state, and local government partners to load, display, and edit geospatial boundary and feature data, as well as perform reviews of changes and generate output files that the Census Bureau may use to update the MAF/TIGER System. This milestone marks a significant step towards ensuring the Census Bureau continues to make progress towards USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(7) and USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(8) through the creation of a cost-efficient open source-based software developed for the Census Bureau by a private sector partner to enhance dissemination and collection of new and/or updated geographic data from government agencies at the tribal, state, and local level. Moving forward, this application is planned to be expanded to be utilized for a variety of annual and decennial partnership programs and operations.

To help Americans anticipate how changing climate conditions might affect their homes and businesses, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) conducts a comprehensive review of scientific information on climate trends and impacts in our country every four years. The 5th National Climate Assessment — often referred to as NCA5 — was published in 2023 (https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/). In FY23, NOAA in partnership with the USGCRP launched the first ever National Climate Assessment (NCA) Interactive Atlas (https://atlas.globalchange.gov/), as a companion mapping product to the Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA5) Report. The NCA Atlas provides digital access to downscaled climate projections and sea level rise maps used in NCA5. The Atlas offers interactive maps that show projections of future climate conditions in the United States. While the NCA5 Report is a static report of limited length, the NCA Interactive Atlas allows users to zoom to any county of interest and view a summary of projected conditions or access the swipe feature to compare projected conditions at four global warming levels. Users who want to get their cursor on the data behind the maps within the Atlas can access the data as web services that support a variety of mapping and analysis workflows. The NCA5 Report and Interactive Atlas are considered the US Government's preeminent report on climate change impacts, risks, and responses. It is a congressionally mandated interagency effort that provides the scientific foundation to support informed decision-making across the United States.

GDA Requirement	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations

KEY to Self-Assessment	• **Meets expectations =**
	   o Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2
	• **Made progress toward expectations =**
	   o Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 **or** 9.2
	• **Fails to meet expectations =**
	   o No to Questions 9.1 **or** 9.2

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 is 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)?

- Yes. All agency geospatial data is housed in a system covered by a current ATO and is appropriately protected in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 in addressing USC 43 Sec 2808(a)(9), "protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law." If your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

The Department of Commerce complies with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA), FIPS 200: Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems, the Government Act of 2002, and the OMB Circular A-130: Management of Federal Information Resources. The Census Bureau released v1.1 of the Office of Information Security Risk Management Program Authority to Operate (ATO) Process guide in July 2021. The Census Bureau follows the guidelines for initial and ongoing authorizations. A powerful new disclosure avoidance system (DAS) designed to withstand modern re-identification threats protects 2020 Census data products (other than the apportionment data; those state-level totals remain unaltered by statistical noise). More information can be found at: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planningmanagement/process/disclosure-avoidance.html.

NOAA coordinated with the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) team to identify opportunities to engage in Privacy Compliance before any PII collections from license applicants within the scope of 15 CFR 960, or from remote sensing devices. To this end, NOAA proposed Privacy Act Statements (PAS) in order to ensure proper 5 USC 552a(e)(3) compliance at the point of PII collection, as well as recommended System of Records Notice (SORN) coverage for the data to be collected. This will help ensure that the PII datasets, and rights to privacy for both licensees, as well any individuals whose PII may be collected through CRSRA activities, are protected and properly managed throughout the data lifecycle.

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

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 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

NA for both the Census Bureau and NOAA. The Department of Commerce does not have a formal process for determining whether declassified data at the Department can contribute to and become part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Any classified geospatial data the Department uses in its mission activities originate from other Departments and agencies. As such, the Department is not the originating entity and therefore has no authority to declassify the original data. The Department has worked with originating agencies to declassify derivative products for specific use cases; however, in those cases the declassification and product dissemination was the responsibility of the originating agency. The Department maintains situational awareness of classified geospatial data through its involvement with the Civil Applications Committee.

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	**Meets Expectations**

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

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 data procurement.

- Yes

11.1.a 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.

11.1.b 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
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy

11.1.c 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?

- Yes

Title	Description
USDA Farm Service Agency's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)	The Census Bureau has continued the cost share agreement with the USDA to help fund NAIP and expand coverage to include Puerto Rico and Hawaii. This agreement also provides the Census Bureau with access to imagery necessary to support ongoing MAF/TIGER System updates. National Agriculture Imagery Program - NAIP Hub Site (https://naip-usdaonline.hub.arcgis.com/)
United States Postal Service (USPS) Delivery Sequence File (DSF)	The DSF is a nationwide address file of all USPS residential and commercial units receiving mail. It provides information about existing, new and non-viable addresses. The data received from the USPS on the DSF and updated in the MAF is a foundational component to ensuring new addresses are added to the MAF and existing addresses and attribution changes are updated accordingly.
Non-profit Survey Data	Survey data acquired by non-profits such as The Ocean Exploration Trust with its research vessel Nautilus and the Schmidt Ocean Institute's extensive work in the Pacific Islands using its vessel Falkor are now routinely added to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information Multibeam Bathymetry Database.
Data-sharing with Orstead	Data-sharing effort with the wind energy company Orsted, which signed an agreement with NOAA in January 2021. As discussions for the data transfer were underway, it became clear that Orsted's data standards for its own needs (e.g., bathymetric surveys, wind/weather obs, water levels, currents, other metocean obs) exceed those of NOAA. Data from Orsted began arriving at NOAA in November 2022.
NOAA's Brennan Matching Fund	NOAA's ocean and coastal mapping programs annually invites non-Federal entities to partner on jointly-funded mapping projects of mutual interest under the NOAA Rear Admiral Richard T. Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund program (Brennan Matching Fund). NOAA matches up to five selected non-Federal partners for contract mapping projects in ocean, coastal and/or Great Lakes waters. Non-Federal partners benefit from this opportunity by leveraging NOAA's contracting and data management expertise.

Table 11.a. Examples of Successful Data Acquisition Searches and/or Coordination.

11.2 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

To avoid duplication of geospatial data, offices and operating units within the Department work hard to not expend funds to acquire or produce geospatial data if an existing source for that data is available

and meets mission requirements. Departmental offices and operating units are in constant communication with other organizations, both within and outside of the Department, to discuss and share data to the fullest extent possible. The Census Bureau leverages several federal sources for data that meet existing and future needs. The National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) is one source that has been utilized by the Census Bureau to support a multitude of efforts related to the updating of the MAF/TIGER System. A cost-sharing agreement has been initiated and implemented by the Census Bureau, including funding in FY23. The Census Bureau also continued data sharing efforts with the United States Postal Service (USPS) by utilizing the Delivery Sequence FIle (DSF) for the continued comparison and updating of the Master Address File (MAF). The DSF is a nationwide address file of all USPS residential and commercial units receiving mail. It provides information about existing, new, and non-viable addresses. The data received from the USPS on the DSF and updated in the MAF is a foundational component to ensuring new addresses are added to the MAF and existing addresses and attribution changes are updated accordingly. NOAA leads the Integrated Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) to facilitate the coordination of ocean and coastal mapping activities and avoid duplicating mapping activities across the Federal sector and with state, industry, academic and non-governmental mapping interests. The IWG-OCM and the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) demonstrate one way to work together on coordinated mapping requirements and acquisition plans of Federal and state agencies around the country through the U.S. Mapping Coordination site (https://www.seasketch.org/#projecthomepage/5272840f6ec5f42d210016e4/layers). This site, open to all, is a geospatial platform to share outlines of mapping priorities and collaborating partners projects. The IWG-OCM is also conducting multiple Spatial Priorities Studies, which comprehensively gather the priorities of ocean and coastal mapping partners and those that rely on coastal and ocean mapping data. This study asks IOCM partners to define areas where they need mapping data in our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, and briefly explain why and what they want to do with it. These studies will allow Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM) partners to see where there are overlaps in requirements so that resources can be allocated efficiently. Other study goals include enabling participants to coordinate better and leverage resources where there is a shared mapping need.

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	Meets 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

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

12.1.a 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.
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- The agency acquires data from another federal agency that is responsible for QA/QC.

12.2 Brief Summary (Limit 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

The Census Bureau only acquires high quality datasets. For example, in FY23 to continue its ongoing enhancements of the data residing in the MAF/TIGER System, the Census Bureau purchased Regrid's combined parcel and building footprint data to assist with the evaluation of the completeness and accuracy of the MAF/TIGER System and to isolate where updates may be required. To ensure the quality

of the data prior to purchase, the Census Bureau staff acquired a sample of the data to assess.

The NOAA Data Management Directives Handbook specifies the following requirements: "Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely- used or international standards" and "Proposals submitted must include a DMP of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied."
The NOAA Data Management Directives Handbook provides Data Management Guidance for NOAA Funding Programs, and text to be included in FFO Announcements and Contract Solicitations for projects that may generate environmental data (including Broad Agency Announcements). In addition, NOAA regularly meets with partners to share research initiatives and progress, and to discuss ways to further our partnerships.

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

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 3000 characters, or approximately 450 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in FY2023 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 your FY2023 rating has changed since FY2022, please include details on how and why the rating changed.

Commerce has established and maintains lead points of contact for all required GDA and FGDC requirements. The Commerce SAOGI is Tony LaVoi, NOAA CDO. The Census Bureau leads or co-leads 2 NGDA themes and participates in the activities of 3 others. NOAA leads or co-leads 4 NGDA themes and participates in the activities of 3 others. The Census Bureau and NOAA have appointed contacts to all applicable themes. Address Theme: Matthew Zimolzak, Census Bureau Co-Lead Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Nicolle Rutherford, NOAA Member Cadastre Theme: Roxanne Alban, Census Bureau Member Climate and Weather Theme: Gregory Schoor, Mark Glaudemans, NOAA Co-Leads Elevation Theme: Ashley Chappell, NOAA Co-Lead Geodetic Control Theme: Dan Roman, NOAA Lead Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme: Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, Census Bureau Lead Imagery Theme: Peter Reid, Census Bureau Member, Doug Graham, NOAA Member International Boundaries Theme: Roxanne Clifton, Census Bureau Co-Chair Land Use - Land Cover Theme: Nate Herold, NOAA Member Transportation Theme: David Cackowski, Census Bureau Member Water - Oceans and Coasts Theme: Courtney Thompson, Leland Snyder, NOAA Co-Leads.

(Optional) Highlight – a Key GDA-Related Activity or Achievement

This optional section provides an opportunity to briefly highlight a key activity or achievement in making progress toward GDA-related requirements. This submission will be considered for use in the upcoming FGDC Summary Report or the Report to Congress. Please note that this activity or achievement may have already been highlighted in the Brief Summaries or the Optional 2-page Appendix B Document (if provided). (Limit 2000 characters, or approximately 300 words)

In FY23, Census Bureau released the ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard, which was developed in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The dashboard is designed to help policymakers and the public assess how changes in broadband availability and adoption could impact local economies. The interactive dashboard includes a series of maps displaying statistics on broadband access as well as select social and economic characteristics.

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. (Note: For some agencies, this may be an appropriate response.)

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 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 or communities of interest
- 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)

Appendix B: Optional 2-Page Document

Commerce GDA Covered Agency Report Executive Summary
January 12, 2024

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) performs a critical service for the Nation in overseeing and managing its geospatial data as required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). Commerce serves as the lead or co-lead for six of the 18 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Themes and 58 total datasets within these Themes. This accounts for Commerce overseeing roughly one third of the entire NGDA federal portfolio. As in prior years, geospatial activities within the Department were coordinated through the Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG) established by the Commerce Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information.

In FY23, Commerce continued to make progress towards meeting the covered agency GDA requirements, as well as completing actions from the Commerce Geospatial Strategy (FY21-24) and the companion implementation document, the Commerce Geospatial Strategic Action Plan.

The four goals in the Commerce Geospatial Strategy align directly with requirements in the Geospatial Data Act:

- Govern and Manage Geospatial Data
- Advance the maturity and expand the sources of Commerce National Geospatial Data Assets
- Enable and promote collaborative partnerships to meet Commerce geospatial needs, priorities, and missions
- Foster a diverse Commerce geospatial workforce to meet current and emerging needs

Commerce staff were very active members of the FGDC Executive Committee during FY23, supporting all the FGDC Executive Committee priority work areas. This includes Census staff leading the development of the next National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan, which is one of the top FGDC priorities in FY23-24.

Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Geospatial Audit

During FY22, Commerce underwent the biennial Commerce Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit of GDA performance. This effort is following the initial audit occurring in 2020, of which five of the six findings have been closed. The remaining finding to develop procedures to ensure consistent implementation of the Policy on Planned Geospatial Acquisitions remains open due to delays in OMB Circular A-16 release that will inform said procedures.

The second audit, beginning January 2022 and concluding in September 2022 concluded with five additional recommendations to address in FY23. During FY23, all five additional recommendations were addressed by the CGWG team and NGDA theme leads and closed by the Commerce Inspector General. Efforts included standardizing metadata formatting with the FGDC Technical Guidance, coordinating with the GeoPlatform and data.gov teams, and producing compliance plans and guidance for metadata. Members of the CGWG were crucial

participants in this audit and provided information for the information requests by the OIG during the audit and in fulfilling the recommendations.

International Accomplishments

The Department of Commerce is represented at the international level though its leadership in many organizations including serving as the Head of the U.S. Delegation of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), Co-Chair of the United Nations High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF), Co-Chair of the UN-GGIM Marine Geospatial Working Group, Member of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, and President of U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). Commerce staff also lead sub-committees and working groups of these organizations. Highlights of this past year primarily involve the UN-GGIM and include the publishing of the 2023 Annual Report[3] of the HLG-IGIF and the leading the UN-IGIF Forum Meeting[4] which was coordinated and chaired by DOC staff. This meeting, titled "Advancing and Implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework," was a featured side-event at the 13th Session of the UN-GGIM. DOC was also successful in initiating several resolutions promoting the UN-IGIF. PAIGH unanimously approved a resolution[5] to support and promote the UN-IGIF in the Americas region. During the annual Geospatial Leadership Awards[6] at Geospatial World Forum on May 3, Deirdre Bishop (Chief, Geography Division, Census Bureau), received the 2023 Geospatial Ambassador of the Year award.

Many staff support international activities and represent the Department in meetings across the country and abroad. For example, DOC staff participate as members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/TC 211 (through ANSI) and INCITS/GIS. This year, DOC continued to participate in *ISO 19160-2 Addressing — Part 2: Assigning and maintaining addresses for objects in the physical world*. Currently out for ballot on Final Draft International Standard, it supports the UN-IGIF by "enabling geospatial (address) information governance, policy and institutional arrangements that ensure effective geospatial (address) information management, accommodate individual organizational requirements and arrangements, and are aligned to national and global policy frameworks" (https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:19160:-2:dis:ed-1:v1:en).

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[3] 2023 Annual Report: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2023-9-Add_1_IGIF_18Jul2023.pdf
[4] UN-GIF Forum Meeting: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-session/side_event/Concept_Note_IGIF_Forum_8.1.23-Advancing%20and%20Implementing%20the%20IGIF_Final.pdf
[5] Resolution: https://www.ipgh.org/mx/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/23AG_ENG_RES_1.pdf
[6] Geospatial Leadership Awards: https://www.geospatialworld.net/news/geospatial-world-leadership-awards-2023-announced-rotterdam/

As members of the Steering Committee of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI), staff assisted with the organization of the Seventh Meeting of the Expert Group (EG) in Santiago, Chile from December 1-2, 2022[7] delivered a presentation on the strategic direction of the EG-ISGI,[8] assisted with finalizing roles and responsibilities in support of the EG's 2022-2024 Work Plan,[9] and accepted a co-lead role with the United Kingdom on a full editorial review of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.[10]

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[7] Seventh Meeting of the Expert Group: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2022/7th_mtg_EG_ISGI/
[8] Presentation: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2022/7th_mtg_EG_ISGI/documents/4b.%20Deidre%20Bishop.pdf
[9] EG's 2022-2024 Work Plan: https://ggim.un.org/documents/EG-ISGI-Work-Plan-2022-2024-E.pdf
[10] Global Statistical Geospatial Framework: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/The_GSGF.pdf