

Imagery Theme Strategic Plan FY2025 - 2027

Geospatial Data Act of 2018
Section USC 43 Sec 2805(b)(3) Requirements

September 30, 2024



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Introduction

This Imagery Theme Strategic Plan (henceforth Plan), developed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, spans three years, FY 2025 - FY 2027. The Plan outlines a strategy to achieve progress toward meeting [Section 2805 of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018](#)¹ (GDA). The Plan derives its origin from Sec. 2805 (b)(3)(B) to “provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.” The Plan is organized by goals, addressing major subsections of Sec. 2805, objectives supporting the goals, and anticipated actions to be taken over the lifecycle of the Plan to achieve progress.² In addition to meeting GDA requirements, these goals and objectives align with the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\) Strategic Plan](#)³ as required by Section 2805(b)(3)(C). A crosswalk of the GDA and the NSDI Strategic Plan can be found in Appendix A of this document. For each FY covered by the Plan, the lead covered agency theme (see Background below) will generate an annual performance report, as required by the GDA, to inform on progress in achieving the Plan.

Background

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), henceforth Committee, is composed of both covered and non-covered agencies as defined by the GDA. For each National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data theme (henceforth theme), the Committee designates one or more covered agencies as lead covered agencies (LCA) for the theme. As called for in the [OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance](#),⁴ the lead covered agencies designate theme leads to oversee the management of the theme. The lead covered agencies have taken a coordinated approach to addressing GDA section 2805.

Starting in late FY 2022 and continuing into FY 2023, lead covered agencies collaborated on a common approach to improving annual performance reporting.⁵ The result is a Theme Strategic Plan template for use by all themes based on a common set of goals and objectives to meet the GDA requirements. This approach ensures the application of a common set of metrics and allows the FGDC Office of the

¹ <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/43-usc-ch-46-geospatial-data-geospatial-data-act.pdf#page=8>

² Sec 2802(c)(A)(i) an evaluation of the progress of each lead covered agency in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of section 2805(b)(3) of this title; and (ii) a determination of whether, for each of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of section 2805(b)(3) of this title, each lead covered agency meets expectations, has made progress toward expectations, or fails to meet expectations.

³ <https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>

⁴ https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-03.pdf.

It should be noted that the revised Circular A-16 is currently in development for release by the Office of Management and Budget for use by the FGDC Community. Associated Technical Guidance may be developed by FGDC once the revised Circular is released.

⁵ NSDI Strategic Plan Goal 1.3. Identify common approaches and tools to meet GDA and related planning and reporting requirements.

Sec 2805 (b)(3)(E)(ii)(I): (ii) submit to the Committee—

(I) a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D).

Secretariat (FGDC OS) to provide a consistent summary of individual and collective progress made by all themes in meeting GDA requirements. Depending on their complexity, themes may expand beyond the common set of goals, objectives, and actions within the template. In subsequent years, within the lifecycle of the Plan, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) for the Imagery Theme will provide an annual report that includes status on identified actions and demonstrates progress made in achieving the Plan goals and objectives aligned to the GDA requirements.

As the Lead Covered Agencies for the Imagery Theme, the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Production and Conservation developed this Plan to detail the activities necessary to achieve a shared vision for the Imagery Theme initially described in *Appendix E* of the 2010 revision of the *OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance* as one of the nine framework themes.

- *“This dataset contains georeferenced images of the Earth's surface, collected by a sensor in which image object displacement has been removed for sensor distortions and orientation, and terrain relief. For very large surface areas, an Earth curvature correction may be applied. Digital orthoimages encode the optical electromagnetic spectrum as discrete values modeled in an array of georeferenced pixels. Digital orthoimages have the geometric characteristics of a map, and image qualities of a photograph.”⁶*

The Imagery Theme was later endorsed by the FGDC Steering Committee in 2011 as one of sixteen (16) NGDA Themes.

- *Georeferenced images of the Earth's surface, which have been collected via aerial photography or satellite data. Orthoimagery is prepared through a geometric correction process known as orthorectification to remove image displacements due to relief and sensor characteristics, allowing their use as base maps for digital mapping and analyses in a GIS. Specific imagery data sets created through image interpretation and classification, such as a land cover image, can be found under themes specific to the subject matter. Includes imagery such as Landsat, National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQs).⁷*

⁶ OMB Circular No. A-16 Revised,” Office of Management and Budget, August 19, 2002, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Circular-016.pdf>

⁷ National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Themes list with theme descriptions and theme leads agencies. Endorsed by the Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee August 19, 2011, Revised February 1, 2013. <https://www.fgdc.gov/initiatives/resources/2013-2-1-ngda-data-themes-fgdc-sc-revised.pdf>.

This Plan offers a framework for maintaining and maturing the Theme to meet the needs of the imagery community. The goals and objectives reflect Theme priorities over the next three years (2025-2027). This general outline for the Plan specifies important coordination, activities, and approaches for the administration, development, and advancement of the Imagery Theme and its key content. This Plan promotes interoperability of Imagery Theme data but does not suggest a particular structure for the interchange of Imagery. Data producers and users may structure geographic area boundary data in any format for their internal use. The goals of the plan are threefold:

Goal 1: Administer the Theme.

Goal 2: Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.

Goal 3: Assess Metadata and Data Standards.

Additionally, the Plan recognizes that the benefits of the Theme will be enhanced through improvement of the completeness, quality, interoperability, accessibility of Imagery data and derived products from current and emerging technologies, for user community.

I. Goal: 2805(b)(3)(E) – Administer the Theme

The Committee designates National Geospatial Data Asset data themes (henceforth theme).⁸ The Committee also designates one or more covered agencies as the lead covered agencies for each theme.⁹ Themes may include NGDA datasets that are contributed by other covered agencies and non-covered agencies. The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) are designated the leads for the Imagery Theme.

I.A. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) – Point of Contact

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to designate a point of contact within the lead covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform.

GDA Reference

(b) *Lead covered agencies*

(3) *Specific responsibilities*

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

(i) *designate a point of contact within the lead covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform;*

⁸ Sec 2805(a) the term "National Geospatial Data Asset data theme" is defined as the National Geospatial Data Asset core geospatial datasets (including electronic records and coordinates) relating to a topic or subject designated under section 2805 of this title.

⁹ Sec 2805(b)(1) For each National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the Committee shall designate one or more covered agencies as the lead covered agencies for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.

I.A.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(i) – Point of Contact

The USGS and FPAC shall designate a point of contact (POC) who will be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordinating, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform. The POC will be updated and reported annually. In addition to annual reporting, the USGS and FPAC shall inform the Committee of interim changes to the POC as necessary to maintain continuity.

I.B. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I) – Annual Reporting

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to submit a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

(ii) *submit to the Committee—*

(I) *a performance report, at least annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D); and*

I.B.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I) – Annual Reporting

The USGS and FPAC shall submit a performance report annually, that documents the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D).

I.C. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II) – Annual Report Comments

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to submit comments to the Committee about the annual performance summary, as appropriate.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

(ii) *submit to the Committee—*

(II) *comments, as appropriate, regarding the summary and evaluation of the performance report provided by the Committee under section 2802(c)(12) of this title;*

I.C.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II) – Annual Report Comments

The USGS and FPAC shall submit comments, as appropriate, regarding the summary and evaluation of the performance report provided by the FGDC OS under section 2802(c)(12).

The Executive Champions (DOI Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) and USDA GIO), Theme Leads, and alternate POCs will review the annual performance report provided by the FGDC OS under section 2802(c)(12).

Goal: 2805(b)(3)(B) – Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme

The Imagery Theme Leads developed this Plan in coordination with the agencies that manage and contribute to NGDA datasets within the Theme. Over the next three years, the Theme Leads shall facilitate the implementation of this Plan through annual performance reporting. Each of the following goals and objectives within this Plan support the nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme in direct correlation with the GDA.

I.D. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(i) – Partnerships

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to develop partnership programs with states, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other federal agencies, and local governments.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—

(i) include developing partnership programs with States, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other Federal agencies, and local governments;

I.D.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(i) – Partnerships

The USGS and FPAC shall continue to provide leadership for longstanding interagency imagery partnerships that continue to offer multiple venues to guide satellite land imaging missions, data programs, and coordination. Primary groups include:

- **The Sustainable Land Imaging (SLI) program.** The Landsat satellite program, a joint USGS-National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) venture, is the world’s longest running space-based Earth observation program. It provides a continuous 52-year record of changes to the Earth’s surface. The program provides publicly available, foundational data and science that is essential to farmers and ranchers, land managers, and others whose decisions depend on accurate information for effective management of wildfire, drought and floods, coastal change, and myriad of other challenges. Under the joint USGS/NASA SLI, the Landsat program’s legacy will be enhanced with future missions that provide global land imaging with greater temporal frequency, finer spatial resolution, and richer spectral information, with mission architectures that reflect both advances in technology and user priorities for land monitoring. SLI recognizes the value of augmenting Landsat data through international partnerships and commercial

capabilities. In the 2025-2027 timeframe Landsat Next satellite and ground systems development will be underway.

- **The National Digital Orthoimagery Program (NDOP)** Subcommittee is an interagency group that coordinates the development and maintenance of national orthoimagery coverage in the public domain through partnerships with Federal, State, local, tribal, and private organizations. NDOP facilitates interagency participation in the development of the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), which provides high-resolution imagery of the Continental United States approximately every two years for agriculture and conservation management and serves a myriad of other applications. Imagery has also more recently been acquired for Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands but is not anticipated to be acquired on the two-year cycle. NDOP also provides a collaborative forum for investigating new imagery technologies and coordinating user needs. In the 2025-2027 timeframe the NAIP will continue to increase the resolution and timeliness of its imagery collection and dissemination activities.
- **The Civil Applications Committee (CAC)** facilitates the appropriate civil uses of overhead remote sensing technologies and data collected by military and intelligence capabilities, including from commercial satellite sources. The CAC is operated and staffed by the USGS on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior and its interagency partners. The Director of the U.S. Geological Survey serves as the CAC chair, and the vice-chair is a non-Department of the Interior senior official. In the 2025-2027 timeframe the CAC expects to increase the diversity of commercial satellite access available to civil agencies.
- **The U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO)** is an interagency coordination mechanism for Departments and Federal Agencies' civil Earth observations activities. USGEO is a Subcommittee under the White House National Science and Technology Council's Committee on the Environment. Among its purposes, the USGEO coordinates, plans, and assesses Federal Earth observation activities in cooperation with domestic stakeholders. The USGEO Satellite Needs Working Group identifies interagency needs for NASA satellite observations and data products and other imagery and Earth observation solutions.
- **The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)** is a Federal Advisory Committee sponsored by the Department of the Interior. The NGAC is authorized under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) is a standing subcommittee of the NGAC. The NGAC includes members from Federal and State agencies, academia, and commercial groups, while the LAG includes both NGAC members and members with specific areas of remote sensing expertise.

I.E. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(ii) and 2805(b)(3)(D) – User Needs

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to meet the needs of users of geospatial data including a process to, as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of NGDA within the Theme and incorporate the needs of those users into strategies related to the NGDA data theme.

GDA References

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—

(ii) meet the needs of users of geospatial data;

AND

(b)(3)(D) as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme regarding the needs of the users for geospatial data and incorporate the needs of users in strategies relating to the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme;

I.E.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(ii) and 2805(b)(3)(D) – User Needs

- As part of the SLI, the USGS leads broad engagement with imagery users across the Federal civil community and rigorously documents their needs for continued and enhanced observations to formulate future Landsat missions. Needs that can be met by complementary data from international partners and the commercial sector are also captured through this process. During the 2025-2027 timeframe, USGS will be refreshing the needs collected to inform future Landsat missions.
- The National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) primarily acquires aerial imagery during the peak growing seasons in the United States to optimize its utility to U.S. farm programs. NAIP responds to the need to make digital ortho photography available to governmental agencies and the public within a year of acquisition. NAIP needs are evaluated through USDA in coordination with the NDOP. NAIP receives input and needs from Federal and State agencies and other partners. During the 2025-2027 timeframe, NAIP will continue to enhance its data collection and dissemination activities through cooperative funding partner engagement and in response to evolving needs to support agriculture programs.
- The Civil Applications Committee (CAC) collects and fulfills civil agency commercial satellite tasking requests to support civil environmental, natural, and other applications. Tasking requests are vetted through the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and fulfilled through National Reconnaissance Office commercial satellite. In the 2025-2027 timeframe, the CAC will be addressing user needs for more diverse commercial satellite capabilities, products, and analytics.
- The use of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) has increased at multiple federal agencies and are being used for project-based, high-resolution science and operational applications. Guidelines have been developed, such as the Department of the Interior UAS imagery Guidelines for calibration of uncrewed aircraft systems imagery, as well as specifications for data delivery. As UAS sources continue to mature, it will be advantageous to assure that standards development accommodates these key data sources.

I.F. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iii) – Human and Financial Resources

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to provide leadership and facilitate a plan to address human and financial resource needs for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme.

GDA Reference

(b) *Lead covered agencies*

(3) *Specific responsibilities*

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(B) *provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

(iii) *address human and financial resource needs;*

The Landsat partnership between USGS and NASA is defined by an interagency agreement, governed through a senior DOI and NASA Joint Steering Committee, and funded through respective budget processes. In general, NASA is responsible for developing the space segment and USGS is responsible for developing the ground segment. In the 2025-2027, USGS and NASA budgets will focus on these segments accordingly. NAIP is an interagency data program partnership led by USDA with contributing funds from multiple Federal civil and state agencies. Budget comes through participating agency budget processes. During the FY25-FY27 timeframe, the focus will be on updating coverage as frequently as possible at the highest resolution subject to funding availability.

Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iii) – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online

GDA Reference

(b) *Lead covered agencies*

(3) *Specific responsibilities*

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) *as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—*

(iii) *publish maps or comparable graphics online (in accordance with the mapping conventions specified by the Committee) showing the extent and status of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes for which the covered agency is a lead covered agency;*

I.F.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iii) – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online

The Imagery Theme will provide links to additional information about each NGDA through the Imagery Theme’s GeoPlatform hub site. NGDA website links will point to the most relevant authoritative content for each NGDA including maps and graphics showing extent, status, and other information. Additionally, the Theme will ensure that NDGA GeoPlatform links point to the correct spatial extent map and status information.

I.G. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iv) – Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to encourage Theme data and metadata sources to share their data via the GeoPlatform.

GDA Reference

(b) *Lead covered agencies*

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—

(iv) encourage individuals and entities that are a source of geospatial data or metadata for geospatial data for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme to provide access to such data through the GeoPlatform;

I.G.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(iv) – Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform

The Theme will utilize several coordination activities and venues, including NDOP meetings, to encourage geospatial data and metadata sharing via the GeoPlatform.

I.H. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(v) – Coordinate with the GeoPlatform

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to coordinate with the GeoPlatform as part of administering the NGDA data theme.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—

(v) coordinate with the GeoPlatform;

The Theme will coordinate with the GeoPlatform as part of administering the Imagery NGDAs for the geospatial data and metadata harvest to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform using best practices recommended by the FGDC. Coordination is expected with the GeoPlatform (servicedesk@geoplatform.gov), the NGDA Portfolio Team (NGDATeam@fgdc.gov), and NGDA dataset managers to facilitate clear understanding of documented requirements for providing data access through the GeoPlatform. Examples of coordination efforts include participation in monthly Theme Community or other meetings and training sessions, feedback on draft and final guidance, and seeking other technical support and guidance as needed. FY25-FY27 actions to improve the user experience on the GeoPlatform will include diversifying the Imagery Theme hub site content, maps, and resources.

Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Publish Proven Geospatial Practices

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the LCA as part of administering the NGDA data theme.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(E) as part of administering the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme—

(vi) identify and publish proven practices for the use and application of geospatial data of the lead covered agency.

I.H.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Publish Proven Geospatial Practices

The USGS and FPAC will provide links to proven practices (e.g., available instructions, how to manuals, etc.) for the use and application of the Theme’s NGDA data as published by the agencies. In the FY25-FY27 timeframe the USGS and FPAC will continue to disseminate practices that facilitate provision of NGDA data and metadata to the GeoPlatform.

II. Goal: 2805(b)(3)(A), (b)(3)(B)(iv) – Assess Metadata and Data Standards

To maximize the utility of the theme, the GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify needs related to the following three items: data standards for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, metadata standards for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, and access to NGDA data and metadata through the GeoPlatform.

II.A. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Metadata Standards

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to identify needs related to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the NGDA data theme, and the GeoPlatform to ensure that the NGDA are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

GDA Reference

(b) *Lead covered agencies*

(3) *Specific responsibilities*

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(B) *provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, which shall—*

(iv) *identify needs relating to standards, metadata for geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, and the GeoPlatform;*

The Committee published the *FGDC Technical Guidance: Data.gov and The GeoPlatform Metadata Recommendations - including Guidelines for National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA)* to recommend best practices for meeting GDA and other federal policy requirements. The document outlines best practices for creating geospatial metadata and specifies metadata content recommendations which support the discovery of NGDA Datasets within Data.gov and the GeoPlatform. This document, along with related metadata examples, is published on <https://www.fgdc.gov/technical-guidance>.

II.A.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iv) – Metadata Standards

The Theme will provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme to include needs for standards, metadata, and the GeoPlatform. In the FY2025-2027 timeframe, the Theme will develop metadata expertise at the Theme and NGDA level and promote metadata best practices.

II.B. Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Data Standards

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to develop a plan to originate and implement needed standards consistent with relevant community and international practices in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A–119, or any successor thereto.

GDA Reference

(b) Lead covered agencies

(3) Specific responsibilities

To assist in fulfilling the responsibilities under paragraph (2) with respect to a National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, the lead covered agencies shall—

(A) provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of geospatial data standards for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, with a particular emphasis on a data content standard for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including by—

(i) assessing existing standards;

(ii) identifying anticipated or needed data standards; and

(iii) developing a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices—

NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory

In 2021, the lead covered agencies participated in an FGDC-conducted NGDA standards inventory. This inventory was the initial action to identify the standards currently in use, or that needed to be removed or replaced, in the Committee’s list of previously endorsed standards. The inventory will be used to inform the changes required in the FGDC-approved standards list once the Committee implements a process to “establish and maintain geospatial data standards” in accordance with the GDA. The standards inventory results and background information are available on the GeoPlatform NGDA Portfolio [Standards](#)¹⁰ page.

II.B.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(A)(i); (ii); (iii) – Data Standards

The Theme will document data content and data quality standards, and develop and implement plans for nationwide population of the NGDA data theme considering needs for data standards and the GeoPlatform. In the 2025-2027 timeframe, actions to document the theme’s use of data content and data quality standards include updating the current inventory of data content and data quality standards in use by the NGDAs on the Imagery Theme Community hub site.

¹⁰ <https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/nbsi-standards>

Appendix A: NGDA Data Themes (GDA Sec 2805) and NSDI Strategic Plan Crosswalk

The following is a crosswalk of National Geospatial Data Asset Data Themes (GDA Sec 2805) referenced within this Plan as the GDA relates to the NSDI Strategic Plan.

Goal	GDA Section	NSDI	GDA
I.	2805(b)(3)(E)	1.3, 2.1, 4.1	Goal: Administration of the Theme
I.A.	2805(b)(3)(E)(i)		Objective: Point of Contact
I.B.	2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(I)	2.1, 4.1	Objective: Annual Reporting
I.C.	2805(b)(3)(E)(ii)(II)	2.1, 4.1	Objective: Annual Report Comments
II.	2805(b)(3)(B)	2.1-2.4, 3.1-3.4	Goal: Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme
II.A.	2805(b)(3)(B)(i)	4.1-4.5	Objective: Partnerships
II.B.	2805(b)(3)(B)(ii), 2805(b)(3)(D)	2.4 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2	Objective: User Needs
II.C.	2805(b)(3)(B)(iii)	4.4	Objective: Human and Financial Resources
II.D.	2805(b)(3)(E)(iii)	2.4, 3.1-3.4	Objective: – Publish Maps or Comparable Graphics Online
II.E.	2805(b)(3)(E)(iv)	2.4, 3.1-3.4	Objective: Provide Access to NGDA Through the GeoPlatform
II.F.	2805(b)(3)(E)(v)	3.1	Objective: Coordinate with the GeoPlatform
II.G.	2805(b)(3)(E)(vi)	2.4	Objective: Publish Proven Geospatial Practices
III.	2805(b)(3)(A), (b)(3)(B)(iv)	3.4, 4.5	Goal: Data and Metadata Standards
III.A.	2805(b)(3)(B)(iv)	3.4, 4.5	Objective: Metadata Standards
III.B.	2805(b)(3)(A)(i)-(iii)	3.4, 4.5	Objective: Plan for Standards

Appendix B: Theme Roles and Responsibilities¹¹

Role	Who	Responsibilities
Lead Covered Agency (LCA)	The DOI/USGS and USDA/FPAC are the Lead Covered Agency for the Governmental Units Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads coordination of an NGDA Theme in compliance with the Geospatial Data Act (GDA)
NGDA Theme Leads	Individuals who provide interdepartmental leadership and coordination at the NGDA Theme level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates and oversees the NGDA Theme strategic planning, annual GDA reporting, standards endorsement process, NGDA status, and overall implementation of the NGDA Theme, and nomination/removal of NGDA datasets
NGDA Dataset Manager	Individuals within the supporting agencies who provide coordination, database administration, and standards for NGDA Datasets at a national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with Data Stewards, Stakeholders, Theme Lead and/or Community of Interest to evaluate, curate, establish, and report on NGDA datasets on Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov
NGDA Metadata Manager	Individuals within the supporting agencies who perform data quality analysis and produce metadata for NGDA datasets at a national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curates, produces, and manages standards and compliant metadata to ensure accessibility on Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov Reports metadata harvesting and data quality issues on Data.gov/GeoPlatform.gov
FGDC Subcommittee and Working Group Chair	Representatives from Federal agencies and FGDC recognized stakeholder groups, chairpersons/participants of the thematic Subcommittees and Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advances the development and maintenance of the NSDI, and associated coordination of Federal programs through collaboration and participation of Subcommittees and Working Groups associated with the NGDA Theme
Theme Specialists, Producers, and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)	Theme subcommittee members and SMEs in areas such as imagery programs and data collection processing and dissemination, technology, stakeholder engagement, user needs, and procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides expertise and consultation in the conduct of the Imagery Theme and its activities.
Agency Approval Authorities	Senior leadership (excluding the Executive Champion) and reviewers for GDA compliance activities, LCA reporting, standards endorsement, and NGDA proposals, NGDA Theme Community pages on the GeoPlatform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews and approves annual GDA and LCA annual reporting, NGDA change proposals, biannual audit responses, standards endorsement, and NGDA Theme Community content on the GeoPlatform
IT Support	Information Technology staff who provide services and technical support for NGDA datasets on Census.gov and Data.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the lifecycle of Geospatial Data Lifecycle and metadata harvesting on Census.gov and Data.gov

¹¹ This list of Imagery Theme Roles and Responsibilities is adapted from but does not supersede the A-16 NGDA Portfolio Management – Roles & Responsibilities, <https://www.fgdc.gov/what-we-do/manage-federal-geospatial-resources/a-16-portfolio-management/roles-and-responsibilities>.