

**Water – Inland Theme
Strategic Plan
2025 - 2027**

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

September 30, 2024



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Introduction

This Water – Inland 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 Secretariat (FGDC OS) to provide a consistent summary of individual and collective progress made by all

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).

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 United States Geological Survey (USGS) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Water – Inland 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.

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

The Committee designates National Geospatial Data Asset data themes (henceforth theme).⁶ The Committee also designates one or more covered agencies as the lead covered agencies for each theme.⁷ Themes may include NGDA datasets that are contributed by other covered agencies and non-covered agencies. The USGS and USFWS are the designated coleads for the Water – Inland 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;

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

The USGS and USFWS will designate points of contact (POCs) who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform. The POCs will be updated and reported annually.

In addition to annual reporting, the USGS and USFWS shall inform the Committee of interim changes to the POCs 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—

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

(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 USFWS will 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 USFWS will submit comments, as appropriate, regarding the summary and evaluation of the performance report provided by the FGDC OS under section 2802(c)(12). The USGS and USFWS POCs will share the summary report and comments with dataset managers as appropriate.

II. 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 Water – Inland Theme Lead(s) 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 Lead(s) will 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.

II.A. 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;

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

The USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) actively solicits and supports partnerships through the 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM) Data Collaboration Announcement (DCA) ([Data Collaboration Announcement Portal | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/3d-national-topography-model/data-collaboration-announcement-portal)).⁸ The DCA structure provides a fair and equitable process to evaluate and select potential data acquisition partnerships from non-federal organizations. During FY24, the National Geospatial Program supported 8 projects in 8 states, with a total value of over \$12.3 million dollars through the 3DNTM DCA. The USGS also coordinates the 3D Hydrography Program Working Group (3DHP WG; [3D Hydrography Program Working Group | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/3DHP/3d-hydrography-program-working-group)),⁹ which includes representatives from ten other federal agencies. The 3DHP WG provides acquisition priorities, feedback on program direction, and facilitates collaborative acquisitions among federal agencies. DCA applicants provided a total of \$7.8 million dollars to these projects and Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Production and Conservation provided \$1 million in federal matching funds. In addition to the DCA, five federal partnership projects totaling \$2.1 million were funded in FY24. Funding is a limiting factor to NGP's ability to fund partnership

⁸ 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM) Data Collaboration Announcement (DCA)

<https://www.usgs.gov/3d-national-topography-model/data-collaboration-announcement-portal>

⁹ 3D Hydrography Program Working Group (3DHP WG)

<https://www.usgs.gov/3DHP/3d-hydrography-program-working-group>

projects – it will take an estimated 45 years to complete 3DHP at FY24 funding and partnership levels. The USGS NGP will continue to partner for hydrography data acquisition as funds allow.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program will continue to work extensively to develop partnership programs with states, Tribes, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, other federal agencies, and local governments to develop and accurately populate nationwide data. Partnership opportunities will be shared through working groups, conferences, workshops, meetings, webpages, and/or documents. The National Wetlands Inventory Program will continue to actively support partnerships throughout the data production and management process, including training, development of contracts and agreements, quality control/assurance, and distribution.

II.B. 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;

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

The USGS routinely gathers feedback on user needs and requirements through both structured and unstructured mechanisms. The USGS periodically commissions requirements and benefits studies to better understand the specific requirements and value of its products and services. In 2016 the National Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study (HRBS; [Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/national-hydrography/hydrography-requirements-and-benefits-study))¹⁰ gathered information on 420 Mission Critical Activities related to hydrography data from all 50 states, 21 federal agencies, and Tribal, academic, and non-profit users. This information was followed up in 2022 with the 3D Nation Requirements and Benefits Study. Results of the HRBS were used to design the 3DHP through a rigorous process of documenting user needs, understanding the benefits if these needs were met, and balancing the cost of meeting those needs. The USGS also regularly engages with federal agencies through the 3DHP WG, monthly Hydrography community calls, and a direct, collaborative project with the National States Geographic Information

¹⁰ National Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study (HRBS)

<https://www.usgs.gov/national-hydrography/hydrography-requirements-and-benefits-study>

Council (NSGIC; [National States Geographic Information Council \(nsgic.org\)](https://nsgic.org/)),¹¹ and less structured engagement through our User Engagement Office ([NGP User Engagement Office | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/ngp-user-engagement-office)).¹² Feedback from users is continuously evaluated to understand potential opportunities to improve the value and utility of 3DHP data.

USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program partner requirements will be collected through conferences, workshops, meetings, webpages, and/or documents. In 2024, partner requirements were collected through a Paperwork Reduction Act compliant user needs survey. User requirements will be used to guide the development and updating of the National Wetlands Inventory Program Strategic Plan and associated yearly project management plans.

II.C. 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;

II.C.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(B)(iii) – Human and Financial Resources

The USGS has documented an aggressive plan to update the Nation’s hydrography data in *The 3D National Topography Model Call for Action Part 1 – the 3D Hydrography Program* ([cir1519.pdf - The 3D National Topography Model Call for Action—Part 1. The 3D Hydrography Program \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/cir1519/cir1519.pdf)).¹³

This Circular documents the basic approach and requirements for replacing the Nation’s aging hydrography data with new data derived from 3D Elevation Program data, including potential costs and funding models to execute the program with the goal of completing the update in nine years to maximize benefits to users. The actual length of time it will take to complete nationwide coverage is heavily dependent on partner contributions and program funding to leverage partner dollars. Other than a small increase in FY22, program funding has been steady for over a decade and eroding because of inflation. The Circular factors in needed human resources as part of the overall cost estimate of the program.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program has developed a Strategic Plan aimed at producing and maintaining a complete and contemporary wetlands geospatial data layer. The Strategic Plan

¹¹ National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

<https://nsgic.org/>

¹² NGP User Engagement Office

<https://www.usgs.gov/ngp-user-engagement-office>

¹³ The 3D National Topography Model Call for Action Part 1 – the 3D Hydrography Program

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1519/cir1519.pdf>

documents required actions and supports the development of yearly project management plans. These planning documents outline a range of actions that will be taken to support a contemporary wetlands geospatial data layer, including enhanced workflows, partnering, and leveraging of advanced technologies. Due to an internal budget that has been flat or declining for decades, nearly all funding for National Wetlands Inventory data production comes from partners, including federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies. The USFWS will work with partners to make efficient use of resources. Funding levels will largely determine the Program’s ability to implement the Strategic Plan and produce and maintain a contemporary wetlands geospatial data layer to meet the needs of users.

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

The GDA requires lead covered agencies to publish maps or comparable graphics online showing the extent and status of NGDA data within the 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—

(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;

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

The 3DHP database was initially populated nationwide with older data from the retired National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). This older data is being replaced with new, higher-quality data derived from 3D Elevation Program data, but this replacement will be a long-term effort. The goal is to complete the update in nine years, but the actual timeline is heavily dependent on both appropriated funding and partner funding. Users can access status maps showing areas in progress on the 3DHP webpage - [3D Hydrography Program | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/3d-hydrography-program).¹⁴ Similar graphics showing the lineage of the published data will be made available as these areas are completed and updated in the database.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program maintains and hosts the Project Mapper online for public use. The Mapper provides a comprehensive and interactive display of the extent and age of the wetlands geospatial data layer, as well as where new data are currently being produced. The Mapper will continue to be updated biannually.

¹⁴ 3D Hydrography Program
<https://www.usgs.gov/3d-hydrography-program>

II.E. 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;

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

The GeoPlatform supports the transparent sharing of data with the American public in a consistent format to enable a wide range of applications. Both 3DHP and the National Wetlands Inventory Program work closely with partners across all levels of government and the private sector to acquire and update data that meet a broad range of community needs and reduce duplication of effort. The USFWS and USGS will continue to provide access to wetland, hydrography, and watershed data and metadata through the GeoPlatform, including all partner contributed data that meets dataset specifications.

II.F. 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;

II.F.i. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(v) – Coordinate with the GeoPlatform

Water – Inland Theme leads and dataset managers will continue to attend theme community meetings and coordinate directly with the GeoPlatform to ensure Water – Inland data and metadata are properly harvested and made accessible through the GeoPlatform. POCs will continue to maintain the related Hub site.

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.

II.F.ii. Action(s) to Meet Objective: 2805(b)(3)(E)(vi) – Publish Proven Geospatial Practices

The USGS National Geospatial Program hosts monthly Hydrography Community Calls ([Hydrography Community Calls | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#))¹⁵ to share information about the hydrography datasets and highlight user applications. These calls are recorded and transcribed, and published to both the USGS web page and Youtube.com. Working with the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), USGS supports sharing of information about 3DHP and applications of hydrography data through the 3D Hydrography Program For The Nation Information Hub ([3DHP For The Nation \(3DHP FTN\) Information Hub \(arcgis.com\)](#)).¹⁶ The hub includes a variety of resources for users, including user surveys, presentations, and reference materials. As 3DHP is more widely adopted, we will include a section on the 3DHP site that highlights academic applications of the data.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program will continue to work extensively with partners and regularly review scientific literature to identify proven practices for the use and application of wetlands geospatial data. The Program will publish this information in web pages and StoryMaps, as well as share it through presentations, correspondence, and meetings.

¹⁵ Monthly Hydrography Community Calls

<https://www.usgs.gov/3d-hydrography-program/hydrography-community-calls>

¹⁶ 3DHP For The Nation (3DHP FTN) Information Hub

<https://3dhp-for-the-nation-nsgic.hub.arcgis.com/>

III. 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.

III.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;*

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

Both the USGS and USFWS understand the importance of proper metadata. The USGS 3DHP datasets follow, and will continue to follow, FGDC and GeoPlatform metadata standards. Published datasets and services have and will continue to have current, compliant metadata records. Data will not be accepted into the dataset without appropriate metadata. The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory geospatial dataset follows, and will continue to follow, FGDC and GeoPlatform metadata standards. Partner requirements pertaining to standards and metadata used for the National Wetlands Inventory geospatial dataset, including on the GeoPlatform, will be collected through conferences, workshops, meetings, webpages, and/or documents. User requirements will be used to guide the development and updating of the National Wetlands Inventory Strategic Plan and associated yearly project management plans.

III.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](#)¹⁷ page.

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

The USGS National Geospatial Program maintains and publishes geospatial data standards for hydrography and hydrologic units online at [Hydrography Standards and Specifications | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#).¹⁸ The previous hydrography standard ([Microsoft Word - GI FrameworkDataStandard_Part6_Hydrography.doc \(fgdc.gov\)](#))¹⁹ was oriented strongly towards the specifics of the National Hydrography Dataset. The NGP has adopted the more broadly applicable OGC HY_Features conceptual model for 3DHP, and documented the specific implementation. As the standard and specifications are modified through time USGS will maintain a formal process for vetting proposed changes with stakeholders.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Program follows FGDC standards for mapping and classification ([FGDC-STD-015-2009](#)²⁰ and [FGDC-STD-004-2013](#),²¹ respectively) when producing and accepting wetlands

¹⁷ <https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/standards>

¹⁸ Hydrography Standards and Specifications

<https://www.usgs.gov/ngp-standards-and-specifications/hydrography-standards-and-specifications>

¹⁹ Microsoft Word - GI_FrameworkDataStandard_Part6_Hydrography.doc

https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/framework-data-standard/GI_FrameworkDataStandard_Part6_Hydrography.pdf

²⁰ FGDC-STD-015-2009

https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/wetlands-mapping/2009-08%20FGDC%20Wetlands%20Mapping%20Standard_final.pdf

²¹ FGDC-STD-004-2013

<https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/wetlands/nwcs-2013>

geospatial data. These standards were reviewed and endorsed by the FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee, which was established, in part, to collect federal and non-federal requirements for spatial wetland data and promote related standards. The National Wetlands Inventory Program will continue to work with partners to identify and assess the need to modify these standards to best meet user needs and enhance production efficiency.

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 |