

FGDC Summary of the Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency Annual Reports for FY 2022—Fulfilling Requirements of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018



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Abbreviations

CIGIE Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

FGDC Federal Geographic Data Committee

GDA Geospatial Data Act of 2018

IG Inspector General

NGAC National Geospatial Advisory Committee

NGDA National Geospatial Data Asset

NSDI National Spatial Data Infrastructure

OMB Office of Management and Budget

U.S.C. United States Code



FGDC Summary of the Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency Annual Reports for FY 2022—Fulfilling Requirements of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018

By the Federal Geographic Data Committee

1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) agencies' annual reports for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, as required under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). The report summarizes the performance and accomplishments of "covered agencies" (agencies identified in the GDA as having specific geospatial management responsibilities), and "lead covered agencies" (covered agencies that also have the lead responsibility for coordination and management of National Geospatial Data Asset [NGDA] data themes) in meeting the annual reporting requirements of the GDA.

The FGDC agencies have continued to utilize and refine an enterprise approach for tracking and reporting progress on GDA requirements. Agencies have continued to improve a set of online tools, using standardized criteria, to develop consistent reports in a coordinated, efficient manner. This report summarizes the results of agency self-assessments of performance using these standardized tools.

Covered Agencies

For FY 2022, the 16 covered agencies reported the following overall results on the 13 GDA requirements for covered agencies:

Meets Expectations: 70% (146 of 208 requirements)
 Made Progress Toward Expectations: 28% (59 of 208 requirements)
 Fails to Meet Expectations: 2% (3 of 208 requirements)

In FY 2022, a significant focus of the covered agencies was in responding to the biennial audits by agency Inspectors General (IG) of agency GDA performance as reported in FY 2021. Many of these audits resulted in IG recommendations and agency corrective action plans. The results of these recommendations and responses will be reflected in the next set of covered agency annual reports.

Lead Covered Agencies

For FY 2022, the 18 lead covered agencies reported the following overall results on the 4 categories of GDA requirements for lead covered agencies:

Meets Expectations:
 Made Progress Toward Expectations:
 Fails to Meet Expectations:
 14% (10 of 72 requirements)
 86% (62 of 72 requirements)
 0% (0 of 72 requirements)

In FY 2022, the lead covered agencies transitioned to survey-based reporting, which streamlined the reporting process. A significant focus in FY 2022 has been the development of a common NGDA Theme Strategic Plan framework and template that can be specifically tailored to each NGDA data theme. The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan framework is organized into goals, objectives, and actions which address GDA requirements and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan goals. The NGDA Theme Strategic Plans, which are scheduled to be completed in 2023, will provide a common basis for future lead covered agency annual reports.

This report, as well as the underlying covered agency and lead covered agency reports and online dashboards summarizing results, is available at https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports/. This report will also be incorporated into the 2023 FGDC GDA Report to Congress.



2. Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) (43 U.S.C. 46) codifies responsibilities for the management of geospatial data and resources by Federal agencies in coordination with partners and stakeholders in other sectors. The GDA establishes the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) as "the lead entity in the executive branch for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards relating to geospatial data" (Section 2802(a)). The GDA also supports the coordinated implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the development and management of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs). As of September 30, 2022, the NGDA portfolio included 175 approved NGDA datasets organized under 18 data themes.

2.1. Geospatial Data Act Reporting Requirements

The GDA includes management and reporting responsibilities for "covered agencies" (agencies identified in the GDA as having specific geospatial management responsibilities), and "lead covered agencies" (covered agencies that also have the lead responsibility for coordination and management of NGDA data themes). These agencies are responsible for submitting annual reports on their performance in meeting the requirements of the GDA. The covered agency and lead covered agency reporting responsibilities are described in greater detail in Section 2.2.

2.2. FGDC Reporting Approach

The FGDC agencies have collaborated to develop an enterprise approach for tracking and reporting progress on GDA requirements. Agencies have developed a set of online tools, using standardized criteria, to develop consistent reports in a coordinated, efficient manner. Agencies conducted self-assessments of their performance using these standardized tools. The FGDC agencies and the FGDC Office of the Secretariat have coordinated extensively to develop this reporting approach and to ensure consistency across the reports. The reports include the mandated rating of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations" for each of the requirements identified in the GDA. The FGDC has refined the metrics and reporting processes based on previous reporting processes, National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) comments, and recommendations from Inspector General audits of GDA covered agencies. The FGDC has coordinated with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) on the GDA-required Inspector General audits of covered agencies.

2.3. Content of This Summary Report

As required under Sections 2802(c)(10)(A) and (B) of the GDA, this report provides a summary of the performance status of each covered agency and for each NGDA data theme. The report covers the period of fiscal year 2022, from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

This report also includes links to the more detailed underlying reports that were developed by each covered agency and lead covered agency. This summary report, along with comments from NGAC and the FGDC member agencies, will be included as an appendix to the 2023 biennial FGDC GDA Report to Congress and will also be published separately online. The FGDC maintains a web page that includes all GDA-required reports. The FGDC has also developed online dashboards that provide access to the information included in the reports. All materials are available at https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports/. Table 1 provides additional detail about the roles and responsibilities of the FGDC member agencies in implementing the GDA.



2.4. Changes to GDA Annual Reporting

Changes to the FY 2022 GDA reports include the following:

Covered Agency Reports

Covered agency reports continue to use online survey-based reporting tools to facilitate consistent reporting. The covered agency reporting template included minor changes from the previous reports. Questions representing each of the 13 reporting requirements include slight modifications, based on agency suggestions, to improve the online reporting tools and ensure consistency in reporting results. In addition, the template was modified to include additional space for agencies to describe their performance accomplishments for the year and to highlight key GDA-related agency achievements.

Lead Covered Agency Reports

For FY 2022, the lead covered agency reporting template was transitioned to a survey-based environment. This common set of online reporting tools helped facilitate consistent and efficient reporting on NGDA data theme responsibilities. FY 2022 reporting focused on self-assessment and brief summaries of the major reporting requirements. The reports also describe how the NGDA Theme Strategic Plans, which will be completed in 2023, will provide a common basis for future lead covered agency annual reports.

Reporting Dashboards

The FGDC's online GDA reporting dashboards for FY 2022 have been expanded. The dashboards contain the reporting information provided by agencies and themes. Content is organized by agency, by theme, and by GDA requirements making it possible to compare responses for each requirement. Additionally, they provide access to the FGDC agencies' self-assessments. The dashboards are located on the GeoPlatform at: https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/gda-reporting.

NGAC Comments

As required by the GDA, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) provided comments and recommendations on the FY 2020 and FY 2021 GDA reports. The FY 2021 NGAC comments are posted at: https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/may-2022/ngac-paper-ngac-comments-on-fy-2021-fgdc-summary.pdf. The NGAC comments were categorized as Positive Elements, Areas Needing Improvement, and Recommendations for Future Reports. The FGDC has made a series of changes to the reports and reporting processes to address the NGAC comments. For example, FGDC guidance for FY 2022 reporting included a new optional question allowing agencies to include highlights of their achievements reported through their self-assessments, and this report now includes an executive summary to highlight and summarize agency annual performance. The FGDC will continue to engage with the NGAC and address their comments and recommendations on this and future reports.



Table 1. Roles and responsibilities of the FGDC member agencies under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

[CA, covered agency; LCA, lead covered agency; FGDC, Federal Geographic Data Committee; NGDA, National Geospatial Data Asset; GDA, Geospatial Data Act of 2018; –, none]

CA	LCA	FGDC Member Agency	NGDA Theme Lead ¹	NGDA Datasets ²
X	Х	Department of Agriculture	3	15
X	Х	Department of Commerce	8	59
X	_	Department of Education	_	-
Х	-	Department of Energy	-	_
X	_	Department of Health and Human Services	-	-
Х	-	Department of Homeland Security	-	1
X	_	Department of Housing and Urban Development	_	12
X	X	Department of the Interior	11	60
X	-	Department of Justice	_	-
X	_	Department of Labor	-	-
X	X	Department of State	1	1
X	X	Department of Transportation	2	10
X	-	Department of Treasury	_	_
X	_	Department of Veterans Affairs	_	_
X	Х	General Services Administration	1	1
X	-	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	_	3
_	_	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency/Department of Defense ³	_	10
-	-	Office of Management and Budget ⁴	_	-
		Nonmember Agencies/Organizations That Manage NGDAs		
_	_	Environmental Protection Agency	_	1
_	_	International Boundary Commission	_	1
_	_	International Boundary Water Commission	_	1
		Totals	26	175 ⁵

¹ The total represents the 26 theme leads and co-leads across the 18 NGDA themes. The total number of leads is greater than the total number of themes because some of the NGDA themes are co-led across agencies. A list of the NGDA themes and agency leads is available at https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/contacts.

² Number of NGDAs managed by agency/organization. The NGDA portfolio datasets are available at https://ngda-portfolio-community-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/portfolio.

³ Organization is not a covered agency but has specific NGDA management responsibilities.

⁴ Organization is not a covered agency but has specific NGDA management responsibilities.

⁵ Total number of FGDC Steering Committee approved NGDA Datasets as of September 30, 2022.



3. Covered Agency Annual Reports

3.1. Overview

Section 2808(b) of the GDA requires each covered agency to submit to the 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)." The reporting process and information on how to access the results are described below.

A significant focus of the covered agencies in FY 2022 was in responding to the GDA-required biennial audits by agency Inspectors General of covered agency GDA performance. The FGDC coordinated with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) on the approach for the audits. Many of these audits resulted in IG recommendations and agency corrective action plans. The results of these recommendations and responses will be reflected in the next set of covered agency annual reports.

Common Reporting Process

The FGDC covered agencies continued to utilize a common reporting process based on a standardized online questionnaire, to facilitate consistent reporting on covered agency GDA responsibilities. Using a common template and criteria, the agencies conducted self-assessments of their performance in addressing the thirteen covered agency GDA responsibilities found in Section 2808(a). The agency reports also reflect the goals in the covered agency geospatial strategies, which were developed in 2021, as required by GDA Section 2808(a)(1).

Agencies are responsible for maintaining documentation to support the responses provided for their self-assessments. Each agency's annual report includes details about the agency's performance and achievements, including a narrative description of agency activities in addressing each of the 13 GDA requirements for covered agencies. For FY 2022, agencies were provided additional space in the reporting template to provide more in-depth details about their performance. In addition, the FY 2022 self-assessment template included the option of briefly highlighting a key achievement in making progress towards meeting GDA requirements or advancing geospatial activities. Four agencies highlighted achievements within their covered agency report, they are the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The FY 2022 reporting template includes an option for agencies to submit a two-page overview document (Appendix B of the covered agency reports) as part of their submissions to support a more comprehensive picture of agency compliance and related activities. In FY 2022, two agencies included this two-page overview document, these agencies are the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce.

Access to Summary Reports

The results of the self-assessments of the covered agencies' progress in meeting GDA requirements are summarized in table 2. Links to dashboards that provide online access to covered agency report information and to the pdf versions of the final annual reports for each GDA covered agency are listed after table 2.



3.2. Summary of Results—Covered Agency Annual Reports

Table 2. Summary of covered agency evaluations.

[Evaluation results: M, meets expectations, P, made progress towards expectations; F, fails to meet expectations.]

Requirement	USDA	DOC	ED	DOE	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	DOL	DOS	DOT	TREAS	VA	GSA	NAS/
(1) Covered agency geospatial strategies	M +	M	М	M	Р	М	м+	М	М	м+	M	M +	М	м+	M	М
(2) Support data sharing	Р	М	М	Р	Р	Р-	М	Р	М	Р	M	М	М	Р-	М	Р
(3) Promote data integration	Р	М	M	Р	М	Р	М	М	М	М	M	М	M	М	М	М
(4) Ensure records retention schedule for geospatial data	Р	М	М	Р	Р	Р	м+	M	М	М	M	м +	М	м+	M	Р
(5) Allocate resources for geospatial data management responsibilities	Р	М	Р	Р	Р	Р	м+	M	M	F-	Р	М	М	_P -	_P -	М
(6) Use data standards	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р-	м+	M	Р	Р	M	Р	м +	Р	Р-	M
(7) Support coordination and partnerships	Р	М	M	Р	м+	Р	М	М	М	Р	Р	М	М	P-	М	Р-
(8) Promote application of geospatial data assets	Р	M	M	Р	P	Р-	М	M	M	Р	M	M	М	M	M	P
(9) Protection of privacy and confidentiality	M +	M	M	M	Р-	Р-	М	M	М	М	M	M	М	Р-	M	M
(10) Declassified data	M	M	M	F	M	F	M	M	M	M	M	M	М	M	M	M
(11) Non-duplication of data	P	M	M	Р	Р	Р	М	M	M	М	Р	M	M	M	M	М
(12) Ensuring high-quality data	Р	М	М	Р	М	М	М	М	М	М	Р	М	М	М	М	М
(13) Point of contact	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М	М

2022 Reports and Dashboards

The FGDC maintains online dashboards for the covered agency annual reports, which are accessible at https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports. The covered agency annual reports in pdf format are available at the same website and through the following links:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Department of Labor (DOL)

Department of Education (ED)

Department of State (DOS)

Department of Energy (DOE)

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

General Services Administration (GSA)

Department of the Interior (DOI)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)



4. Lead Covered Agency Annual NGDA Data Theme Reports

4.1. Overview

Section 2805(b)(3)(E) of the GDA requires lead covered agencies responsible for NGDA data themes to submit annual performance reports to the FGDC. These reports document "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)" of Section 2805(b)(3). The reporting process used and information on how to access the results are described below.

A significant focus in FY 2022 has been the development of a common NGDA Theme Strategic Plan framework and template that can be specifically tailored to each NGDA data theme. The NGDA Theme Strategic Plans are required by GDA Section 2805 (b)(3)(B). The NGDA Theme Strategic Plan framework is organized into goals which consider each major GDA and NSDI reporting section, objectives which support each goal, and actions to be taken throughout the lifespan of the Plan. The intent of the framework and template is to provide flexibility, allowing agencies that manage NGDA data to identify actions and accomplishments that align with the established goals, objectives, and anticipated outcomes, while also reflecting the technological, economic, and organizational constraints and opportunities of the agencies managing NGDA data. These NGDA Theme Strategic Plans, which are scheduled to be completed in 2023, will provide a common basis for future lead covered agency annual reports.

Common Reporting Process and Approaches

The FGDC lead covered agencies continue to use a common reporting process to facilitate consistent and efficient reporting on NGDA data theme responsibilities. The lead covered agency theme reports highlight ongoing strategic activities related to the data themes and the FGDC portfolio management activities that align with the requirements of the GDA.

In FY 2022, the lead covered agency reporting template was transitioned to a survey-based environment. FGDC lead covered agencies continue to utilize online tools for reporting progress made by the data themes. These self-assessment tools provide consistency and comparability in reporting across the FGDC NGDA data themes.

The updated template also reflects cross-agency efforts to analyze GDA requirements and develop a common approach and strategies across FGDC at both the theme and portfolio level that document progress in meeting GDA requirements. At the theme level, these reports provide updates to the previous year's reporting cycle, summaries and information for ongoing processes, procedures, and actions within agencies that manage NGDA datasets. At the portfolio level, these reports highlight continued efforts across the FGDC agencies and the NGDA themes to evaluate the requirements of the GDA in the context of the goals and objectives of the NSDI Strategic Plan.

Summary Report

The common template allows FGDC to efficiently summarize the progress made across all NGDA data themes. The agency evaluations of their performance in meeting GDA requirements for the NGDA data themes are summarized in table 3. Links to dashboards providing online access to NGDA theme report information and to the pdf versions of the final annual reports for each NGDA data theme are listed after table 3.



4.2. Summary of Results—Lead Covered Agency Annual NGDA Data Theme Reports

Table 3. FGDC summary of lead covered agency National Geospatial Data Asset data theme evaluations.

[Evaluation results: M, meets expectations, P, made progress towards expectations; F, fails to meet expectations.]

	GDA 43 U.S.C. § 2805 (b)(3) (A) - (D) Requirements							
Theme and Number of NGDA Datasets (175 total)	(A) Geospatial data standards	(B) Nationwide population of the data theme	(C) Establish actions that support the goals and objectives in the NSDI strategic plan	(D) Addressing user needs				
Address (1)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Biodiversity and Ecosystems (8)	M ⁺	Р	P	Р				
Cadastre (18)	Р	Р	P	Р				
Climate and Weather (4)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Cultural Resources (3)	Р	Р	P	Р				
Elevation (13)	Р	Р	P	Р				
Geodetic Control (4)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Geology (6)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Administrative and Statistical Boundaries (37)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Imagery (10)	Р	M	Р	М				
International Boundaries (1)	M	Р	М	М				
Land Use – Land Cover (13)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Real Property (14)	Р	Р	M +	Р				
Soils (5)	Р	Р	Р	P				
Transportation (15)	Р	M +	M +	М +				
Utilities (2)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Water – Inland (5)	Р	Р	Р	Р				
Water - Oceans & Coasts (16)	P	Р	р	Р				

²⁰²² Reports and Dashboards

The FGDC maintains online dashboards for the lead covered agency NGDA data themes, which are accessible at https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-reports. The lead covered agency NGDA data theme annual reports in pdf format are available at the same website and through the following links:

Address Geodetic Control Real Property

Biodiversity and Ecosystems Geology Soils

Cadastre Governmental Units Transportation

Climate and Weather Imagery Utilities

Cultural Resources International Boundaries Water–Inland

Elevation Land Use–Land Cover Water–Oceans and Coasts



5. Conclusion

5.1. Key Observations

- All covered agencies and NGDA themes identified in the GDA fulfilled their reporting responsibilities in FY 2022, which are summarized in this report.
- Since the enactment of the GDA, the FGDC agencies have placed significant focus on developing streamlined, and common reporting processes to enable comparative results and consistent FGDC-wide reporting. The common reporting approach includes the agencies' self-assessments of their progress on GDA reporting requirements. The updated FY 2022 reporting dashboards provide summary views of results across agencies and NGDA themes.
- The continued development of coordinated and consistent GDA reports and processes requires significant agency resources and FGDC Office of the Secretariat staff and contract support, to support the volume and frequency of the reporting responsibilities of the GDA, as summarized in table 4.
- Results from the covered agency and lead covered agency reports show that agencies are making progress in addressing the requirements of the GDA. However, significant work remains to fully meet the vision of the GDA.
- The FGDC will continue to refine the GDA reporting approach based on feedback from users and stakeholders, including the annual reviews of the GDA annual reports summary by the NGAC.
- The findings and recommendations from the 2022 biennial Inspector General audits, required by the GDA, may impact future FGDC GDA implementation and reporting activities.
- The GDA includes significant and complex reporting requirements. A National Geospatial Advisory Committee Resolution, approved in June 2020, included the following recommendation: "Given that the GDA planning and reporting requirements are considerable and highly complex, the NGAC recommends streamlining of the reporting processes to ensure focused, efficient, and consistent reporting across government" (National Geospatial Advisory Committee, 2020). Based on the experience gained through three years of GDA reporting, the FGDC agencies continue to look for efficiencies to simplify and streamline the reporting process while still ensuring transparency and accountability for results.

5.2. Challenges

The GDA provides a constructive framework for development of national geospatial data assets and processes to ensure accountability and transparency in geospatial investments. However, agencies face a number of challenges for the successful implementation of the statute. Table 4 below lists the significant number of recurring plans and reports required by the GDA. General challenges for GDA implementation that have previously been identified include:

- Streamlining and simplifying the reporting and audit requirements in the GDA while continuing to ensure accountability, transparency, and efficiency.
- Maintaining and enhancing geospatial data and services delivery while addressing the significant new requirements of the GDA.
- Allocating staff resources to address the significant new reporting and audit responsibilities required in the GDA.
- Supporting consistent, detailed, multiagency reporting and information sharing without automated reporting systems.



- Providing increased GDA-required geospatial data and service delivery through the GeoPlatform (www.geoplatform.gov).
- Ensuring timely execution of other key aspects of the GDA, including coordinating with non-Federal partners and stakeholders to implement the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan.

The FGDC member agencies look forward to continuing to work with Congress in meet the intent of the GDA to provide an integrated, sustainable, and world leading NSDI while ensuring efficiency and transparency.

Table 4. Summary of GDA planning and reporting requirements

[GDA, Geospatial Data Act of 2018; Sec, Section; #, Number of reports]

GDA Sec	Requirement	Туре	Periodicity	#			
2802	OMB Guidance (2802b3)	Guidance	Periodic	1			
	FGDC NGDA/Covered Agency Evaluation & Summary Report (2802c10A) (2802c10B)	Report	Annual	1			
	FGDC response to comments from NGAC on Annual Summary Report (2802c11A)	Response	Annual	1			
	FGDC Report to Congress (2802c11c), (2802c12B)	Report	Biennial	1			
2803	NGAC Comments on FGDC Annual Summary Report (2803c11A)	Comments	Annual	1			
2804	FGDC NSDI Strategic Plan (2804c)	Plan	Periodic	1			
2805	Lead Covered Agency NGDA Plan and Standards Plan (2805b3B) (2805b3Aiii)	Plan	Periodic	18			
	Lead Covered Agency Annual Performance Report (2805b3iil)	Report	Annual	18			
2808	Covered Agency Strategy (2808a1)	Plan	Periodic	16			
	Covered Agency Annual Report to FGDC (2808b1)	Report	Annual	16			
	Covered Agency Annual Report to Congress identifying Federal-wide geospatial data assets (2808b2C)	Report	Annual	16			
	Audits – IG Reports to Congress on Covered Agency compliance (2808c)	Report	Biennial	16			
Recurring Planning/Reporting Documents – TOTAL							



6. Selected References

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