

# NGAC

## Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources Subcommittee Report

**Garet Couch**  
NGAC Meeting  
June 27, 2018



# Subcommittee Background

## Current Topic:

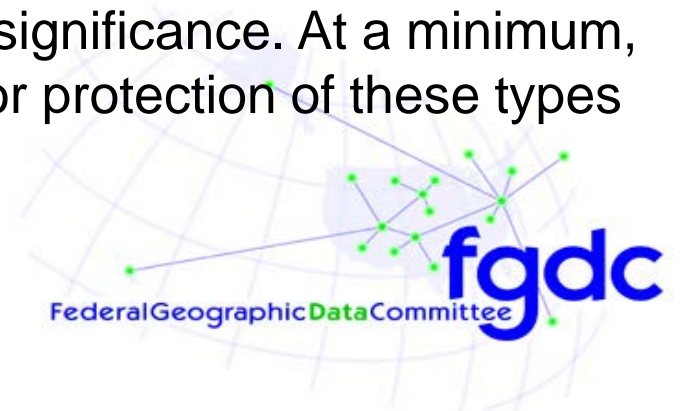
The focus area of the subcommittee is to investigate and make recommendations to the FGDC and further to US federal government agencies on policies and procedures to protect geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance. While the FGDC does have a cultural resources subcommittee they are focused on data standards. We (the NGAC cultural resources subcommittee) are focused on data protection.

## Problem statement or issue to address:

There seems to be a lack of documented (or knowledge of) policies in place to address the protection of geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance. At a minimum, there is certainly no clear consistency concerning the management or protection of these types of geospatial data assets across federal agencies.

## Audience:

Federal agencies and/or agencies holding geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance.



# Progress and path to the goal

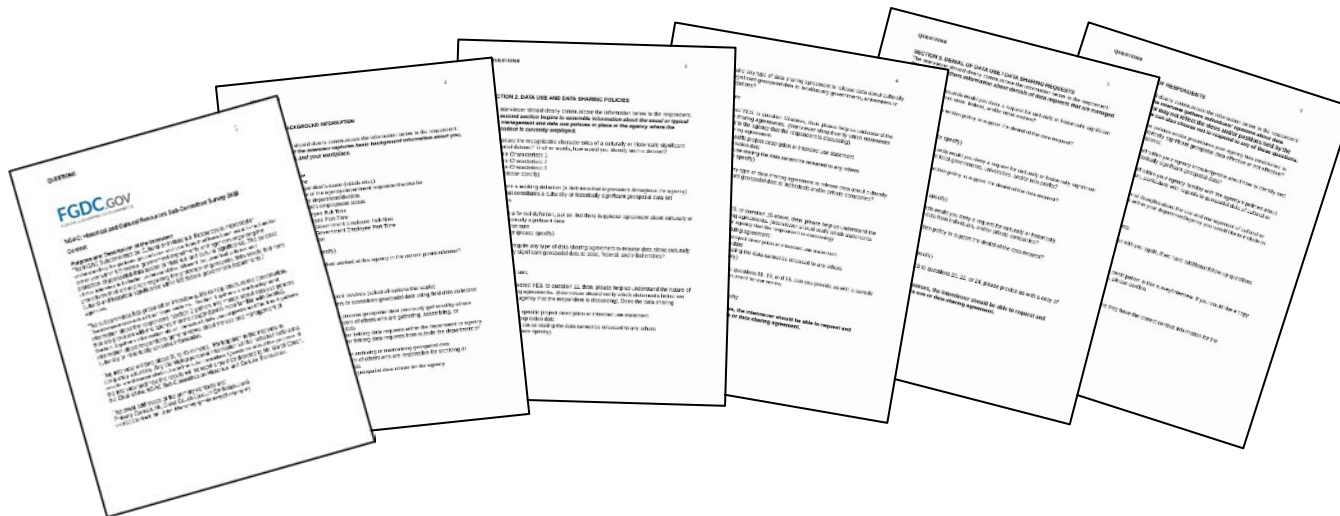
## Update for NGAC

- Process to conduct initial research established (individual interviews).
- Interview purpose statement established
- Interview guide established
- Mechanism established to track interview responses
- List of interview candidates established (15 initial interviewees)
- Conduct interviews (8 interviews completed to date)
  
- To-Do - Compile interview results
- To-Do - Conduct additional research as needed
- To-Do - Draft report
- To-Do - Establish next steps



# Interview Purpose / Process

The purpose of this interview/survey is to determine what documented policies and procedures are in place regarding the protection of geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance within US federal government departments / agencies. While we are aware that there are multiple federal laws in place that cover the protection of these geospatial assets, we are specifically interested to see if individual departments / agencies have a documented policy for implementing protection measures for said geospatial data assets that have cultural and historical significance subject to these laws. Further, we are interested to know if a documented policy is in place, do staff feel its implementation is effective and is said policy being carried out across the department or agency in an effective manner



# Initial interview observations

- The need for a definition for cultural and historical geospatial data.
- The training need for staff reviewing FOIA requests regarding the federal laws that can be used to protect cultural and historical geospatial data.
- The need for a documented policy regarding cultural and historical geospatial data
- There appears to be small pockets of highly detailed data within smaller offices that is “off the record” and currently is not on any data inventory
- Interest in examples of data sharing agreements/contract language



# Current Project Timeline

- July 2018 – Complete remaining interviews.
- July – August 2018 – Develop interview results summary and report outline.
- August – September 2018 – Conduct additional research regarding policy options
- September 2018 – Meet with FGDC Cultural Resources Committee to discuss definitions.
- September – November 2018 – Develop first draft report.
- December 2018 – Present first draft report to NGAC.
- 2019 – Present final report to NGAC for approval.

