

FGDC Update

National Geospatial Advisory Committee



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FGDC OS, Executive Director

October 16, 2024

Agenda

- Current FGDC Activities
- FGDC Priorities
- 2025 NGAC Appointments
- 2025 NGAC Schedule

Current FGDC Activities



Topics

- OMB Circular A-16
- GDA Reporting
 - GDA Audits
 - FY2024 Annual Reports
 - NGDA Theme Strategic Plans
 - Report to Congress
- Steering Committee October 22nd
- NGDA Portfolio Updates

FY2024 GDA Audits

- The GDA requires the Inspector General of each GDA covered agency to submit to Congress an audit every two years on certain activities within the GDA.
- The FY2024 audits have been completed for some of the 16 covered agencies.
- FGDC OS has discussed the GDA audits with the Council of the Inspector General on Integrity and Efficiency's Audit subcommittee (CIGIE).
- Audit results should be published in the fall/winter 2024.
- FY2020 and FY2022 audit findings can be found here:
<https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/gda-ig-reports>

FY2024 GDA Annual Reports

- Executive Committee approved further streamlining both the covered agency and lead covered agency reporting templates.
- All brief summaries have been removed, all optional questions and optional summaries have been removed.
- Reporting templates consist of:
 - Mandatory self-assessment questionnaire which has been updated by subgroups of covered agency and lead covered agency representatives.
 - Mandatory holistic annual summary focusing on each agency's achievements as they relate to the GDA.

FY2024 GDA Annual Reports

- FY2024 Annual Reports
 - Covered agency and lead covered agency FY2024 reporting templates are in a Steering Committee approval process.
 - Covered agency is utilizing a fillable reporting Word template
 - This will allow agencies to disperse the template to their dataset managers and more easily gather data to complete their report.
 - The covered agency reporting template consists of self-evaluation questions, self-evaluation ratings, and a holistic annual summary.
 - Lead covered agencies will continue using web-based survey environment
 - The lead covered agency reporting template consists of self-evaluation ratings, theme information, and a holistic annual summary.
 - The web-based survey will tentatively open at October 21st.

All final, agency approved reports are due January 17th, 2025.

GDA Reporting

- Covered Agencies Geospatial Strategies
 - All covered agency geospatial strategies will need to be updated or revalidated in FY2025.
- NGDA Theme Strategic Plans 2025 - 2027
 - Final, agency approved strategic plans were due September 30, 2024.
 - 8 Themes have submitted their final plans, 4 were granted extensions, 4 are awaiting final agency approval.
- 2025 Report to Congress

Draft October 22 FGDC Steering Committee Agenda

- Welcome
- NGAC Update
- FGDC FY2025 Priorities and Workplan
- NSDI Strategic Plan and Next Steps
- Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) Update
- FGDC Update
- Meeting Wrap-up

NGDA Portfolio Updates

- Steering Committee approved a suite of NGDA Portfolio updates on September 27, 2024 to close out FY2024.
- 3 themes requested a total of 4 dataset changes within the NGDA Portfolio.

As of this vote, the current NGDA Portfolio has **152 Datasets**
managed across
18 Themes, 12 Agencies, and 21 sub-agencies

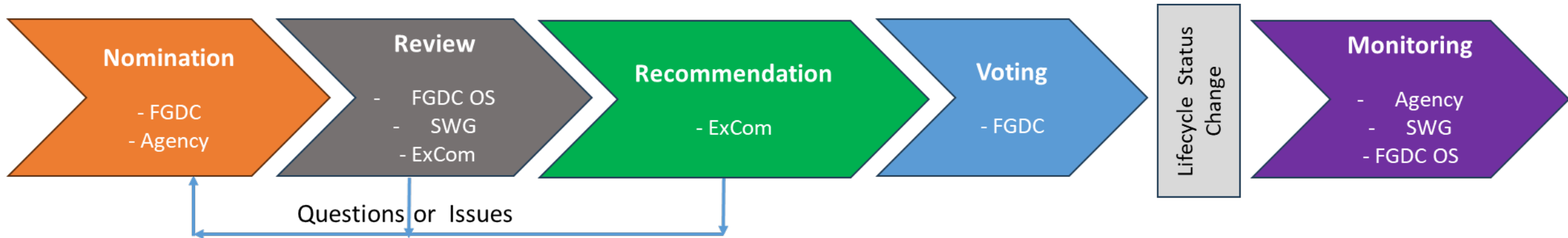
FGDC Priorities



2024 FGDC Priorities

- Governance
 - Currently updating the FGDC Charter and Subcommittee Charter template
 - Developing a list of initial FGDC Technical Guidance/Policies that need to be approved once A-16 is released
- Geospatial Standards
 - FGDC approved the FGDC Standards process, nomination form, and Standards Working Group on September 16, 2024
- GeoPlatform
- NSDI Strategic and Implementation Plans

FGDC Standard Endorsement Process



FGDC Standards process, nomination form, and Standards Working Group were approved on September 16, 2024

Agencies are now submitting subject matter experts POCs to serve on the working group

Standards Endorsement Process – Steps 1 to 3

Nomination

- FGDC
- Agency

- An agency nominates a standard for FGDC endorsement by acting as its sponsoring agency.
- The sponsoring agency completes and submits a standards nominations form to the FGDC OS.
- The sponsoring agency will be prepared to field questions from the FGDC OS, other agencies, the ExCom, or the FGDC if questions arise during the process.

Review

- FGDC OS
- SWG
- ExCom

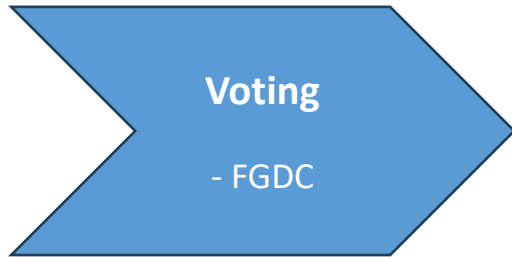
- The FGDC OS reviews the agency submitted form for completeness, but not viability.
- Incomplete forms are returned to the sponsoring agency to address and resubmit.
- The FGDC OS sends completed forms forward to the SWG, who reviews and vets each nominated standard.
- The SWG evaluates each standard and provides a brief summary of the evaluation to the ExCom
- The FGDC OS prepares a vote for the ExCom of all standards that meet the requirements and have completed nomination forms, using its existing administrative processes.

Recommendation

- ExCom

- The ExCom receives the vote and supporting materials, reviews the requests, and votes on whether to recommend each standard for FGDC endorsement.
- The ExCom may request additional information from the endorsing agency.
- The ExCom votes on whether to recommend each standard for FGDC endorsement.

Standards Endorsement Process – Steps 4 and 5



- The FGDC OS prepares a vote of the ExCom recommended standards for the Steering Committee.
- Any standard not endorsed will be returned to the sponsoring agency with an explanation.
- Any standard that is voted to be endorsed becomes an established FGDC standard.
- The FGDC OS updates an online list of FGDC endorsed standards with associate information, a link to the standard, and sponsoring agency contact.



- A periodic revalidation of the standard will keep the established list of standards current.
 - a. The sponsoring agency will monitor their sponsored standard to ensure that any new versions or changes are addressed and warranted action initiated to keep the standard current. This may occur at any time.
 - b. The FGDC OS will provide to the SWG a list of the standards that are approaching their 3-year endorsement date anniversary.
 - c. The SWG will review the provided list and work with the sponsoring agency to revalidate the existing standard for another 3-year period, or to recommend retirement and potentially the nomination of a replacement standard.

Proposed Standards Working Group

- FGDC Working Group made of up at least 8 FGDC agencies
- Staffed by agency managers with subject matter expertise
- Working Group members would:
 - Review and vet each standard nomination form
 - Present a summary of each nominated standard to the ExCom
 - Projected to be 2 to 8 hours a month based on a monthly meeting and additional time vetting the standard. (This time commitment may change as the process develops and the list of standards becomes established.)
- Standards Task Team is developing a Standards Working Group Roles & Responsibilities document

Standards Nomination Form

- Nominating Agency Information
- Standard Title/Type/URL
- Associated fees
- Authoring Body
- Has it ever been FGDC endorsed?
- Is there a competing standard?
- Is it designed to work with another standard?
- Abstract
- Applicability
- Theme specific applicability

FGDC.gov

Federal Geographic Data Committee

Appendix A - FGDC Standards Nomination Form

-DRAFT-

Directions: The intent of this form is to provide information that the FGDC can use to determine a standard's appropriateness for FGDC endorsement for mandated Federal agency use. Use the following form to sponsor and nominate a standard for endorsement or retirement by the FGDC. After completion, email the form to standards@fgdc.gov. The FGDC's Office of the Secretariat will contact you if any additional information is needed. Other agencies contacts or FGDC members may contact the sponsoring agency for additional information.

Submission Date: _____

Nominating Agency Information	
Sponsoring Agency	
POC Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
SAOGI	
SAOGI Email	
Theme Name (if Applicable)	

This proposed standards submission was reviewed and approved by the nominating agency's Steering Committee member.

Nominated Standard	
Title	
Short Title	
Type of Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> Content Standard (Theme Specific) if Yes, specify theme/dataset: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Interoperability and Exchange
URL link to standard	
Are there any fees associated with use of or access to this standard (e.g., ISO)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if Yes, how much does it cost?: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Standard's Authoring Body	<input type="checkbox"/> American National Standards Institute (ANSI) <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) <input type="checkbox"/> International Organization for Standardization (ISO) <input type="checkbox"/> Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) <input type="checkbox"/> National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Geospatial Standards Working Group (GWG) OR

Federal Geographic Data Committee
FGDC Standards Process

GeoPlatform Task Team

2023 GeoPlatform Objectives included:

- Ensure the GeoPlatform provides access to geospatial data and metadata for geospatial data to the general public, per the GDA.
- Evaluate if there would be expanded use and adoption of the GeoPlatform across Federal Agencies by expanding available data products and services.
- Due to funding and contractual issues, the task team paused their analysis in order to restructure the contract task order assigned to servicing GeoPlatform.

GeoPlatform Summit – Recap

- GeoPlatform Summit was hosted by FGDC OS and DOI (Managing Partner) in April 2024
- 18 Federal FGDC member agencies participated
- Discussed multiple possible future outcomes
- Making any changes to GeoPlatform have technical, contractual, legal, budget, political and governance implications

GeoPlatform Background

- Set requirements in GDA
- Immediate need to streamline GP within resources
 - Metadata harvest is burdensome
 - Maintaining capabilities no one is using
 - Must be ready to transition to new contract in 2025
 - Lack resources to make changes to GP in alignment with Summit
 - Costs are annually increasing while income is fixed
- Goal is to deliver minimum viable product below funding ceiling so have flexibility to make changes in future
- Contract type (Firm Fixed Price) does not easily support changes to GP

GeoPlatform Interdependencies

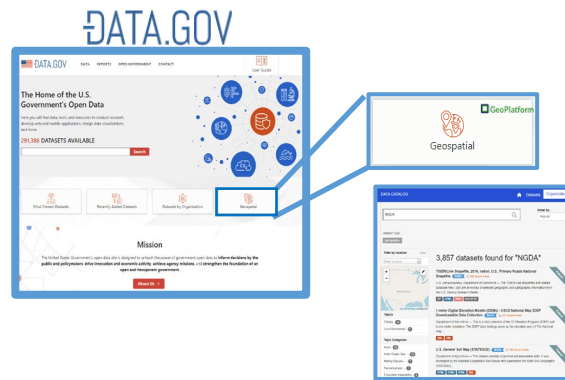
- GeoPlatform Required in GDA
- OMB Shared Service
- Steering Committee
 - provides direction on the scope, functionality, and performance of the GeoPlatform
 - Determines if GP includes geospatial data from a source other than a covered agency
- FGDC Executive Committee is chartered GeoPlatform Oversight Body
- Managing Partner is responsible for implementing GP

GeoPlatform Shared Service Phase 1 – Align/Streamline

Part 1

Search and Discovery

Integrate
with
Data.gov



Falls outside current TO scope. Will need to work with Data.gov to integrate GP resources.

Part 2

ArcGIS Online

NGDA Communities

No change.

Part 3

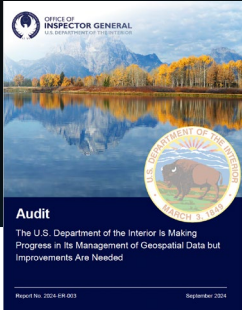
Retire GP capabilities with minimal usage

- Apps section
- Demo section
- FAIRness metrics
- OGC API
- STAC API
- TerriaMAP
- Sample Code
- MAGIC to Open data processing

Evaluating what we can do under current contract.

GeoPlatform Shared Service – Phases

- Phase 1 – Align with Funding/Streamline Capabilities
 - Phase 1 is underway and will be completed by April 2025
 - Phase 1 includes: aligning search and discovery with data.gov, retiring GeoPlatform capabilities that are not used (evaluating what should be retired within the scope of current contracts)
- Phase 2 – Requirements/Way Ahead
- Phase 3 – Develop Next Generation GP



Findings and Responses

Recommendation	USGS response	Due Date	Goal Base year	% complete	Milestone #1	Milestone #2	Milestone #3
We recommend that the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as the delegated Federal Geographic Data Committee Chair, conduct an analysis to identify the root cause(s) of the geospatial dataset unavailability on GeoPlatform.	The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will work with DOI, who is the GeoPlatform Managing Partner, to conduct an analysis and identify the root cause(s) of the DOI National Geospatial Data Assets dataset unavailability on GeoPlatform.	5/31/25	2025	5%	Set up team to investigate root causes. *September 26, 2024*	Conduct analysis to identify root causes.	Draft report describing root causes.
We recommend that the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as the delegated Federal Geographic Data Committee Chair, conduct an analysis to determine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of resolving the root causes identified with GeoPlatform.	The FGDC will work with DOI, who is the GeoPlatform Managing Partner, to determine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of resolving the root causes identified with GeoPlatform.	7/31/25	2025	0%	Identify possible methods to resolve root causes.	Conduct analysis to determine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of resolving the root causes.	Determine preferred course of action based on to policy to deal with root causes.
We recommend that the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as the delegated Federal Geographic Data Committee Chair, implement appropriate changes based on the root cause and cost benefit analyses to address dataset availability issues.	The FGDC will work with DOI, who is the GeoPlatform Managing Partner, to implement appropriate changes based on the root cause, cost benefit analyses, and feasibility to address dataset availability issues pending availability of funding.	9/30/25	2025	0%	Initialte work with GeoPlatform Managing Partner to implement preferred course of action based on availability of resources.	Implement appropriate changes.	Verify that problem is fixed.

2025 – 2035 NSDI Strategic Plan

- 2025 – 2035 NSDI Strategic Plan is currently under final review and approval by the FGDC
- Final 2025 – 2035 NSDI Strategic Plan was sent to NGAC on October 9, 2024

Next steps

- NGAC endorsement and FGDC approval
- Develop NSDI Federal Implementation Plan

2025 – 2035 NSDI Strategic Plan

Mission: By 2035, the NSDI will be a seamlessly interconnected national geospatial ecosystem.

Vision: Deliver highly responsive, timely, dependable, and interoperable geospatial data, applications, and services that provide knowledge on demand and actionable insights to inform decisions; address local, regional, national, and global challenges; and benefit citizens.

National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan

- Broad stakeholder engagement – over 1,000 individuals and organizations, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, conferences, webinars, public review
- **Goal 1 – Governance: Implement National Governance**
 - Collaborative governance with multi-sector nationwide participation and accountability
- **Goal 2 – Data and Technology: Modernize the Infrastructure and Leverage Advanced Technology**
 - Reduce effort, serve, access, and use geospatial data for local-to-national decision-making, economic development, resilience
- **Goal 3 – People: Building a Skilled and Inclusive Workforce for a sustainable future**
 - Raise awareness and use of spatial thinking, analytics, and skills
- **Next Steps:** FGDC approval in FY2025 Q1, collaborative development of sector-focused implementation plans, partnerships, and metrics

2025 FGDC Priorities

- ExCom is reviewing the 2025 FGDC Priorities and will recommend updated priorities to the Steering Committee for approval.
- 2025 FGDC priorities will be developed into an annual FGDC workplan.

2025 NGAC Appointments



NGAC Nomination and Appointment Status

- Received 49 applicants for 2025 NGAC Nomination period
 - 7 NGAC appointments have been submitted for vetting and approval in September 2024
 - Additional 9 NGAC appointments/reappointments will be submitted for vetting and approval for March 2025
- 2026 NGAC Nomination period will open in early 2025

2025 NGAC Schedule



2025 NGAC Tentative Schedule & Activities

October - November	Various NGAC Subcommittee meetings
December 4th	NGAC Public Meeting (Virtual, 1 – 5pm ET)
December - February	Various NGAC Subcommittee meetings
February 19th & 20th	NGAC Public Meeting (Virtual, 1 – 5pm ET)
February – June	Various NGAC Subcommittee meetings
March	Call for 2026 NGAC nominations
June 11 – 12	NGAC Public Meeting (In-person, DC)
October TBD	NGAC Public Meeting (In-person)

Questions?