

# GDA Subcommittee Update



National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting  
October 16, 2024

# GDA Subcommittee – Timeline / Next Steps

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<b>Milestone/Deliverable</b>	<b>Date</b>
Consult with FGDC on Reporting Improvement Recommendations	Oct – Dec 2024
Draft Reporting Improvement Recommendations to NGAC	January 2025
Finalize Reporting Improvement Recommendations	February 2025
GDA Summary Report Review	February 2025
GDA Summary Report Adoption	April 2025
GDA Summary Report Publish to Web	April 2025

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 1 (Reporting Requirements)

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## **Recommendation 1:**

FGDC work with Congress to modify the GDA reporting requirements to include criteria for collaboration, governance, benefits, and outcomes, shifting the focus from reporting about general process-oriented compliance to an outcome-oriented reporting process that identifies and encourages collaboration among geospatial data providers, data managers, disseminators, and users of geospatial data.

## **FGDC Response:**

While FGDC has limited ability to work directly with Congress, FGDC generally concurs with the need to improve the GDA reporting process to focus more on the major outcomes of Federal geospatial programs. FGDC believes it would be useful to work with Federal agencies and non-Federal partners to identify a common set of high-value measures and the collaborative development and benefits that encourage collaboration of data providers, data managers, disseminators, and users of geospatial data.

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 1 (Reporting Requirements)

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## **Recommendation 2:**

FGDC should require agencies to conduct full baseline reports every 2 years, with any change to particular datasets reported annually, working with Congress to modify the GDA for this purpose if necessary.

## **FGDC Response:**

FGDC generally concurs with NGAC's recommendation that the GDA reporting process should be modified. However, the approach outlined in this recommendation may not be the most effective way to revise the reporting process. FGDC plans to review the reporting process in 2024, in collaboration with the NGAC and other stakeholders, to identify improvements to the process. To the extent possible, the reporting process should focus less on compliance reporting and more toward measuring outcomes and progress.

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 1 (Reporting Requirements)

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## **Recommendation 3:**

FGDC work with Congress to change GDA requirements to have each respective Inspector General conduct program evaluations of an agency's performance every two years rather than full audits. Full audits should be only done every four years, not every two years as currently required.

## **FGDC Response:**

While FGDC agrees in principal with the need to reduce the frequency of GDA Inspector General reviews, FGDC does not agree with this recommendation as stated. This recommendation appears to call for two separate types of reviews, audits and evaluations, with concurrent audits and evaluations every 4 years. This would result in significant overlap and confusion. FGDC believes an appropriate level of review would be agency IG program evaluations every 4 years. However, FGDC does not have the ability to unilaterally change this provision of the law, which would require Congressional action.



# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 1 (Reporting Requirements)

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## Discussion:

1. How to make implementable recommendations?
2. Meet with FGDC to understand their perspective and develop recommendations on how to be successful in making changes.
3. Develop paper January 2025 for NGAC review by February 2025.

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 2 (NGDA Assessment)

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## **Recommendation:**

The FGDC should re-examine the process for identifying NGDAs. NGAC recommends a tiered approach that would identify NGDAs based on priority, scope, and value of the data.

## **FGDC Response:**

FGDC concurs with the recommendation to re-examine the process for identifying NGDAs. FGDC is considering an element as part of the new NSDI strategic plan that will address an evaluation of existing national geospatial data assets, including their quality, completeness, and accessibility. A process to revise and refine the NGDAs would require significant communication and coordination with agencies and stakeholders.

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 2 (NGDA Assessment)

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## **Discussion:**

1. Wait for NGAC Coordinator position to be filled to begin discussion.
2. Subcommittee to advise in future.
3. Preliminary feedback via GeoGov Summit was support for NGDA assessment.



# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 3 (GeoPlatform)

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## **Recommendation:**

NGAC and FGDC leadership should institute a comprehensive review and evaluation of the business case and existing governance and management practices of the GeoPlatform to ensure alignment with GDA requirements and benefit to the national geospatial community of users and the larger user community dependent on geospatial information.

## **FGDC Response:**

FGDC concurs with the recommendation to reassess the direction of the GeoPlatform. The FGDC ExCom has identified the GeoPlatform as one of the top FGDC priorities for 2023-2024 and has established a task team to develop a path forward to align its benefit and value to the needs of the Federal and national communities. FGDC may also seek additional feedback on the GeoPlatform from the new NGAC FAIR Data Subcommittee.

# GDA Subcommittee – Focus Area 3 (GeoPlatform)

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## **Discussion:**

1. Request update from FGDC Executive Committee clarifying their plan.
2. Confirm whether item should be part of FAIR Data Subcommittee or GDA Subcommittee or both.
3. Involve GDA Subcommittee as GeoPlatform plan is developed and executed.

# GDA Subcommittee – Wrap-up

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Feedback on approach?