

# **Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)**



Darcee Killpack, Acting Executive Director  
Ken Shaffer, Deputy Executive Director  
Megan Compton, Senior NSDI Advisor  
Joy Pochatila, NSDI Data Coordinator  
Federal Geographic Data Committee

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)  
Annual Meeting @ Esri User Conference  
July 15, 2026

# Agenda

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1. Geospatial Data Act (GDA)
2. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)
3. Geospatial Data Act Reporting
4. National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)
5. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
6. FGDC and COGO Engagement
7. Open Discussion

# The Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018

[U.S. Code, Title 43 – Public Lands, Chapter 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA](#)

**FGDC is the lead entity in the executive branch for the development, implementation, and review of policies, practices, and standards relating to geospatial data.**



Codified the FGDC and formally established the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)



Designation and management of geospatial data themes



Data inventories, metadata publishing, and lifecycle management



Annual GDA reporting and performance metrics



Transparency and public access to national geospatial data

# FGDC Steering Committee Member Agencies

## Executive Committee



DOI



OMB



DOC



DoD



EPA



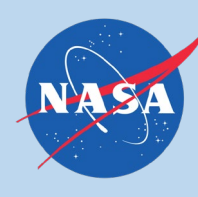
DOE



DHS



DOT



NASA



USDA



DOL



DOS



DHHS



Treasury



DVA



DHUD



FCC



DOJ



NARA



NSF



NRC



DOEd



OPM



Smithsonian



SSA



TVA



USACE



GSA



LOC



NCPC



U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA

# Steering Committee Top Priorities

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- **NSDI Implementation Plan**
- **National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) Modernization**
- **GeoPlatform**
  - Moved management and operations from Department of the Interior to US Geological Survey/FGDC in 2025
  - Coordinating with Data.gov to ensure technical issues between systems are addressed and DCAT 3.0 U.S. implementation transition is smooth for geospatial records
  - Created a new GeoPlatform Oversight Body to oversee the strategic development and modernization of the GeoPlatform
  - Evaluating interoperability with NSDI
- **GeoAI**

# Steering Committee Actions Approved in FY2026

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1. FGDC Technical Guidance clarifying the GDA definition of geospatial data
2. 2025 Report to Congress and the FY2024 FGDC Summary Report
3. Retirement of the FGDC HIFLD Subcommittee
4. Update to the NGDA Portfolio
  - a. Retirement of NGDAID166, NOAA Raster Navigational Charts (RNC)
5. Content Standards Endorsed under the GDA
  - a. Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS)
  - b. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States
  - c. Wetland Mapping Standard

# FGDC Office of the Secretariat Activities

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NSDI Strategic Plan Implementation



National Geospatial Advisory Committee Management



GeoPlatform Modernization



Standards



NGDA Portfolio Management



Geospatial Data Act Reporting

# Authoritative Federal Data: The National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs)



The highest-priority, nationally significant datasets (149)



Managed by designated federal themes (18)



Must meet requirements for quality, documentation, accessibility, and lifecycle management



Support national missions



National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), National Land Cover Database (NLCD), National Address Database (NAD), 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), Census boundaries & demographic datasets

# Geospatial Data Act and Reporting



# Geospatial Data Act Reporting Status

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## 1. FY2024 Reports

- a. Reporting timeframe October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024
- b. NGAC approved comments in March 2026
- c. FGDC Summary Report was completed and approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in May 2026

## 2. 2025 Report to Congress

- a. Includes reporting activities for FY2023 and FY2024, NGAC comments, and recommendations
- b. FGDC approved the 2025 Report to Congress in May 2026
- c. Currently under review before transmittal to Congress

# Geospatial Data Act Reporting Status

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## 3. FY2025 Reports

- a. Reporting timeframe October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

## 4. FY2026 reporting templates are under development

## 5. 2027 Report to Congress

- a. Will include reporting activities for FY2025 and FY2026

# National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) Update

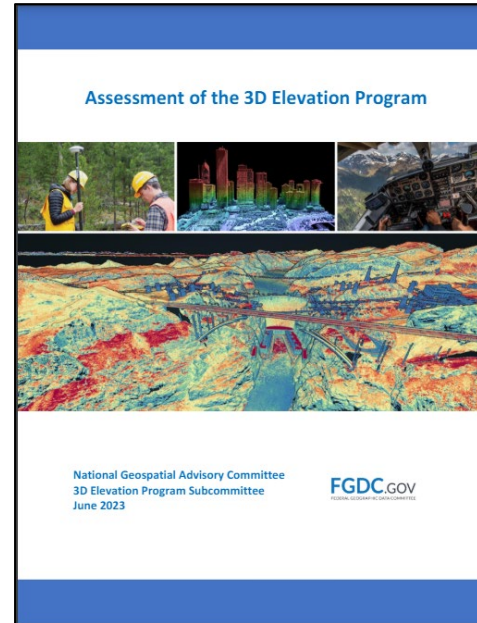


# National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)

Federal Advisory Committee reports to the FGDC Chair through the Designated Federal Officer



**Input on Key Initiatives**



**Advice on Federal Geospatial Programs**



**Cross-sector collaborative representation**

The Federal government receives input on geospatial programs, standards, etc. through NGAC

# Overview of NGAC Activities

## Since our last update

January Public meeting  
New members re/appointed  
March Public meeting  
New Study Topics  
Member terms ended  
NGAC Members review the NSDI  
Implementation Plan  
NGAC Subcommittees form

## Coming soon

August Public meeting (8/12 & 8/13 -  
tentative)  
Call for Member nominations  
December Public meeting (12/8 & 12/9 -  
tentative)

# NGAC Members

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## Academia

- Jeff Hamerlinck, Ph.D.

## Federal Gov

- Peter Arnold
- Amy Nelson

## Local Gov

- Curtis Pulford (Vice Chair)

## Non-Profit

- Maggie Cawley (Chair)
- Amy Rose, Ph.D.
- Ronda Schrenk

## Private

- Nadine Alameh, Ph.D.
- Ryan Bank
- Davey Edwards, Ph.D.
- Alan Leidner

## State Gov

- Ryen Johnson
- Leslie Jones, Ph.D.

## Tribal Gov

- Juan Cancel

# Recent NGAC Recommendations and Papers

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1. Near Term Opportunities for Our NSDI
2. Priorities for User-center Geospatial Data
3. Advancing AI Readiness
4. Recommendations for Geospatial Data Standards
5. Advancing the Nation's Geospatial Ecosystem
6. 3DEP Biannual Assessment
7. Advancing the Nation's Earth Observation Legacy for a Changing Planet
8. Comments FY2024 FGDC Summary Report

# NGAC New Focus Areas

| Study Topic                    | Purpose                                       | Planned Actions                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GDA Implementation             | Assess implementation of the GDA of 2018      | Identifies successes, challenges, and opportunities in the policy and GDA implementation.        |
| FY25 GDA Summary Report Review | Guiding NGAC's review and input               | Reviews the FY2025 Summary Report and recommends NGAC comments.                                  |
| AI & GeoAI                     | Accelerating AI-enabled geospatial innovation | Provides strategic guidance on using AI to strengthen data and NSDI interoperability.            |
| NSDI Implementation            | Driving cross-sector NSDI engagement          | Recommend outreach for the NSDI Implementation Plan rollout and opportunities for collaboration. |
| NSRS Modernization             | Connecting for broad adoption                 | Supports communication and engagement for the NSRS modernization transition.                     |
| Landsat Advisory Group         | Championing Landsat's value and future        | Advises on Landsat program priorities and communicates its national benefits.                    |
| 3DEP                           | Optimizing next-generation elevation data     | Assesses 3DEP effectiveness and explores future data optimization approaches.                    |
| Bylaws Update                  | Updating NGAC's governance framework          | Conducts the required five-year review and prepares updated bylaws.                              |

# Next NGAC Meeting Agenda (2 days)

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- Leadership updates
- New NGAC Subcommittee updates
- Discuss and deliberate on subcommittee actions/tasks
- Civil Applications Committee overview
- Lighting talks
- Public comment

*When (tentative): August 12<sup>th</sup> 9am to 3pm ET & August 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30am to 4pm ET*

*Where: Department of Interior Headquarters – Washington D.C.*

*A virtual option will be available. Meeting registration will open soon.*

# NGAC Nominations

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- Nominations for new members will open soon
- Open 30 to 60 days
- Three-year terms (may be reappointed to 2<sup>nd</sup> term then min. one year break)
- Balanced membership
- Consider nominations now – prep resume, letters of recommendations, etc.
- Nominees should be dedicated to the success of the national geospatial ecosystem
- All nominees are vetted by the Department and Administration

# 2025 – 2035 NSDI Strategic Plan

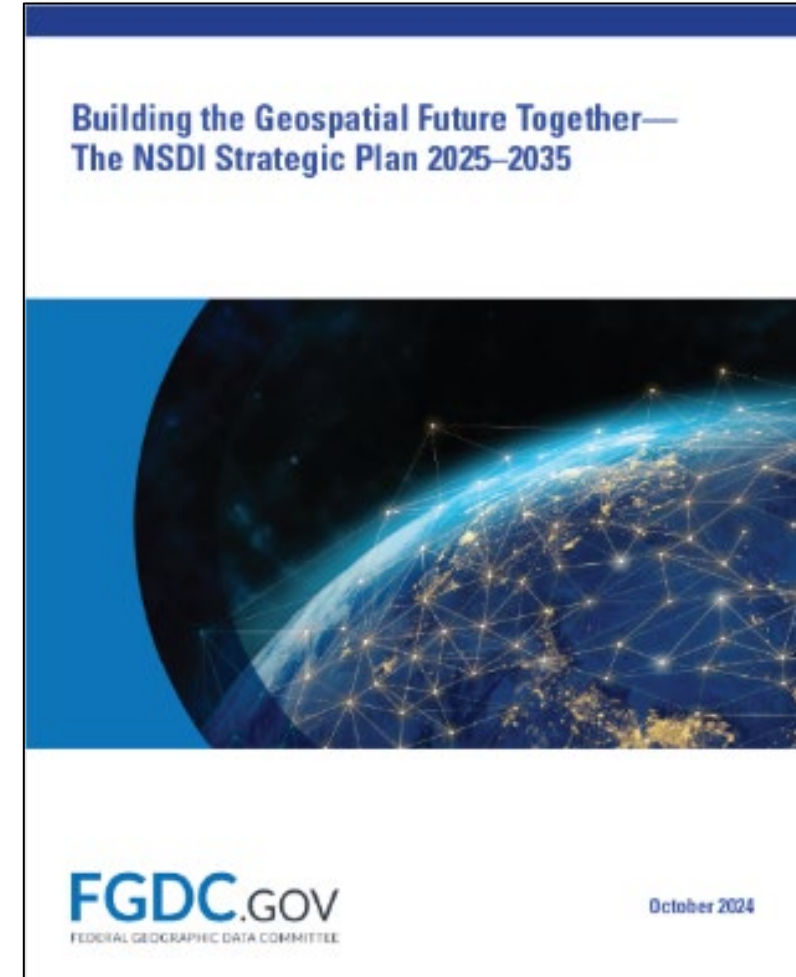
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## Vision

A seamlessly interconnected national geospatial ecosystem.

## Mission

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 all people.



# Strategy to Action – Purpose and Approach for NSDI Implementation Plan

## National Execution

- Developed with the FGDC leading national coordination
- Designed for multi-sector execution (federal, state, tribal, local, private, academic, and nonprofit)

## FGDC Task Team

- Aligned specific tasks and actions to each Strategic Plan Goal and Objective
- Adopted a phased approach to implementation
- Actively engaged partners and stakeholders and incorporated their feedback

## Cyclical and Iterative Phased Approach

- Phase 1: 2027–2029
- Phase 2: 2030-2032
- Phase 3: 2033–2035

# NSDI Implementation Plan Development and Approval Timeline

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| Action                                             | Date (2026)   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| FGDC and NGAC Review                               | Complete      |
| <b>Post to Federal Register for Public Comment</b> | <b>August</b> |
| <b>Public Webinars to Present Plan</b>             | <b>August</b> |
| FGDC Review and Approve Final Plan                 | December      |

# FGDC and COGO Engagement



# FGDC and COGO Engagement

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Collaborate

Engage

Share Successes

Support NSDI  
Implementation

# COGO's Role in the NSDI Implementation Plan

| Plan Component                     | COGO Role                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National governance & sector roles | Contribute expertise and helps define roles of nonprofit/professional geospatial organizations |
| Partnerships & engagement          | Support multisector collaboration & professional community mobilization                        |
| Strategic plan input               | Serve as geospatial partner/stakeholder organizations that informed the plan                   |

COGO fits into the NSDI Implementation Plan as a key non-federal partner that can to contribute leadership, expertise, and coordination across governance, partnerships, and national geospatial assessments.

# COGO's Input on the Draft NSDI Implementation Plan

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COGO could collect feedback from members on the NSDI Implementation Plan and submit it during the public comment period.

What to think about in the review/feedback:

1. Do the actions and objectives fit with the overall Strategy?
2. Where does COGO fit in these actions?
3. What actions can COGO lead and/or support?
4. How does the next COGO NSDI Assessment inform the Implementation Plan (current phase)?

# FGDC OS Feedback on COGO NSDI Assessment

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- FGDC provided the following support:
  - FGDC shared Federal agency contacts for theme discussions
  - Survey was shared with FGDC members
- Engage NGDA Theme leads by the COGO theme leads
  - Review mission and goals for the NGDA Themes
- Consider the NSDI Implementation Plan in the overall assessment of the NSDI
- Share stories of how prior NSDI Assessments were used

# Next Steps & Questions & Comments

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FGDC.G🦆V