Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

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AUDIT DIVISION

24-101

SEPTEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

Objective

The objective of this audit was to assess the Department of Justice's (Department or DOJ) progress toward meeting the requirements for covered agencies established under subsection 759(a) of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). The GDA requires the Department to take specific actions to enhance government and private sector use of geospatial data and technology.

The GDA also requires that the Inspectors General of covered agencies conduct an audit of their respective agency's compliance with the GDA requirements every 2 years. We previously audited compliance for fiscal years (FYs) 2018 through 2022. This audit covers the Department's efforts to comply with the GDA for FYs 2023 and 2024.

Results in Brief

We determined through prior audits that the Department was compliant with 8 of the 13 GDA requirements under subsection 759(a), as of September 2022. For FYs 2023 and 2024, we found that the Department met an additional three requirements and made progress towards meeting the two remaining requirements.

Recommendation

Our report contains one recommendation to improve the Department's efforts to comply with the GDA. We requested from the Department's Justice Management Division a response to our draft audit report, which can be found in Appendix 2. Our analysis of this response is included in Appendix 3.

Audit Results

Geospatial data is information related to features or events that can be referenced to specific locations relative to the earth's surface. Subsection 759 of the GDA established the responsibilities and reporting requirements of each covered agency.

Department Progress Towards Full Compliance

Our prior audit of the Department's efforts to comply with the GDA, issued in September 2022, found that the Department had met 8 of the 13 requirements, which related to its geospatial data strategy, data integration, recordkeeping, resource allocation, industry coordination, use of geospatial data, personal privacy, and lead agency coordination. Our current audit found that the Department has met three of the remaining five requirements, which relate to National Spatial Data Infrastructure contributions, the use of existing geospatial data, and geospatial data quality.

Department Action Still Needed

We determined that the Department has made progress towards meeting the remaining 2 of the 13 GDA requirements under subsection 759(a) but further action is needed. Specifically, the Department requires a process to regularly monitor data assets submitted by components to ensure it complies with GDA requirements for making pertinent metadata available through the GeoPlatform, which in turn enables the appropriate and legally required dissemination of geospatial data with other federal agencies and non-federal users.

Table of Contents

Introduction

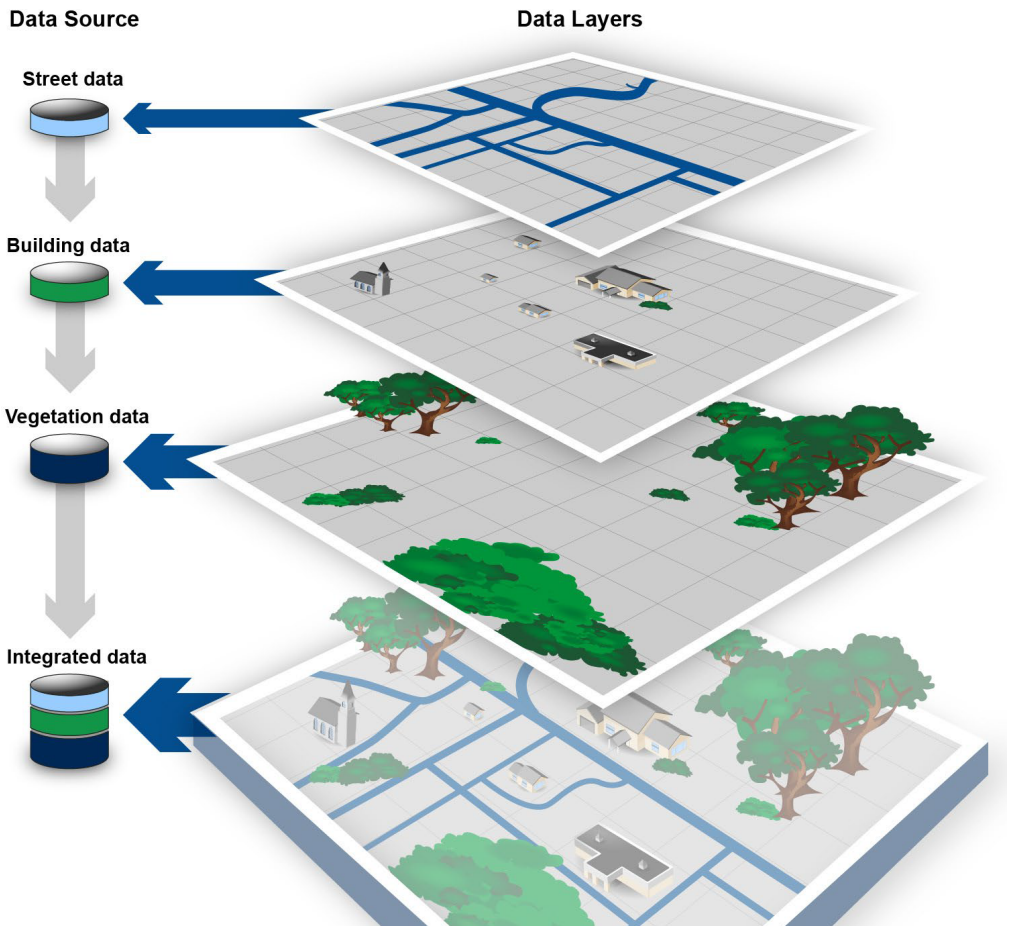
Geospatial data is information related to features or events that can be referenced to specific locations relative to the earth's surface. For example, features such as buildings, rivers, and roads can all be identified by geospatial locations. Geospatial data can be analyzed in geographic information systems—computer software and hardware—used to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, and graphically present a potentially wide array of geospatial data.[1]

The primary function of a geographic information system is to link multiple sets of geospatial data and display the combined information as maps with different layers of information. Assuming all of the information has been formatted to the same geospatial standards and scale, users can potentially overlay geospatial data about any number of specific topics to examine how the data in the various layers interrelate. Each layer of a geographic information system map typically represents a single theme made up of one or more sets of data, each of which could be derived from a source completely different from the others. For example, one theme could represent all streets in a specific area. Another theme could correspond to all buildings in the same area, and another could show vegetation. Analyzing this layered information as an integrated whole can significantly aid decision makers in considering complex choices, such as where to locate a police station to best serve the greatest number of citizens. Figure 1 portrays the concept of data themes in a geographic information system.

[1] U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), *Geospatial Data Progress Needed on Identifying Expenditures, Building and Utilizing a Data Infrastructure, and Reducing Duplicative Efforts,* GAO-15-193 (March 2015).

Figure 1

Visual Representation of Data Themes in a Geographic Information System



Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office.

For many years, the federal government has taken steps to coordinate geospatial activities both within and outside the federal government to discourage the duplication of data and the inefficient use of resources. Beginning in the early 1950s, the federal government began promoting the coordinated use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data nationwide through various Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars and Executive Orders. However, in 2015 Congress found that federal efforts to collect this data historically lacked coordination and often were duplicative, resulting in billions of dollars in wasted resources. As a result, the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) was introduced with the goal of improving collaboration across agencies, reducing waste, and providing oversight of the federal government's multibillion-dollar investments in geospatial data.

The GDA was signed into law on October 5, 2018, and is comprised of 12 sections that formalize governance processes related to geospatial data, provide policy and guidance to empower the use of geospatial data and technology, and facilitate broad cooperation between the public and private sectors. The GDA includes in its definition of geospatial data both information that is tied to a location on the earth and information

derived from remote sensing, mapping, surveying technologies and images, and aerial photographs.[2] The GDA specifically excludes from its requirements any classified national security-related geospatial data and activities of the intelligence community, as well as geospatial data and activities of Indian tribes that are not conducted using federal funds.

Office of the Inspector General Audit Approach

The GDA requires that the Inspectors General of covered agencies conduct an audit of their respective agency's compliance with the GDA requirements every 2 years. Our prior audits of the Department of Justice's (Department or DOJ) compliance with the GDA were issued in September 2020 and 2022.[3] The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency notified the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in November 2023 that the Inspectors General ability to conduct a comprehensive biennial audit in fiscal year (FY) 2024 would be limited as the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) had not established standards required to assess compliance with sections 757 and 759A, which are two of the three audit requirements identified in the GDA. As of June 2024, the FGDC has not established the standards required to assess compliance with GDA sections 757 and 759A. The Inspectors General working group determined that audits focused on the covered agencies' progress toward compliance with the GDA, including agencies' compliance with requirements under subsection 759(a), would likely provide the best value to the agency, Congress, and the public.

Therefore, our audit objective was to assess the Department's progress toward meeting the requirements for covered agencies established in the GDA under subsection 759(a). The scope of our audit generally covers the Department's efforts to implement the statutory requirements of the GDA from October 2022 through June 2024.

To accomplish our objective, we interviewed personnel from the Justice Management Division (JMD) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and several DOJ components. In addition, we evaluated the Department's policies governing geospatial data and reviewed the Department's Justice Data Catalog (JDC) and Justice Data Inventory (JDI). We also analyzed information in data.gov and the GeoPlatform to identify any geospatial data assets relevant to the requirements of the GDA.[4]

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[2] Remote sensing is the science of obtaining information about objects or areas from a distance, typically from aircraft or satellites.

[3] DOJ Office of the Inspector General (OIG), *Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018*, Audit Report 20-113 (September 2020), oig.justice.gov/news/doj-oig-releases-report-dojs-compliance-geospatial-data-act-2018 and *Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022*, Audit Report 22-114 (September 2022), oig.justice.gov/news/doj-oig-releases-report-department-justices-compliance-geospatial-data-act-2018-fiscal-years.

[4] The JDC is an online inventory of dataset information input into the system by users within the Department community. Users entering the data into the catalog indicate whether the data has a geospatial theme. The JDI site lists files with metadata and points to the files on the component's websites. GDA Section 758 defines the GeoPlatform as an electronic service that provides access to geospatial data and metadata to the general public.

Audit Results

The GDA requires that the Inspectors General of covered agencies conduct an audit of their respective agency's compliance with the GDA requirements every 2 years. In our prior audit of the Department's efforts to comply with the GDA, issued in September 2022, we found the Department met eight of the requirements outlined in subsection 759(a), made progress toward meeting an additional four requirements, and had addressed a portion of the final requirement.

In our current work, we determined that the Department has met an additional three GDA requirements under subsection 759(a) and made some progress towards meeting the remaining two, as shown in Table 1. The Department requires additional action to fully comply with the GDA subsection 759(a). Specifically, the Department is not making metadata available through the GeoPlatform and is therefore not disseminating geospatial data so it can be shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users. [5]

Table 1

The Department's Compliance with the GDA

	Section	FY 21-22 Status	FY 23-24 Status
759(a)(1)	Geospatial Data Strategy – Prepare, Maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(2)	Geospatial Data Collection – Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.	Made Progress	Made Progress
759(a)(3)	Geospatial Data Integration – Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(4)	Approved Agency Record Schedules – ensure geospatial data and activities are included on approved National Archives and Records Administration record schedules.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(5)	Geospatial Resource Allocation – Allocate resources to fulfil the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(6)	Geospatial Data Standards – Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform.	Unable to fully assess	Made Progress

[5] As it relates to geospatial data, the term metadata means information about geospatial data, including the content, source, vintage, accuracy, condition, projection, method of collection, and other characteristics or descriptions of the geospatial data.

Section		FY 21-22 Status	FY 23-24 Status
759(a)(7)	Industry Coordination – Coordinate and work in partnership to efficiently and cost effectively collect, integrate maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(8)	Use of Geospatial Data – Make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and enhance reporting to the public and to Congress.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(9)	Personal Privacy Protection – Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(10)	National Spatial Data Infrastructure Contributions – Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.	Made Progress	Meets Requirements
759(a)(11)	Use of Existing Geospatial Data – Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing federal, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection.	Made Progress	Meets requirements
759(a)(12)	Geospatial Data Quality – To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data.	Made Progress	Meets Requirements
759(a)(13)	Lead Covered Agency Coordination – Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes.	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements

Source: GDA and OIG

Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act – Section 759(a)

As previously stated, our audit examined the Department's progress toward compliance with the requirements established in the GDA subsection 759(a) focusing on the five areas in which our prior audit found the Department had not met the requirements. These five requirements are discussed in the following sections of this report.

For the eight areas that our prior audit found the Department met the requirements, we asked JMD what, if anything had changed since October 2022. According to JMD, the only change made was specific to subsection 13 and included updating the back-up point of contact for the Department. Because we considered the risk of the Department's non-compliance in these eight areas to be low, we did not conduct additional audit work in these areas.

Geospatial Data Collection and Data Standards

GDA subsection 759(a)(2) requires that covered agencies collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other

federal agencies and non-federal users. Our prior audit found that JMD was making progress toward meeting the requirements of subsection 759(a)(2) and recommended that JMD: (1) establish a working definition of geospatial data and communicate that criteria to DOJ components to ensure geospatial data assets are reported accurately in the JDC, (2) develop and enact a plan to identify all un-classified geospatial data assets within the Department, and (3) develop and implement a quality assurance process to verify geospatial data assets are accurately identified as part of the Integrated Data Collection (IDC) process. In response to these recommendations, JMD updated the guidance it provided to components for geospatial data collection referred to as the Job Aid: Inventorying DOJ Geospatial Data, and JMD developed and enacted the March 2023 Geospatial Data Asset Information Plan. These documents give a working definition of geospatial data and detail the process used to identify and manage geospatial data assets, including un-classified data, and how it will be stored, updated, disseminated, and archived. However, despite this progress, as of June 2024, the Department had only successfully uploaded two files to the GeoPlatform. Therefore, we determined that the Department has not fully met the requirements of subsection (2).

GDA subsection 759(a)(6) requires covered agencies to use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, that include documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform. GDA section 758 defines the GeoPlatform as an electronic service that provides access to geospatial data and metadata to the general public.

During our prior audit we were unable to fully assess the Department's compliance with subsection 759(a)(6), and made two recommendations: (1) ensure that all un-classified geospatial data assets adhere to FGDC-endorsed metadata standards, and (2) develop and enact a plan to make all metadata for the Department's geospatial data assets that are approved for public release available on the GeoPlatform. In response, JMD developed and enacted the March 2023 Geospatial Data Asset Information Plan. The plan requires that each geospatial data asset contain a corresponding ISO-compliant metadata file and that all metadata for DOJ's geospatial data assets approved for publication and available in the JDC are harvested and made public on the GeoPlatform.[6] The ISO-compliant metadata standards included in both the plan and the Job Aid are FGDC-endorsed ISO standards. The plan also states that data assets are identified and managed with the JDC, which provides an inventory of all un-classified and declassified data assets collected throughout the Department. The plan notes that the Geospatial Community of Interest is available to provide guidance and assistance to components with identifying un-classified geospatial data assets as part of the IDC process.[7]

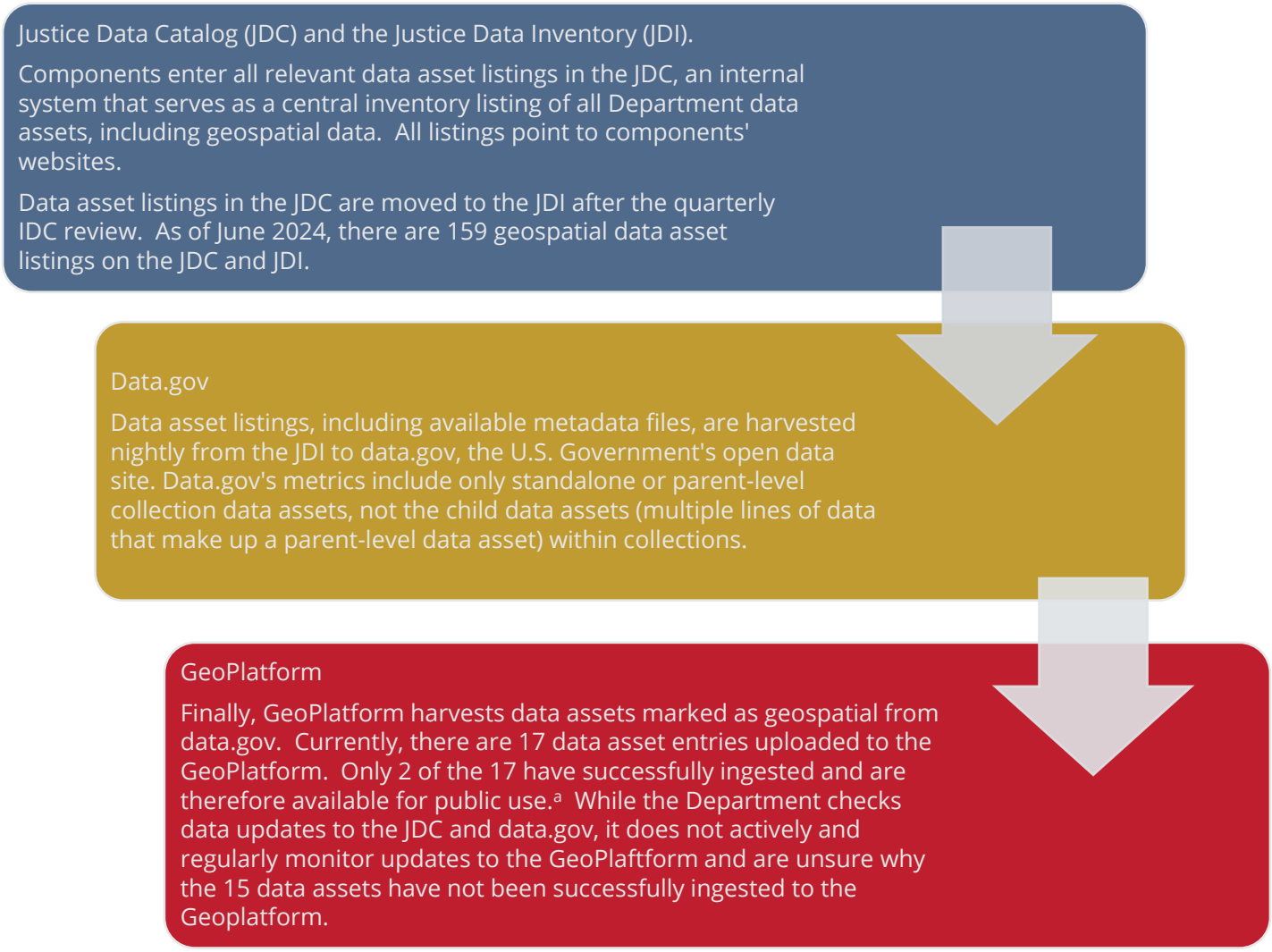
As shown in Figure 2, data assets move through several different platforms before finally being ingested to the GeoPlatform, where they are available for public use.

[6] The International Organization for Standards (ISO) is one of the oldest non-governmental international organizations and brings global experts together to agree on a wide range of proprietary, industrial, and commercial standards.

[7] The Mission of the Department's Geospatial Community of Interest is to enhance geospatial resources by unifying the efforts of Components, streamlining enterprise efforts, and improving DOJ geospatial technology, training, tradecraft, production, integration, market research, and collaboration.

Figure 2

The Department's Process for Harvesting Geospatial Data Assets to the GeoPlatform



[a] JMD's *Job Aid: Inventorying DOJ Geospatial Data*, lists the Department's three accepted and FGDC-endorsed geospatial metadata standards as follows: (1) ISO 19115-2, (2) ISO 19115, and (3) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata. We reviewed the metadata associated with the two files successfully ingested to the GeoPlatform and found that they were in the ISO 19115 format.

Source: JMD and the OIG

On a quarterly basis, users throughout the Department enter metadata information for public and non-public data assets they have collected. The Department refers to this as the quarterly IDC. During the quarterly IDC, JMD requires each component's designees to review their JDC content and make appropriate additions, changes, or corrections to appropriately account for all component data assets. The quarterly IDC includes a quality control review in which components are to read through each of their data asset entries in JDC to confirm that metadata fields are populated with accurate and appropriate content. The Department receives a status update email when the quarterly IDC has been completed. Upon receiving the email, the Department reviews the changes made to the overall data assets harvested to data.gov. However, the Department's review process stops when data assets are harvested to data.gov and does not include reviewing the ingestion of data assets to the GeoPlatform.

Ultimately, it is the components' responsibility to provide all required information in the correct format; however, it is JMD's responsibility to work with the components to ensure data assets are being ingested by the GeoPlatform. The review conducted by JMD as part of the quarterly IDC stops at checking data updates to the JDC, JDI, and data.gov. From the perspective of updating files on the GeoPlatform, JMD has not been actively and regularly monitoring the updates. In addition, while the Department works with components on the quarterly IDC, the process of working with components to correct issues with data assets not being ingested to the GeoPlatform does not happen on a regular basis. The components we interviewed said additional guidance on how data assets are harvested to the GeoPlatform and how metadata should be collected would aid them in uploading properly mapped data assets.

We believe more Department geospatial data assets would be ingested to the GeoPlatform if JMD consistently reviewed the GeoPlatform ingestion process and consistently worked with components to correct issues preventing geospatial data assets from being uploaded to the GeoPlatform. As a result, we recommend JMD develop a process to regularly monitor data assets submitted by components to further comply with GDA subsections 759(a)(2) and 759(a)(6), including: (1) ensure data assets are submitted with the appropriate metadata and, (2) are uploaded to the GeoPlatform as required.

National Spatial Data Infrastructure Contributions

GDA subsection 759(a)(10) requires covered agencies to participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The GDA states that the NSDI must ensure that geospatial data from multiple sources is available and easily integrated to enhance the understanding of the physical and cultural world. A key element of the NSDI is the GeoPlatform website.

Our prior audit found that the Department was making progress toward meeting the requirement of subsection (10) and recommended that the Department develop and provide to all components specific guidance on how to identify declassified geospatial data and determine whether it can contribute to and become part of the NSDI. In response to the recommendation, JMD updated its Job Aid: Inventorying DOJ Geospatial Data to clarify that components are responsible for inventorying all un-classified and declassified geospatial data assets in the JDC.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information," the Department has three programs it uses to declassify information: (1) the Automatic Declassification Program, (2) the Systematic Declassification Program, and (3) the Mandatory Declassification Review Program. In addition, JMD put forth

the Declassification Review and Referral guide to present DOJ's interpretation of the declassification process. As previously mentioned, during the Department's quarterly IDC, OCIO instructs components to conduct a quality control review of their data entries in the JDC to ensure they are complete and accurate; this instruction includes ensuring declassified data assets are added to the inventory.

The Department participates in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to the NSDI by including: (1) a validation quality control process in the quarterly IDC; and (2) the statement in its Job Aid that components are responsible for inventorying all un-classified and declassified geospatial data assets in the JDC. We determined that the updated guidance and existing policies, when followed, should ensure that declassified data assets can, when appropriate, become a part of the NSDI. As a result, we found the Department has met the requirements of subsection 759(a)(10) of the GDA.

Use of Existing Geospatial Data

GDA subsection 759(a)(11) requires covered agencies to search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing federal, state, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection.

Our prior audit found that the Department was making progress toward meeting the requirement of subsection 759(a)(11) and recommended that JMD establish policy requiring DOJ components to search all reliable sources for existing geospatial data prior to submitting an IT acquisition request or expending funds for geospatial data collection. In response, JMD updated its Information Technology Acquisition Oversight Policy Statement to require components to search all reliable sources for existing geospatial data prior to submitting an IT acquisition request or expending funds for geospatial data collection. We determined that the policy, when followed, should ensure an adequate search for existing geospatial data sets is conducted prior to expending funds for geospatial data collection. As a result, we determined the Department has met the requirements for subsection 759(a)(11) of the GDA.

Geospatial Data Quality

GDA subsection 759(a)(12) requires covered agencies, to the maximum extent practical, to ensure that a person receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data.

Our prior audit found that the Department was making progress toward meeting the requirement of subsection 759(a)(12) and recommended that JMD establish policy requiring IT acquisition requests for geospatial data products and services include a description of the data quality requirements prior to going through the IT acquisition review process. In response, JMD updated its Information Technology Acquisition Oversight Policy Statement to require components to submit a description of the data quality prior to going through the Department's IT acquisition process. We reviewed the policy and determined that, when followed, it should ensure that a person receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data. As a result, we determined the Department has met the requirements for subsection 729(a)(12) of the GDA.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In our September 2022 audit report, we found that the Department had met 8 of the 13 GDA requirements under subsection 759(a). In this audit, we determined that the Department had met an additional 3 requirements and made progress toward compliance with the remaining 2 of the 13 requirements. Specifically, the Department is not making metadata available through the GeoPlatform and is therefore not disseminating geospatial data so it can be shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users. As a result, we make one recommendation to improve the Department's efforts to comply with subsection 759(a) of the GDA.

We recommend that JMD:

1. Develop a process to regularly monitor data assets submitted by components to further comply with GDA subsections 759(a)(2) and 759(a)(6), including: (1) ensure data assets are submitted with the appropriate metadata and, (2) are uploaded to the GeoPlatform as required.

APPENDIX 1: Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Objective

The objective of the audit was to assess the Department of Justice's (Department or DOJ) progress toward meeting the requirements for covered agencies established in the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) under subsection 759(a).

Scope and Methodology

Our audit covers the Department's efforts to implement the statutory requirements of the GDA for FYs 2023 and 2024. To accomplish our objective, we interviewed personnel from the Department's Justice Management Division (JMD) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), as well as officials from several DOJ components, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the Drug Enforcement Agency; the Federal Bureau of Investigations; and the Office of Justice Programs. In addition, we evaluated the Department's policies governing geospatial data and reviewed the Department's Justice Data Catalog (JDC) and Justice Data Inventory (JDI). We also analyzed information in data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

Statement on Compliance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards

We conducted this performance audit in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

Internal Controls

In this audit, we performed testing of internal controls significant within the context of our audit objective. We did not evaluate the internal controls of the Department to provide assurance on its internal control structure as a whole. Department management is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of internal controls in accordance with OMB Circular A-123. Because we do not express an opinion on the Department's internal control structure as a whole, we offer this statement solely for the information and use of the Department.[8]

In planning and performing our audit, we identified internal control components and underlying internal control principles as significant to the audit objective. Specifically, we assessed the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of the Department's written policies and process controls pertaining to geospatial data within our scope and did not identify any deficiencies for existing policies at the time of our audit. However, because our review was limited to those internal control components and underlying principles that we found significant to the objective of this audit, it may not have disclosed all internal control deficiencies that may have existed at the time of this audit.

[8] This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

In this audit we tested, as appropriate given our audit objective and scope, records, procedures, and practices, to obtain reasonable assurance that the Department's management complied with federal laws and regulations for which non-compliance, in our judgment, could have a material affect on the results of our audit. Our audit included examining, on a test basis, the Department's compliance with Public Law 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data (Geospatial Data Act of 2018).

This testing included interviewing personnel from JMD OCIO; examining geospatial data policies, practices and procedures; and assessing internal controls. As noted in the Audit Results section of this report, we found that the Department has not fully complied with the GDA requirements established in subsection 759(a).

Computer-Processed Data

During our audit, we obtained information from the Department's JDC, JDI, data.gov, and the GeoPlatform. We did not test the reliability of those systems as a whole; therefore, any findings identified involving information from those systems were verified with documentation from other sources. We determined that the data was sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this report.

APPENDIX 2: The Justice Management Division Response to the Draft Audit Report

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

August 19, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft OIG Audit Report of the DOJ Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for the Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. The report provided the following conclusion and recommendations. The Department's comments are in-line:

Conclusion: In our September 2022 audit report, we found that the Department had met 8 of the 13 GDA requirements under subsection 759(a). In this audit, we determined that the Department had met an additional 3 requirements and made progress toward compliance with the remaining 2 of the 13 requirements. Specifically, the Department is not making metadata available through the GeoPlatform and is therefore not disseminating geospatial data so it can be shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users. As a result, we make one recommendation to improve the Department's efforts to comply with subsection 759(a) of the GDA.

> **DOJ Comments:** As noted in the Office of the Inspector General draft report, the Department has made progress in implementing the provisions of the Geospatial Data Act, as well as provided evidence supporting our effort to satisfy the statute's provisions. We appreciate the efforts of the Audit Team and agree continued action to build on our progress will see the Department achieve further success in implementing these statutory provisions.

Recommendation 1. Develop a process to regularly monitor data assets submitted by components to further comply with GDA subsections 759(a)(2) and 759(a)(6), including: (1) ensure data assets are submitted with the appropriate metadata and, (2) are uploaded to the GeoPlatform as required.

> **DOJ Response:** The Department agrees with the recommendation and is the process of updating its quarterly Integrated Data Call process to review the ingestion of data assets to the GeoPlatform to ensure the data assets are being ingested as intended. The Department will also produce additional guidance on how data assets are harvested to the GeoPlatform and how metadata should be collected to aid Components in uploading properly mapped data assets. The Department aims to complete this effort by the end of Q2 FY2025.

APPENDIX 3: Office of the Inspector General Analysis and Summary of Actions Necessary to Close the Audit Report

The OIG provided a draft of this audit report to the Department's Justice Management Division (JMD). JMD's response is incorporated in Appendix 2 of this final report. In response to our audit report, JMD agreed with our recommendation and discussed the actions it will implement in response to our findings. As a result, the status of the audit report is resolved. The following provides the OIG analysis of the response and summary of actions necessary to close the report.

Recommendation for JMD:

1. **Develop a process to regularly monitor data assets submitted by components to further comply with GDA subsections 759(a)(2) and 759(a)(6), including: (1) ensure data assets are submitted with the appropriate metadata and, (2) are uploaded to the GeoPlatform as required.**

   Resolved. JMD agreed with our recommendation. JMD officials stated that they are updating the quarterly Integrated Data Call process to review the ingestion of data assets to the GeoPlatform. In addition, those officials stated that they will produce additional guidance on how data assets are harvested to the GeoPlatfrom and how metadata should be collected to aid components in uploading properly mapped data assets. The Department aims to complete these efforts by the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2025. As a result, this recommendation is resolved.

   This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that JMD updated the quarterly Integrated Data Call process and included into that process a mechanism to regularly monitor the data assets submitted to the GeoPlatform, to ensure they are being ingested as intended. Further, JMD should submit evidence demonstrating that additional guidance was produced and provided to components on how data assets are harvested to the GeoPlatform and how metadata should be collected.