

# NGDA Dataset Report

**Official NGDA Title:** Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Conterminous United States

**Metadata Record Title:** Terrestrial ecosystems of the conterminous United States

**A-16 NGDA Theme:** Biota

## Executive NGDA Theme Champion(s):

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## Theme Lead(s):

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## Dataset Manager(s):

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## Metadata:

**Registration Status:** Complete

**Registered on** 1/27/2015

**GeoPlatform Link\*:** <https://www.geoplatform.gov/node/243/9bbd00b5-9fd5-4d57-ba3e-6d673c6d0312>

**Data.gov Metadata Link\*:** <http://catalog.data.gov/harvest/object/d0dbf3e0-fdc4-4e0c-a225-6f8799f4613e/html>

\*If the metadata has been updated and reharvested after publication of this report, the link may no longer be valid. The dataset may be searched for manually in Data.gov or GeoPlatform.gov.

# NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Report

## Time Frame:

2009 to present

## LMA Submission:

**Status:** Complete

**Date:** 11/9/2015

**Extension Requested:** Yes

## LMA Reviewer(s):

**Supervisor:** Did not review

**Theme Lead:** Marcia McNiff

**Executive Champion:** Did not review

**SAOGI\*:** Did not review

**Other:** Did not review

## LMA Verifier:

**Name:** Marcia McNiff

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## Attachments:

To get access to any attachments referenced in the report, email the LMA Help Desk at [NGDA\\_LMA\\_help@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDA_LMA_help@fgdc.gov). Please use the subject "Dataset Report Attachment(s)" and indicate the associated official NGDA title.

\*Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI)

## Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Summary

### Overall Maturity:

**Mature; Consistent**

General Questions: 75%

**Mature; Consistent**

Stage 4 - Access: 100%

**Optimized; Established**

Stage 1 - Define/Plan: 76%

**Mature; Consistent**

Stage 5 - Maintain: 37%

**Transition; Transformation**

Stage 2 - Inventory/Evaluate: 100%

**Optimized; Established**

Stage 6 - Use/Evaluate: 67%

**Managed; Predictable**

Stage 3 - Obtain: 84%

**Mature; Consistent**

Stage 7 - Archive: 100%

**Optimized; Established**

### NGDA Dataset Maturity Definitions:

How To Calculate Maturity: [https://www.geoplatform.gov/sites/default/files/How\\_to\\_Calculate\\_Maturity.pdf](https://www.geoplatform.gov/sites/default/files/How_to_Calculate_Maturity.pdf)

Maturity	Maturity Characteristics for All Lifecycle Stages
Optimized; Established Rank = 5	Dataset meets virtually all business needs of all users. The dataset is considered authoritative by owners and secondary users. It is curated across all stages of the approved lifecycle. Future needs are defined on a regular basis and resources for addressing both current and future business requirements are available.
Mature; Consistent Rank = 4	Dataset meets all the business needs of the primary owner and most of the secondary users. The dataset is curated and used as authoritative by the primary owner. Dataset is used widely by secondary users actively engaged in sustaining the dataset. Future needs are identified and steps are planned to address these. All stages are supported and reviewed on a recurring basis. The dataset is well managed in relation to the approved lifecycle.
Managed; Predictable Rank = 3	Dataset meets a significant number of the business needs of the primary owner and is widely used as an authoritative resource by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least four of the approved lifecycle stages. Management practices in relation to the approved lifecycle is moderate but consistent. Dataset is integrating changing business requirements in lifecycle stages impacting overall maturity.
Transition; Transformation Rank = 2	Dataset meets business needs of the primary owner and has moderate use by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least three stages. Efforts to integrate funding, include partners, and obtain data are not supported in a sustained manner. Management practices in relation to the stages of the approved lifecycle is limited.
Planned; Initial Development Rank = 1	Dataset limited in meeting business needs of the primary owner. Benchmark activities in the approved lifecycle are just starting to consider secondary uses, partnerships are forming to support additional dataset uses. Dataset development is in a very early stage. Minimal or limited management against the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.
No Activity Rank = no activity	Dataset meets project or local business needs of the primary owner, secondary or additional uses or users were not considered, not recognized as an authoritative data or is part of a similar dataset. Not managed to any of the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.

## General Questions for All Stages

1) Is there a recurring process to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of this dataset?

**Answer:** Funding is from local offices, budgeting effort minimal, staffing minimal.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

All past work was funded with standard congressional appropriations funding directed to local program. There is no future work necessary that would require funding.

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2) Is there a process in place to ensure that open government and transparency guidelines are followed in all lifecycle stages for this dataset?

**Answer:** Process is published as appropriate with respect to sensitivity requirements, process is transparent, published appropriately.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

There is no published document that details issues relating to openness and transparency but data were developed, archived, and disseminated with full openness and transparency and peer review.

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3) Are there processes and tools in place so that staff are sufficiently knowledgeable to ensure a continuity of the dataset for all stages of the lifecycle, especially during staffing transitions?

**Answer:** Processes and tools to ensure dataset continuity are in place and implemented for all lifecycle stages.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

This is an archived resource which is primarily of scientific interest and is not used in any management process or policy analysis. The dataset is resident on a USGS server with the understanding that it will be served in perpetuity (i.e. not taken down).

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## STAGE 1 - Define/Plan

4) Are user and business requirements defined and formalized?

**Answer:** Ad hoc process is used for involving Partners/stakeholders in identifying requirements.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

This resource was developed for a scientific audience and did not require elaboration of a business plan. Agency requirements identified the need for the work: ...rigorous, standardized, geospatial classification models and maps of national ecosystems at scales appropriate to land-manager needs... (Source, 2007-2017 USGS Science Strategy, Circular 1309, page 8)

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5) How are partners/stakeholders involved in the requirements collection process?

**Answer:** Ad hoc process is used for involving Partners/stakeholders in identifying requirements.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Partners/stakeholders were drawn from the USGS and NGO (NatureServe) ecosystems geography community. No formal stakeholder identification process or solicitation of stakeholder input from outside of this group was implemented.

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6) Is there a quality assurance process for the dataset?

**Answer:** Quality assurance published as appropriate with respect sensitivity requirements.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

The dataset was compliant with agency information quality directives.  
<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/pp1768>

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7) Is there a process to evaluate the sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality of this dataset?

**Answer:** Sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality evaluations fully implemented, reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
These data are non-sensitive, non-private, and non-confidential. They are available in the public domain.

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8) Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or rendering the data?

**Answer:** Standards fully implemented documented and published as appropriate.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
The data are standardized, fully documented with metadata, and exist in the public domain available.

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## STAGE 2 - Inventory/Evaluate

9) Is there a process for determining if data necessary to meet requirements already exist from other sources (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?

**Answer:** Process for determining appropriate data is being reused fully implemented, reviewed, and updated on a regular basis.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
The leader and the resource development team contemplated existing national terrestrial ecosystem datasets prior to development of a new concept and approach for a data-derived, top down, deductive ecosystem model.

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## STAGE 3 - Obtain

10) Is there a process for obtaining data in relation to this dataset?

**Answer:** Process is fully implemented, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
All input data were obtained as authoritative government datalayers from agencies. There is no need for collection of additional data and therefore no ongoing data collection process.

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11) Is the metadata in a FGDC endorsed geospatial metadata standard?

**Answer:** Metadata is available in a format endorsed by the FGDC, it fully describes the dataset and provides all the information required to make the dataset discoverable, accessible, and usable.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
Metadata are available.  
<http://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/ecosystems/data.shtml>

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12) How complete is the geographic coverage as defined in the requirements for the dataset?

**Part 1 Answer:** Business requirement targets identified for completing geographic coverage. Cyclic updates for refreshing dataset in early phases.

**Part 2 Answer:** Dataset has presently attained the greatest geographic coverage as defined by the current requirements or roughly 100%.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
Data are complete for the conterminous US, the targeted coverage.

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## STAGE 4 - Access

13) Do you have a process for providing users access to the data in an open digital machine readable format?

**Answer:** User access process is fully implemented, data is available, process is reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:** **Attachment(s):** 0  
Data are ftp available in the public domain from a USGS website.

## STAGE 5 - Maintain

14) Is there a maintenance process for updating and storing the dataset?

**Answer:** Dataset maintenance process is being implemented.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

This effort was a one-time data creation process to characterize potential terrestrial ecosystems of the conterminous US. It exists as a scientific resource. It was not intended to be updated. The maintenance (for dissemination purposes) of the resource is ongoing.

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15) Is there an error correction process as part of dataset maintenance?

**Answer:** No.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Initially and for about 5 years, users were invited to submit comments back to the team on accuracy and utility of data. This user-feedback mechanism is no longer available after a recent redesign of the webpage, given the age of the resource and the relative lack of comments received. Users can still contact any of the PIs associated with the dataset through a Contact Us link on the web page.

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## STAGE 6 - Use/Evaluate

16) Is there a process to determine if the dataset meets user needs?

**Answer:** No.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Data were not developed in response to a set of user requirements from a community of stakeholders. Data were produced as a scientific collaboration between a federal agency and an NGO to advance scientific understanding of terrestrial ecosystem distributions. The data certainly met the agency need and 10 year strategy recommendation to advance national ecosystem mapping.

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17) Is there a process to provide users information on how to access and properly use the dataset?

**Answer:** Process is fully implemented supporting access and proper use, process is reviewed on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

Users are provided instructions on how to access the data. No guidance is provided on how to use the data, but as the information consists of GIS datalayers it is understood that the use of the data is for spatial analysis/exploration in a GIS context.

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18) Are the business processes and management practices assessed to meet changing technology?

**Answer:** Assessment process is fully implemented for taking advantage of changing technology, process is reviewed on a recurring basis.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

There is no intention to update the data based on changing technologies.

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## STAGE 7 - Archive

19) Is there an archiving process for the dataset?

**Answer:** Archival and disposition processes are fully implemented.

**Justification Comment:**

**Attachment(s):** 0

The data are ftp available on a government server, and are intended to be ftp available in perpetuity at <http://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/outgoing/ecosystems/USdata/>