Department of the Interior Open Data FY14 Plan

November 30, 2013

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Overview

"Open data means taking data that is sitting in the vaults of the government, that the taxpayers have already paid for, and jujistu-ing into the public domain as machine-readable fuel for entrepreneurship and innovation." -- Todd Park, [U.S. Chief Technology Officer](#)

Open data is data that are freely available to everyone to use and republish for their own purposes. In the context of government open data, this means that Departments should adopt a presumption in favor of openness to the extent permitted by law and subject to privacy, confidentiality, security, or other valid restrictions. Open data are managed and provided in a way that makes it understandable and usable. The government's investment in data therefore becomes an an asset that can be used and reused for maximum return inside and outside of government.

In the FY14 Open Data Plan for the Department of the Interior (DOI), we present our objectives, approach, and quarterly action plan for the fiscal year. In order to make our data assets more open and available, DOI has been building a Data Services Team and setting up basic processes and infrastructure (such as the DOI Enterprise Inventory in CKAN), and collaborating with business and mission staff. During this early stage of our effort, we have discovered and documented 85,000+ new datasets. Just like our business and programmatic data, our Departmental data teams and business subject matter experts in business programs, Bureaus and Offices are our most important strategic assets. During the process, DOI Bureaus and Offices have collaborated very closely, working together and helping each other. The DOI Open Data Initiative bridges our business, data management and IT programs -- together we are working to discover the true value of data.

Introduction

Government open data is a valuable national resource, and the Department of the Interior (DOI) is deeply committed to open data as a cornerstone component of enabling transparency, engaging citizens, and driving innovation. DOI's Open Data Plan is aligned with the Executive Order "Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information" that President Obama issued on May 9th, 2013, and the associated OMB Memorandum (M-13-13), which together will fundamentally transform the way in which the Federal Government manages data.

The DOI Open Data approach is to: follow data lifecycle management processes, manage

our data as a strategic asset, to deliver data and data products as services, and share data and information to promote innovation and increase government transparency.

DOI data and data products span a wide range of our programs and activities, and represent areas of continuing interest by our stakeholders and public. As the third largest contributor of metadata records to Data.gov and the Managing Partner for federal Geospatial Shared Services, DOI has been publishing data in support of the Open Government Initiative and Federal Shared Serivces for many years. Building our programs around Open Data principles will allow DOI to advance its management of data as strategic assets and to deliver improved data services to the public as well as to our own Bureaus and Offices. The internal use of DOI Open Data is critical to the ongoing success of our activities in this arena. It is clear that DOI policy development and service delivery will benefit from the effective and judicious use of Open Data. Inside the Department, Open Data can be used to streamline service delivery, create opportunities for innovation, identify new service and policy approaches, and generally, to support the effective delivery of existing programs across a broad range of DOI operations.

DOI Open Data Objectives

1. Manage all data assets used in DOI business processes, projects, and information systems. This includes data assets produced through DOI contracts and cooperative agreements, and in some cases Department-funded grants. It also includes data assets associated with, but not limited to, research, program administration, statistical, and financial activities.
2. Separate data from systems and applications so that data can be managed, shared and reused as appropriate.
3. Follow data lifecycle management practices through strengthening the data management framework and processes among bureaus and offices across DOI.
4. Deliver data and data products as services, from building a DOI Enterprise Data Inventory to developing a DOI Data Marketplace.
5. Develop a robust consumer feedback process that aligns DOI data services with user needs, promotes internal and external innovation, and effectively engages the user community.

Transparency Governance and Culture Change

In support of the Open Data Policy, the DOI CIO issued a Memorandum defining the Departmental strategy for implementing the Policy. It calls for a business program leader

and a data leader per Bureau and Office to serve on a DOI Data Governance Board to support and govern the Open Data Initiative at DOI. Open Data is an effort that requires both mission and information technology staff to join together to deliver results. Managing data effectively and sharing data internally and externally is a foundation for many DOI initiatives and a key element to enabling improved business capabilities.

The Memo also established a Data Service Team charged with the management of data and delivery of services. The team has a mix of people from management and business to technical and IT staff, and from data managers to Senior Executives. Each member brings his or her expertise in business subject matter, policy making, information technology or data management. Together, this team will serve as the bridge between DOI mission areas and data management components. This team will deliver the value of Open Data to DOI internal business and public.

The Data Service Team will collaboratively align data management efforts at each Bureau and Office, and share knowledge, processes and tools to synchronize transformation of data assets into data services.

Open Data FY14 Quarterly Plan

	Dates	Milestones / Deliverables
Q1	Nov. 30, 2013	**Foundation** 1. Issue the DOI Open Data Memo in supporting M-13-13 2. Form DOI Data Service Team with both business lead and data lead per Bureau/Office 3. Built the DOI Enterprise Data Metadata Repository - DOI CKAN implementation 4. Develop strategy for alignment of the metadata standards of ISO (ISO-19115:2003, *Geographic Information*), Data.gov and Project Open Data 5. Collect metadata through automatic harvesting and simple entry via web forms 6. Deliver DOI Data.JSON to OMB MAX as per M-13-13 requirement, including both public and non-public data 7. Publish DOI Public Data List at doi.gov/data 8. Publish DOI Open Data Approach and FY2014 quarterly plan at doi.gov/digitalstrategy 9. Establish consumer feedback mechanism (issue tracker)

Q2	Feb. 28, 2014	**Structure** 1. Publish DOI Data Resource Management Departmental Manual 2. Publish DOI Open Data Policy and Implementation Guide 3. Publish DOI Data Release Process 4. Publish DOI Metadata Policy and Implementation Guide 5. Develop internal and external communication plan to share information and collect feedback 6. Develop and deliver data management training for DOI Data Service Team 7. Add additional datasets to DOI Enterprise Data Inventory
Q3	May 31, 2014	**Data as an Asset** 1. Develop a method for discovering unidentified datasets and linking existing datasets to new uses in a methodical way to support business goals 2. Develop a method to increase the value of prioritized datasets by packaging and/or managing them as services 3. Provide basic analytics using DOI data for support of internal decision making 4. Establish regular information sharing sessions on open data and data service delivery topics 5. Add additional datasets to DOI Enterprise Data Inventory
Q4	Aug. 31, 2014	**Community** 1. Based on user feedback, provide data and data products as a packaged service experience at doi.gov/data 2. Plan a "hackathon" at DOI 3. Add additional datasets to DOI Enterprise Data Inventory

Consumer Feedback and Data Publishing Process

The Department of the Interior has established a public, transparent online feedback tracking site at http://usinterior.ideascale.com/. This platform provides the ability to publically track issues and suggestions about data access at DOI. It also provides the ability for the public or members of the government community to "push up" popular suggestions by "agreeing" or "disagreeing," thereby ranking ideas or issues. Responses are also catalogued, providing accountability for actions.

The Data Services Team will regularly review feedback on this site and address issues as appropriate. In some cases, this might mean a response that explains timelines for data

release, or explains why a dataset cannot be released. In other cases, actions will be taken to address the issues raised.

This consumer feedback will be taken into account in the DOI data publishing process. The baseline for this process was set on April 9, 2012 when DOI published its Open Government Plan 2.0 which has guidance on the process for releasing DOI data. Our current planning process will leverage this baseline and expand on it, and also look for guidance in the long-established and robust USGS data publication and stewardship process.

Benefits and Opportunities

DOI holds, or has access to, an increasing amount of data that is available in structured, semi-structured and unstructured formats. The opportunities offered by Open Data have long been recognized and the growth of open data technologies has expanded these opportunities. Open Data offers Federal agencies and industry widespread potential opportunities and benefits. While the magnitude and nature of the value varies depending on industry sector, it is anticipated that government will be able to realize substantial productivity and innovation gains from the use of open data.

It is important to recognize the potential for DOI to use open data in innovative ways that take advantage of patterns and correlations to improve service provision and outcomes. These insights can help to increase productivity and effectiveness by assisting DOI in better services, policies and programs.

In the next three quarters of FY14, DOI Data Service Team will continue enrich and enhance data discovery and management, and most of all, discover new values in all data.