

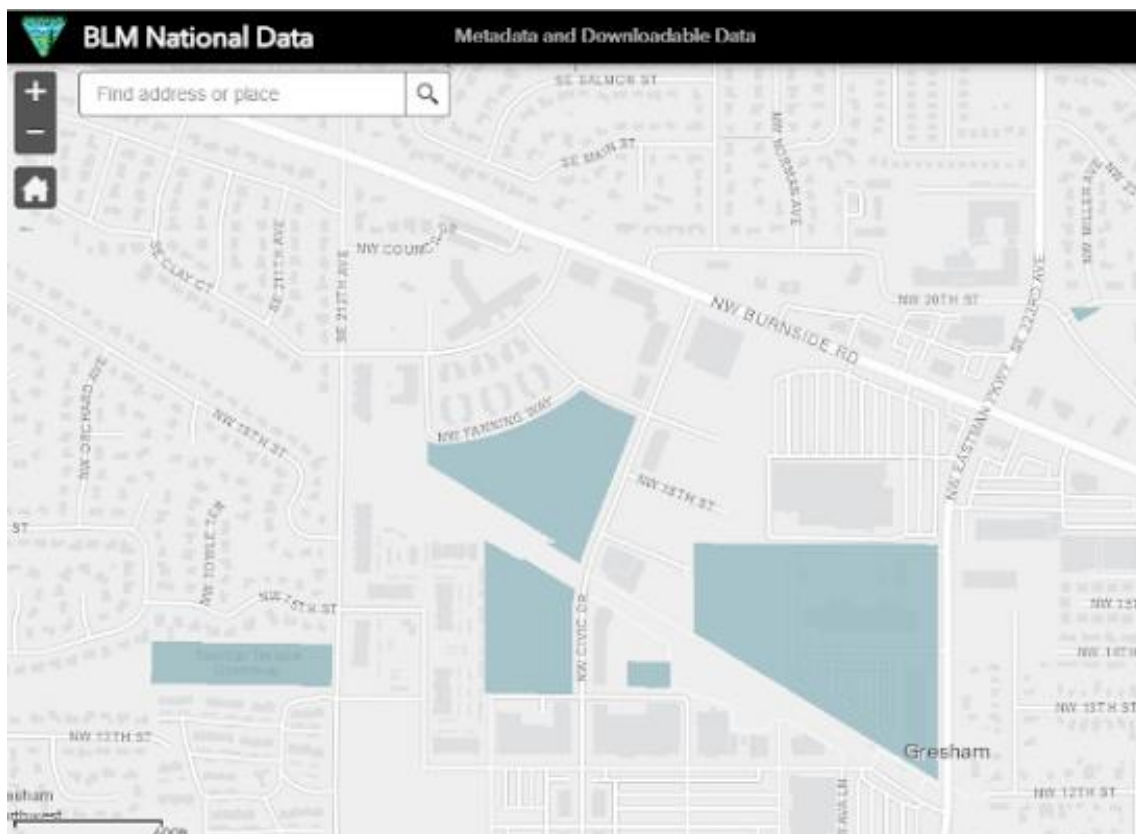


Inventorying Federal Lands

Legislation to create a current, accurate real property inventory or “cadastre” of Federal land owned by the Department of the Interior, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, known as the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act, was enacted into law as part of the Omnibus appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed by President Biden on Thursday, December 29, 2022.

The provision is found in [H.R.2617¹](#) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, [FY 2023²](#), also known as the Omnibus appropriations bill (4,155 pages), in Division DD – Public Land Management, Title I Department of the Interior Provisions, Sec. 103, Cadastre of Federal Real Property, beginning on page 2856.

For additional information about FLAIR and how it became federal law, see this recent [article³](#) in American Surveyor magazine.



This law will significantly improve federal land management, providing much needed information about the location of federally administered property and its relationship to privately owned and other publicly administered property. There is also value to be gained by state and local governments in understanding that

relationship. There is the potential to create a national inventory of all real property, building on the inventory of Federally administered land, by aggregating existing state and local level cadastral data.

¹ Congress.gov. 2022. H.R.2617 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2617>.

² United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, Consolidated Appropriations Act. 2022. <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/JRQ121922.PDF>

³ The American Surveyor. 2023. FLAIR Act Rides Omnibus to Federal Law. <https://amerisurv.com/2023/01/04/flair-act-rides-omnibus-to-federal-law/>



A national cadastre has been a goal for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) for several decades, but that goal has been unattainable. The FLAIR Act provides a critical and missing piece of the puzzle that may help achieve a national land ownership cadastre, through coordination between the public and private sectors.

Support funding for FLAIR

We ask you to support appropriating funds for the FLAIR Act that will enable DOI and USFS to work with State and local agencies and the private sector to explore development of a national cadastre anchored by the Federal land inventory. Such funding should also direct other federal land-holding agencies to work with DOI and USFS, as well as state and local governments, on this effort.

About the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Since 1991, NSGIC has been the state led hub of national geospatial experts promoting coordinated, impactful, and efficient application of geographic Information systems (GIS) to best serve the nation. GIS and the spatial information it serves underpin much of the activities of government and the lives of the people of the nation.