Jurisdictional Unit Polygon

Abbreviation or Acronym: Jurisdictional Unit Polygon

Data Exchange Name: JurisdictionalUnitPolygon

Also Known As: Jurisdictional Unit Polygon

Description: This geospatial layer depicts areas of wildland fire jurisdiction to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Unit level. Jurisdictional Unit is defined by NWCG as "The governmental entity having overall land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical area as provided by law."

Background: There is a need to spatially identify the entity or entities having wildland fire jurisdiction at the unit level, and the kinds and categories of land ownership, in order to effectively prepare for, mitigate, manage, and recover from an event. A geospatial data layer meeting this need has existed since at least 2010, when it was developed for WFDSS. Since 2014, data from this layer has been used in IRWIN, EGP, IFTDSS, INFORM, and other wildland fire applications. It has also been useful as a layer supporting analysis in response to Executive Order 13855 and the 2021 Appropriations Act at the national level, and many regional and local analyses. A standard is needed to establish expectations for incoming datasets that would improve the layer, ensure consistency in data usage, and clarify ambiguous meanings, minimize redundant data, and document business rules for dataset users.

Abstract: A geospatial standard to identify the area for one or more governmental entities having overall land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical area as provided by law. This layer presents both information about the category and kind of the landowner, as well as jurisdiction. This is intentional because there is a dependency between jurisdiction and ownership: Jurisdiction flows from ownership. You can't know who has jurisdiction unless you know, at the very least, who owns the land, and where they are. Once you understand the ownership, you can apply relevant legal frameworks to derive or infer jurisdiction. Jurisdictional values should only be changed in the event of new information on ownership, or an updated understanding of the legal framework for jurisdiction for a specific area.

Purpose: Identify which entity has wildland fire jurisdiction responsibilities in a particular area.

Data Model: Geodatabase polygon feature class

Other Notes: None.

Related Layers: This data standard used the following datasets for comparison and information, to ensure that data from these sources could be transformed to this standard: US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) Automated Lands Program (ALP), US Department of Interior: Geological Survey (USGS) Protected Areas - PAD-US, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Surface Management Area (SMA), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Realty Tracts, National Park Service (NPS) Tract and Boundary data, Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions layer, Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Jurisdictional Unit layer.

Steward: NWCG Geospatial Subcommittee and Fire Reporting Subcommittee

Version: 2.1 March 2026

Horizontal and/or Vertical Positional Accuracy: Standards for horizontal and vertical accuracies are detailed in Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards; Part 3: National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA), http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/accuracy/part3/chapter3. Accuracy is reported by feature in meters at the 95% confidence level listed in the HAccuracy and/or VAccuracy fields. Accuracy reported at the 95% confidence level means that 95% of the positions in the feature will have an error with respect to true ground position that is equal to or smaller than the reported accuracy value. The target accuracy of the data should be lower 48: 1:24,000, Alaska 1:63,360.

Horizontal and/or Vertical Spatial Reference Information: Data layer projection parameters should be documented in a .prj file (shapefile format) or in a geodatabase projection definition. Or, specify the projection parameters via an EPSG code (example EPSG code 4326 = WGS84), http://www.epsg-registry.org . Projection parameters file should include applicable attributes as specified in the FGDC Standards Reference Model, 4.1.2.1.23.

Sensitivity Level: Open

NWCG Geospatial Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
JurisdictionalUnitID	UnitID NWCG_UID	Yes	String	10	Code used in interagency wildland fire to uniquely identify the governmental entity having overall land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical area as provided by law. Valid current NWCG Unit Identifier should be used where known. The value should be null if unknown, or if it is known that the jurisdictional unit doesn't have an NWCG Unit ID. In cases where jurisdiction is dual (cases of dual title or dual jurisdiction), the participating jurisdictions should decide how the lands in question are to be represented.	NWCG (PMS 931: Unit Identifiers) Example: USCORMP	Unit Identifier
GISSourceDate	DateCrnt EditDate RevDate	Yes	Date		The date of the last edit to the dataset.	MM/DD/YYYY	
ImportDate	SourceDate	Yes	Date		Date the Jurisdictional Unit team extracted data from the sources.	MM/DD/YYYY	

NWCG Geospatial Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
RevisionDate	PublishDate	Yes	Date		Date the Jurisdictional Unit team last published or revised the records	MM/DD/YYYY	
Comments	Notes GIS_Note	No, but recommended	String	255	Additional information describing the feature.	Free text	
GeometryID	Geometry_ID GIS_ID Spa_ID	Yes	String	50	Primary key for linking geospatial objects with other database systems. **Required for every feature.** This field may be renamed for each standard to fit the feature.	Globally Unique Identifier (GUID). **	
JurisdictionalKind	UnitType JurisdictKind	Y	String	30	The agency kind having land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal, state or local law. This value is populated using a value from the NWCG Organizational Kind/Category standard from March 2026. The Organizational Kind and Category standard is hierarchical, and the Kind value must be consistent with the Category value.	Federal, State, Local, Sovereign, Foreign, Private, Other	Organizational_kind_Cat_Version_1.2_Final.pdf

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
					If the Unit ID value is known, this value should be consistent with the Unit Type field in PMS 931. If Unit ID is unknown, this field should be populated from authoritative agency boundary data.		
JurisdictionalCategory	Agency JurisdictAgcy JurisdictionalUnitCategory	Y	String	30	The agency category having land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal, state or local law. This value is populated using a value from the NWCG Organizational Kind/Category standard from March 2026. The Organizational Kind and Category standard is hierarchical, and the Category value must be consistent with the Kind value. If Unit ID is unknown, this field should be populated from authoritative agency boundary data.	BIA, BLM, BOR, DOD, DOE, NPS, USFS, USFWS, USWFS, OthFed, State, City, County, OthLocal, Tribal, Foreign, Private, ANC, Other	Organizational_kind_Cat_Version_1.2_Final.pdf

NWCG Geospatial Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
JurisdictionalUnitName	UnitName	N	String	255	The name of the jurisdictional unit. If the Unit ID value is known, this value should be consistent with the Name field in PMS 931. If Unit ID is unknown, this field should be populated from authoritative agency boundary data.	ex: Los Padres National Forest, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	https://www.nwcg.gov/data-standards/unit-identifier
LandownerKind	LOKind	Y	String	30	The landowner kind value associated with the polygon. May be inferred from jurisdictional agency, or by lack of a jurisdictional agency. This also references the Organizational Kind/Category Standard.	Federal, State, Local, Sovereign, Foreign, Private, Other	Organizational_kind_Cat_Version_1.2_Final.pdf
LandownerCategory	LOCategory	Y	String	30	The landowner category value associated with the polygon. May be inferred from jurisdictional agency, or by lack of a jurisdictional agency. This also references the Organizational Kind/Category Standard.	BIA, BLM, BOR, DOD, DOE, NPS, USFS, USFWS, USWFS, OthFed, State, City, County, OthLocal, Tribal, Foreign, Private, ANC, Other	Organizational_kind_Cat_Version_1.2_Final.pdf
DataSource	Source	Y	String	255	The database from which the polygon originated. Be as specific as possible, identify the geodatabase name and feature class in	ex: Protected Areas Database - US 2.0: PADUS2_0.gdb\PADUS2_0Fee	

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
					which the polygon originated.		
SecondaryDataSource	Source2	N	String	255	If the Data Source is an aggregation from other sources, use this field to specify the source that supplied data to the aggregation. For example, if Data Source is "PAD-US 4.0", then for a USDA Forest Service polygon, the Secondary Data Source would be "USDA FS Automated Lands Program (ALP)". For a BLM polygon in the same dataset, Secondary Source would be "Surface Management Agency (SMA).	ex: BLM_SMA.gdb/SMA_BLM or USFS_ALP_S_USA.SurfaceOwnership	
SourceUniqueID	SourceUID	Y	String	40	Identifier (GUID or ObjectID) in the data source. Used to trace the polygon back to its authoritative source.	ex:345231, 4f54fbfd-798f-4446-82a9-2f45f79ff1be	

*Standard field names should be used for the core attributes when possible. Alternate field name suggestions are given to accommodate database conflicts and legacy datasets. Alternate name use should be documented in the Other Notes section above.

** GUIDs are unique specially formatted numeric strings generated by a “GUID generation tool.” GUIDs can be generated at http://www.guidgenerator.com/