Protecting Unit Polygon

Abbreviation or Acronym: Protecting Unit Polygon

Data Exchange Name: ProtectingUnitPoly

Also Known As: Protection Unit, Protecting Unit

Description: The entity responsible for providing direct incident management and services to a given area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified by law, contract or agreement. Definition Extension: Protection can be re-assigned by agreement. The nature and extent of the incident determines protection (for example wildfire vs. all-hazard).

Background: Cooperative agreements between the federal, state, and local agencies are the primary mechanisms that provide the framework for wildland fire protection responsibilities. In the absence of a legally binding agreement\, wildland fire protection responsibilities belong to the Jurisdictional Unit. This geospatial data standard defines a data layer that can represent boundaries for wildland fire protection responsibilities. This layer delineates the dividing lines between land that will be provided wildland fire protection by various federal, state, and local agencies. By providing a spatial context for wildfire protection responsibilities, the data standard will allow spatial data derivation, reduce duplicative data entry, and enable geospatial analysis.

Abstract: A geospatial data standard to identify agency agreements responsible for wildfire protection and suppression.

Purpose: Specify who holds responsibility for protection and suppression.

Data Model: Geodatabase polygon feature class

Other Notes: There should be no unwanted gaps between or overlapping features within this polygon feature class both within and across units.

Related Layers: California Wildland Fire Direct Protection Area

Steward: NWCG Geospatial Subcommittee (GSC) and Fire Reporting Subcommittee (FRSC)

Version: Version 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), https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/accuracy/part3/chapter3. 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.

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), https://epsg.org/home.html. Projection parameters file should include applicable attributes as specified in the FGDC Standards Reference Model, 4.1.2.1.23.

Sensitivity Level: Public

NWCG Geospatial Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Standard Name*	Alternate Name	Required?	Data Type	Size/ Width	Description	Values	Related NWCG Standard
ProtectingUnitID	UnitID NWCG_UID	Yes	String	10	Code used in interagency wildland fire to uniquely identify the entity responsible for providing direct incident management and services to a given area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified by law, contract or agreement. NWCG Unit Identifier should be used.	Not Domain driven but consult and use: NWCG (PMS 931): State Code plus Unit Code, excluding the Country Code prefix. Examples: USCORMP, USUTR04, etc.	Unit Identifier
ProtectingUnitName	UnitName	Yes	String	200	The name of the Protecting Unit. This should match the name associated with Protecting Unit Identifier field above. A value is populated for all polygons.	Examples: Pipe Spring National Monument, Boise National Forest	
ProtectingUnitKind	ProtectingKind UnitType	Yes	String	30	The Organizational Kind responsible for providing direct incident management and services to a given area pursuant to its protection responsibility or as specified by law, contract or agreement.	Federal, State, Local, Sovereign, Foreign, Private, Other	Organizational_kind_Cat_Version_1.2_Final.pdf

ProtectingUnitCategory	ProtectingCat ProtectingCategory	Yes	String	30	The Organizational Category responsible for providing direct incident management and services to a given area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified by law, contract or agreement.	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
Agreement	Agreement	Yes	String	100	Contract Agreement, State Master Agreement, or SubGeo.	Free Text	
AgreementDate	AgreeDate	Yes	Date		Date the Agreement or Contract was signed into effect.	MM/DD/YYYY	
Contact	Contact	No	String	150	Point of contact for source dataset and/or agreement.	Example: Joe Potter, State Fire Director, joe@blm.gov	
Comments	Notes GIS_Note	No, but recommended	String	255	Additional information describing the feature.	Free Text	
DateCurrent	DateCrnt		Date		The last edit, update, of this GIS record.	Date should follow the assigned NWCG Date Time data standard, using 24 hour clock, YYYY-MM-DDhh.mm.ssZ, ISO8601 Standard.	

GISSourceDate	EditDate RevDate	Yes	Date		The last edit/update to the source dataset.	Date should follow the assigned NWCG Date Time data standard, using 24 hour clock, YYYY-MM-DDhh.mm.ssZ, ISO8601 Standard.	
ImportDate	SourceDate	Yes	Date		The date feature was extracted from source dataset for aggregation.	Date should follow the assigned NWCG Date Time data standard, using 24 hour clock, YYYY-MM-DDhh.mm.ssZ, ISO8601 Standard.	
RevisionDate	PublishDate	Yes	Date		Date the Protecting Unit team last published or revised the records. Date of last publish or revision to the entire dataset.	ate should follow the assigned NWCG Date Time data standard, using 24 hour clock, YYYY-MM-DDhh.mm.ssZ, ISO8601 Standard.	
DataSource	DataSource	Yes	String	255	The source data from which the polygon originated. Be as specific as possible, identify the geodatabase name and/or feature class in which the polygon originated. Include a source URL when available.		
SourceUniqueID	SourceUniqueID	Yes	String	40	Identifier (GUID or ObjectID) in the data source. Used to trace the polygon back to its authoritative source.	ex: 345231, 4f54fbfd-798f-4446-82a9-2f45f79ff	

*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.