Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
TIGERweb Online Map Viewer Guide

Instructions for using TIGERweb Online Map Viewer to review entities for BAS

Revised as of December 2019
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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Census Bureau’s (Census Bureau’s) TIGERweb and TIGERweb Decennial web-based applications allow users to visualize the data within the Census Bureau’s TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing database). The applications allow users to select features and view their attributes, search for features by name or geocode, and to identify features by selecting them from a map. The TIGERweb and TIGERweb Decennial applications provide a simple way to view the Census Bureau’s TIGER data without Geographic Information System (GIS) software and without downloading the data.

The TIGERweb and TIGERweb Decennial Applications allow users to view the following:

- Roads, highways, and railroads
- Rivers, lakes, streams, and other “single-line” drainage
- Boundaries for legal and statistical geographic entities
- Selected special land use areas such as military reservations and national parks
- Satellite imagery

2020 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) participants are provided with the Census Bureau’s TIGERweb online map viewer as an option to compare the BAS maps to a local source for the entity to determine if a boundary updates needs to be submitted to the BAS. BAS participants may also download our Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) or digital files, download PDF maps, or request BAS paper maps.

Participants can use the TIGERweb online map viewer <http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/> to quickly locate their County, Consolidated City, Incorporated Place, County Subdivision (MCD), or American Indian Area and determine if it is necessary to make boundary changes and/or feature updates. Participants may provide boundary changes or feature updates if the map does not correctly depict the boundary or features in effect as of January 1st, 2020. To review the boundaries, use the unique GEOID (numeric code) for the local government, which is provided on the BAS Annual Response form. This will ensure the proper government entity is located and that TIGERweb will zoom directly to the area.

- Participants can also find the GEOID in the Names and Codes list at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.
- If the boundary is correct, respond online at: <https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html>
- If the boundary is incorrect, respond online at: <https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html> to let the Census Bureau know if participants will download the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) or shapefiles directly from the website and submit updates, request to obtain GUPS and shapefiles on DVD, or request paper map materials.

NOTE: The Census Bureau will not accept boundary changes or feature updates for BAS annotated on maps printed using the TIGERweb map viewer. Use official BAS Paper Maps or PDF Maps.
CHAPTER 1 DIGITAL BAS REQUIREMENTS

1.1 Accessing TIGERweb

Access the Census Bureau’s TIGERweb page at <http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/>.

TIGERweb currently supports Microsoft Internet Explorer (Version 9 and higher), Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome internet browsers.

1. Click on TIGERweb Applications (see Figure 1- red arrow).

Figure 1: TIGERweb home screen -- Select TIGERweb to get to the map viewer
2. Click on the **TIGERweb** link from the menu panel on the left-hand side of the screen (see Figure 2 – red arrow). **Do not click** on the **TIGERweb Decennial** link, as it only contains data captured during the 2010 Census. The **TIGERweb** link includes 2020 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS 2020) data that contains geographic updates for the entity submitted during BAS 2019.

![Figure 2: TIGERweb Applications Home Page - Select TIGERweb from Menu on Left (Red Arrow)](image)

3. After opening **TIGERweb**, the window will show the map display and navigation tools, layers panel, map vintage, background options, search and identify tools, and the settings and help menu (see Figure 3). The vintage will default to “Current” which is the BAS 2020 vintage.

![Figure 3: TIGERweb Map Viewer Application opening screen](image)
1.2 Accessing the Layers Menu Panel

To access the Layers menu panel, click on the ‘Layers’ tab on the menu bar at the upper left-hand side of the screen (see Figure 4); the menu bar will default to the ‘Layers’ option when the TIGERweb application is started. The ‘Layers’ option allows participants to select the vintage of data and the data layers to view on the map screen.

![Figure 4: Menu bar with ‘Layers’ option selected](image)

1.3 Selecting a Vintage

The ‘Select Vintage’ drop-down in the Layers menu shows the vintages of the BAS and ACS TIGERweb geography that are available for display in the application (see Figure 5). Select Current, if not already selected, to view the geographic updates for the entity submitted during BAS 2019.

![Figure 5: Vintage selection box](image)

1.4 Available Map Layers and Selecting a Map Layer

The Layers menu displayed on the panel on the left-hand side of the window, shows the list of the features and geographic areas available to view. Labels, Hydrography, States, and Counties layers are displayed by default at startup. The layers are organized into separate groups based on geographic type called map services (see Figure 6).

To turn a particular layer on, click inside the box next to the main layer heading for the desired layer, so that a check mark appears in the box (see Figure 7). Participants will have to expand each map service by clicking on the ‘+’ symbol to see all of the available layers within the map service (see Figure 8). These layers include physical features (such as roads and water features), and statistical boundaries (such as census blocks and incorporated places).

Some layers are only visible at certain zoom extents. Typically, more data layer options with a higher level of detail will be available when zoomed closer in on the map. Participants can limit the amount of data on the map by selecting only the desired types of linear features and
geographic. For example, as shown in Figure 8, to view boundaries representing Incorporated Places within the Places and County Subdivisions category, turn off the other types for Place geographies by unchecking the box to the left of the feature type.

When multiple layers are displayed on a map simultaneously, one layer may obscure another. To allow one layer to be more prominent than another, the transparency of the layer can be adjusted by using the ‘Slider’ tool, which is available once the layer is expanded. (see Figure 9).

![Figure 6: Layers Menu](image1)

![Figure 7: Main layer subject selected](image2)

![Figure 8: Expanded map service/ lay options and Slider tool for transparency](image3)

1.5 Navigating the Map Display

1.5.1 ‘Zoom in Scrollbar'

As mentioned above in the Layers section, the features and geographic areas contained in the map services do not immediately appear. This is because each layer has a range of zoom levels at which it will display. In other words, visibility is scale dependent. As participants zoom in on the map, more details will appear.
Participants can use the ‘Zoom In’ scrollbar tool, located on the upper left-hand side of the map screen, to zoom in to see more detail on the map or zoom out to see less detail. To adjust the extent of the map click on the “+” to zoom in for more detail, click on the “-” to zoom out for less detail, or drag the slider and pull towards “+” or “-” to zoom in or out. Participants can also zoom in or out using by rolling the wheel on the computer mouse (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: ‘Zoom in’ scrollbar

1.5.2 Scale Bar

By referencing the scale bar at the lower left-hand corner of the map display, participants can monitor the current “Zoom Level” that the map is within (see Figure 10). Zoom Level 3 is the furthest zoom out the map display can go, and Zoom Level 19 is the closest zoom attainable. At Zoom Level 5, American Indian Areas begin to appear; at Zoom Level 7, School Districts become visible; at Zoom Level 9, Places appear; at Zoom Level 10, Primary Roads and Secondary Roads are visible; and at Zoom Level 14, Local Roads and Railroads appear.

Figure 10: Scale Bar.

1.5.3 TIGERweb Symbology

Click on the ‘Legend’ tab on the menu at the top left-hand side of the screen next to the ‘Layers’ tab to view the symbology used for each layer (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Legend Bar

If the selected layer does not appear in the legend, zoom in on the map for the feature to appear on the map and on the legend. Click on ‘Detailed Legend’ to see at what zoom level the layers and labels appear, as well as the symbols used to represent the features in the layers (see Figure 12). Participants will notice the symbology in TIGERweb is different from the symbology used on the BAS paper maps.
1.5.4 Customizing the Background Map

The TIGERweb Application offers three different options the user can choose from to use as the background map, or topography, that the data layers selected will appear on top of, which can be chosen by clicking on the inset box on the top right corner of the map within the map screen. By default, the background map featured is called “Landmass”, which is a plain white background. The other options are Satellite, which uses aerial imagery for the background map, and Terrain, which shows representation of the changes in elevation, such as if there is a mountain range (see Figure 13). These view options allow participants to see the relationship between the location of a boundary in our file to the location of real-world features such as roads and property lines.

Figure 12: Detailed Legend

Figure 13: Background Map Options
1.5.5 Locating The Entity

TIGERweb allows BAS participants to quickly locate an entity visually using the ‘Zoom In’ tool or by using the ‘Query’ tool to search for the entity’s unique GEOID (numeric code) located on the BAS Annual Response form. Participants can also search by entity name by typing the entity’s name in the ‘Enter Name of Feature’ box.

Figure 14: Query tool icon

- Select the ‘Query’ tool from the toolbar on the upper right-hand corner of the screen (see Figure 14). Query box will appear after clicking on and activating the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 15).

Figure 15: Query box used to search for entity via Query

- Select the ‘Attribute’ Tab. The Query tool defaults to this tab.
- From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down list, select one of the following map services (see Figure 16):
  - States and Counties to locate a County;
  - Places and County Subdivisions to locate a County Subdivision (MCD),
  - Incorporated Place, or Consolidated City; and
  - American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas to locate an American Indian area or Hawaiian Home Land area.

Figure 16: ‘Select Map’ Options
CHAPTER 2 QUERY EXAMPLES

Use the Query examples shown below to locate an entity. Searching by unique GEOID will take participants directly to their entity.

2.1 Example A: Locating a County by GEOID (Cullman County, Alabama - GEOID 01043)

1. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 17).

![Figure 17: Query tool icon](image)

2. Select the ‘Attribute’ tab on the Query box
3. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select ‘States and Counties’ (see Figure 18).

![Figure 18: ‘Select Map’ drop-down options; Choose ‘States and Counties’](image)

4. Select ‘Counties’ under the ‘Select Layer(s)’ option (see Figure 19)

![Figure 19: ‘Select Layer(s)’ options; Choose ‘Counties’; Enter GEOID of entity in “Enter GEOID of Feature” box](image)
5. Enter the GEOID for the County in the ‘Enter GEOID of Feature’ field (see Figure 19).
6. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for the County.

TIGERweb will zoom to the feature that was queried and will automatically display the Query Results under the ‘Task Results’ tab in the panel on the left-hand side of the page (see Figure 20).

![Figure 20: Query Results page; Query found Cullman County, AL (GEOID – 01043)](image)

Click on the name of the entity listed under the Query Results in the panel on the left side of the page under the ‘Counties (Current)’ heading. TIGERweb will display the queried entity highlighted in the center of the map display (see Figure 21).

![Figure 21: Entity selected from Query Results; Cullman County, AL highlighted and centered on map](image)

Also, when the name of the entity listed under the Query Results is selected an Information (‘Info.’) window panel containing information about the attributes of the entity pops up (see Figure 22).
To clear previous query results and start a new Query, click the ‘X’ or ‘Clear Map’ button on the navigation toolbar above the ‘Zoom-In’ scrollbar. The Information window disappears and the located entity is no longer highlighted (see below Figure 23 – red arrow).
2.2 Example B: Locating County Subdivision (MCD) (Center, Kansas - GEOID 2015512050)

1. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 24 – red arrow).

![Figure 24: Query tool icon]

2. From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down, select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ (see Figure 25).

![Figure 25: Select Map]

3. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select ‘County Subdivisions’ (see Figure 26).

![Figure 26: Using the Query tool to locate a County Subdivision by its unique GEOID]

4. Enter the GEOID for the County Subdivision in the GEOID field or enter the name of the County Subdivision in the “Enter Name of Feature” field under the AND/OR line.

5. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for the County Subdivision.
TIGERweb displays the located entity highlighted in the center of the map display, along with the ‘Info.’ window panel containing attribute data for the entity. Minimize or close the ‘Info.’ window panel to view the entire map and Query Results box (see Figure 27).

![Figure 27: County Subdivision located using its GEOID](image)

### 2.3 Example C: Locating a Consolidated City (Milford, Connecticut - GEOID 0947500.)

1. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 28).

![Figure 28: Query tool icon](image)

2. From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down, select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ (see Figure 29).

![Figure 29: ‘Select Map’ drop-down – select ‘Place and County Subdivisions’ for Consolidated City.](image)

3. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select ‘Consolidated Cities’ (see Figure 30).
4. Enter the GEOID for the Consolidated City in the GEOID field.
5. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for the Consolidated City.

TIGERweb displays the located entity highlighted in the center of the map display, along with the ‘Info.’ window panel containing attribute data for the entity. Minimize or close the Information window panel to view the entire map and Query Result(s) box (see Figure 31).

Figure 30: Using the Query tool to locate a Consolidated City by its unique GEOID

Figure 31: Consolidated City located using its GEOID.
The highlighted map of Milford appears cluttered because other layers such as Transportation, Incorporated Places, and Census Designated Places are also displayed. Participants can de-select unnecessary layers by clicking the small box next to the map service in the ‘Layers’ panel (see Figure 32).

![Image of Milford map with Incorporated Places and CDPs deselected]

**Figure 32:** Milford Consolidated City more clearly depicted with Incorporated Places and CDPs deselected.

### 2.4 Example D: Locating an Incorporated Place (Sweetwater, Tennessee - GEOID 4772540.)

1. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 33).

![Image of query tool icon]

**Figure 33:** Query tool icon

2. From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down, select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ (see Figure 34).

![Image of ‘Select Map’ drop-down list; Select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ to find an Incorporated Place]

**Figure 34:** ‘Select Map’ drop-down list; Select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ to find an Incorporated Place
3. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select Incorporated Places (see Figure 35).

![Figure 35: ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down and GEOID field; Select ‘Incorporated Places’ and enter the GEOID for the Incorporated Place being queried](image)

4. Enter the GEOID for the Incorporated Place in the GEOID field
5. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for the Incorporated Place.

TIGERweb displays the located entity highlighted in the center of the map display, along with the ‘Info.’ Window panel containing attribute data for the entity. Minimize or close the ‘Info.’ panel to view the entire map and Query Results box (see Figure 36).

![Figure 36: Incorporated Place, Sweetwater, located using its GEOID.](image)
2.5 Example E: Locating an American Indian Area (AIA) (Hopi American Indian Area - GEOID 1505.)

1. Make sure the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas layer is selected in the ‘Layers’ panel. Within this map service, ensure the Federal American Indian Reservations layer and the Off-Reservation Trust Lands layer are selected.
2. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 37).

![Figure 37: Query tool icon](image)

3. From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down, select ‘American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas’ (see Figure 38).

![Figure 38: ‘Select Maps’ drop-down menu; Choose ‘American Indian Areas’](image)

4. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select ‘Federal American Indian Reservations’ and ‘Off-Reservation Trust Lands’ (click each layer while holding down the SHIFT key on the keyboard) (see Figure 39).

![Figure 39: Query to locate Hopi American Indian Area by its GEOID](image)

5. Enter the GEOID for the American Indian Area in the GEOID field.
6. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for the American Indian Area.
TIGERweb displays the located entity highlighted in the center of the map display, along with the ‘Info.’ Window panel containing attribute data for the entity (see Figure 40). Minimize or close the ‘Info.’ panel to view the entire map and Query Results box.

Figure 40: Hopi American Indian Area located using its unique GEOID.
CHAPTER 3 OTHER TOOLS AVAILABLE

3.1 Identify Tool

Participants can identify features on the map by using the ‘Identify’ tool. Click on the ‘Identify’ tool at the upper right-hand side of the screen (to the left of the Query tool) and click on the area of the map or feature to identify it. In the ‘Identify Results’ panel on the left-hand side of the screen, participants can click on any of the features to get attribute information about the area or feature. When participants click on a feature in the panel, its area on the map is highlighted. The ‘Identify’ tool shows attribute information only for visible layers (checked in the ‘Layer’ panel).

Figure 41: Identify Tool

3.3.1 Example: Using the ‘Identify’ tool to get Attribute data for Incorporated Place, White Salmon, WA.

1. Make sure the ‘Places and County Subdivision’ layer is checked off or selected in the Layers panel.
2. Select the ‘Query’ tool (see Figure 41).

Figure 42: Query tool icon

3. From the ‘Select Map’ drop-down, select ‘Places and County Subdivisions’ (Figure 42).

Figure 43: ‘Select Map’ drop-down – scroll down to ‘Place and County Subdivisions’ and select
4. From the ‘Select Layer(s)’ drop-down, select ‘Incorporated Places’ (see Figure 43).

Figure 44: Query tool used to locate White Salmon, WA.

5. Enter the name White Salmon in ‘Name of Feature’ field.
6. Click ‘SUBMIT’ to search for White Salmon.

The Query Results for the Incorporated Place, White Salmon, lists the White Salmon Incorporated Place in Washington. Click on ‘White Salmon’ for TIGERweb in the Query Results panel to view the selected feature in the center of the map (see Figure 44)

Figure 45: Query Results listing White Salmon, WA
To get Identify Results for White Salmon, activate the ‘Identify’ tool at the top of the screen by clicking on the icon. When hovering over the map participants will notice the cursor changes to a plus sign (+). Click on the White Salmon area or the feature participants want to identify. The ‘Identify Results’ panel on the left-hand side of the screen will become active. Within the ‘Identify Results’ panel, participants can click on any of the features to get attribute information about the area or feature (see Figure 45 in red boxes).

Figure 46: Identify Results panel after using the Identify tool to select on White Salmon
To get Attribute data for White Salmon, click on the name of the entity listed under the ‘Incorporated Places’ heading of Query Result(s) and the ‘Info.’ window panel will appear. In addition, TIGERweb will display the entity highlighted in the center of the map display (see Figure 46).

Figure 47: Identify Results show attribute data for Incorporated Place, White Salmon, WA, after city is located using Query tool.
CHAPTER 4 NEXT STEPS AFTER LOCATING THE LOCAL ENTITY

Compare the TIGERweb map of the local entity to a local source for the entity. Participants need to provide boundary changes or feature updates if the map does not correctly depict the boundary or features in effect as of January 1st, 2020.

BAS Schedule:
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/news-updates/updates/bas-schedule.html>

Reporting No Corrections:
If the boundary is correct, respond online at:
<https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html>

Submitting Corrections:
If the boundary is incorrect, respond online at
<https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html> to let the Census Bureau know if participants will download materials and submit updates.

NOTE: The Census Bureau will not accept boundary changes or feature updates for BAS annotated on maps printed using the TIGERweb map viewer. Use official BAS Paper Maps or PDF Maps.
CHAPTER 5  CONTACT INFORMATION

For further contact information visit our website at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/contact.html>

or

Phone: (800) 972-5651

Email: geo.bas@census.gov