

## Appendix 7.1. List of GAP applications and data uses.

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### Specific uses of West Virginia GAP data:

This list includes examples of uses of West Virginia GAP data (digital or otherwise) by federal, state, and other entities:

- Wildlife biologists for the Monongahela National Forest will use WV-GAP wildlife habitat relationship data to help predict wildlife species found in certain habitats and locations on the forest as part of a watershed-based assessment.
- WV-GAP land cover data are being used in a study of ginseng and other wild-harvested products for the West Virginia University Department of Biology
- The West Virginia GIS State Technical Center has been provided the WV-GAP land cover and stewardship data.
- The Nature Conservancy is using WV-GAP data in their North Fork/Smoke Hole Site Suitability Study for the Smoke Hole/North Fork Mountain Ecosystem Initiative.
- The Canaan Valley Institute, a multi-state, non-profit institution serving the Mid-Atlantic Highlands region, has been given WV-GAP wildlife databases and land cover data for their work.
- WV-GAP data are used as background data for a study on Allegheny woodrat habitat and ecology.
- WV-GAP data have been incorporated into a LaCrosse encephalitis retrospective case control study for Nicholas and Fayette counties in WV, as well as the National Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread project by the Virginia Tech entomology department, Blacksburg, VA.
- WV-GAP land stewardship and land cover data are being incorporated into Environmental Baseline Review documents for Air National Guard training activities in the Eastern United States by Ogden Environmental, Inc.
- Land use/land cover data are also being incorporated into Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) work for the Little Kanawha River basin by an environmental consulting firm and the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection.

### Businesses and Non-government Organizations:

The following are some examples of applications of GAP data by the private sector:

- The Wyoming Natural Heritage Program (a private non-government organization) transformed the endangered and sensitive species database into a spatially referenced digital geographic information system using the GAP digital base map and other GAP spatial data.
- Hughes Corp. is experimenting with the Utah and Nevada GAP digital base maps, simulating images to aid the development of new space-based remote sensing devices.
- The Nature Conservancy used the Wyoming GAP data to develop a map of ecoregions of Wyoming.
- Weyerhaeuser Corp. is using the Arkansas GAP data in managing their lands in Arkansas.

- IBM Corp. is funding a project at the University of California, Santa Barbara, that, in part, uses GAP data in the development of visualization software.
- NM-GAP vegetation data is being used for an environmental assessment of a proposed spaceport, a state/private venture.

#### County and City Planning:

Some other examples of the use of GAP by local governments are:

- CA-GAP biological data were combined with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) land ownership data to show which ownerships and jurisdictions were needed for joint conservation planning and management of a particular natural community or species, maximizing efficiency and minimizing the potential for yet another conservation crisis.
- In California, county and city planners of several jurisdictions, wildlife agencies, developers of the 4S Ranch property, and the state Natural Communities Conservation Planning program used the GAP regional data, as well as more detailed information, to conserve 1,640 acres of habitat within a 2,900-acre planned development.
- Day-to-day county planning operations in Piute, Grande, and Washington counties, Utah.
- County planners in Piute County, Utah used GAP data to optimize the siting of a proposed sawmill for aspen with respect to the distribution of aspen stands.
- Missoula County, Montana, used the GAP land cover map of the area as a base map for its comprehensive long-range plan.
- Snohomish County, Washington, used the GAP land cover map in meeting state requirements for a growth management plan.
- The City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, used GAP data to assist them in development of a watershed planning project.

#### State Uses:

The following are some examples of uses of GAP data by state agencies.

- The GAP database of species habitats was used by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to update its book “Species in Need of Management.”
- Images of land cover derived from GAP TM data are used by TWRA for locating particular habitat types. Information on the locations of these habitat types is provided by TWRA to the public for a wide variety of public service functions, from education to cooperative resource management.
- Early GAP data developed by TWRA were used to help identify an extremely important area of the state with high biodiversity that was subsequently purchased by the state for conservation.
- Preliminary findings from GAP were used by TWRA to develop three resource management initiatives.
- The Tennessee GAP project, which is being carried out primarily by TWRA, is the foundation of a multi-agency, long-term biodiversity program for Tennessee.
- GAP data have been used by the Tennessee Forestry Stewardship Program to help develop a district program for nine conservation planning districts, outlining Best Management Practices (BMPs) for biological conservation on private lands.

- GAP data are being used extensively by TWRA in the preparation of project proposals to the North American Waterfowl Conservation Program. These proposals require that biodiversity issues are addressed in specific detail. The use of GAP data on occurrence of land cover types and terrestrial vertebrates has made this possible.
- The Wyoming Department of Fish and Game (WYF&G) used GAP data to assist them in transforming the Wildlife Observation System database into a spatially referenced geographic information system.
- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Bear River Water Conservancy District used the Utah GAP land cover map in a resource management assessment for mitigating conflicts between a proposed groundwater withdrawal project and the maintenance of an elk calving area in the Uinta Mountains.
- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Sheik Safari International used the Utah GAP land cover map to identify critical elk habitat. The environmental profile of these areas was then used to identify other similar areas for elk habitat enhancement.
- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources used the Utah GAP land cover map for a rapid ecological assessment of the Echo Henefer Wildlife Management Area.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife used GAP data to develop a breeding bird atlas and an atlas of mammals of Washington State.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife uses GAP data to operate an integrated landscape management program.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife uses GAP data from Eastern Washington to assist with an innovative program that brings the forest products industry, state agency biologists, non-government organizations, and tribal biologists together in the field to jointly determine the appropriate management practices for any particular site of concern (Timber, Fish & Wildlife Program).
- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game used GAP data to evaluate the impact from expanded military training activities on public lands in Southern Idaho.
- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses GAP data for regional planning efforts on a regular basis.

#### Statewide Planning:

Biodiversity planning programs or projects are now under way in Arizona, California, Colorado, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, and Tennessee. It is likely that similar efforts will develop in other states. These activities were the subject of the State Biodiversity Programs meeting discussed on page in this report. In some cases, these efforts grew out of the state GAP project, however, in most cases, the GAP data are being used to meet a previously defined need. In all cases, GAP data are central to their development and operations. The goals of each of these programs or projects are presented briefly below.

#### Federal Agency Applications:

Some examples of applications of GAP data by federal agencies follow:

- GAP data are being supplied to all military installations in the Great Basin ecoregion for integrated management of the natural resources. These installations constitute a very large amount of land area. Much of it is of high value for native species.

- The Ouachita National Forest used the Arkansas GAP data to help them develop an ecosystem management plan.
- The Wyoming GAP data were used by NASA to calibrate a model that predicts vegetation types based on climate and soil variables.
- The potential contributions to biodiversity conservation of four different options proposed for new wilderness designation in Idaho were quantified by the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in cooperation with the Park Studies Unit.
- The potential contributions to biodiversity conservation of four different options proposed for new national park designation in Idaho were quantified by the Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit.
- The U.S. Forest Service in Booneville, Arkansas, used the Arkansas GAP data land cover maps in a 3-dimensional presentation to provide the public with a visual representation of the region and to enhance the public's involvement with the National Forest planning process.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regularly uses the GAP data for Southern California for habitat evaluation and management.
- The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service are using the GAP data for a wide variety of natural resource management operations in Utah. For example, the entire Utah GAP database is directly linked with existing National Park Service databases for use by National Parks.
- The Bureau of Land Management uses the Wyoming GAP data for managing the Buffalo Resource Area.
- The U.S. Forest Service used the Utah GAP data to help assist them in evaluating human-induced impacts to forested lands surrounding ski resorts in central Utah.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Delaware used GAP data to help identify potential habitat for the federally endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. These maps were displayed and served as a catalyst for bringing together people with a stake in the issue.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used the Indiana GAP data as part of a biological assessment for the base closure of the Jefferson Proving Grounds and its conversion to a National Wildlife Refuge. This 58,000-acre installation has restricted human access due to unexploded ordinance and contains some of the highest quality natural habitat in Indiana.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Louisiana used GAP data to avoid conflict over the designation of critical habitat of the federally endangered Louisiana black bear.
- The NOAA Coastal Marine Sanctuary in Washington State uses GAP data for an educational display.
- In Washington and New Mexico, digital land cover maps have been distributed to all National Forests.
- The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Mexico is using a GAP clustered imagery as a base for their land cover mapping activities.
- The Department of Defense is funding the development of an electronic environmental information system for the Mojave ecoregion, which would use GAP

data as a foundation or base layer of information. The system will link 29 DoD installations to a common source of environmental information.