



### ***1. Organizational Approach to GIT:***

The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) includes the state's Forest Service (<http://www.state.de.us/deptagri/forestry/index.htm>). The DDA has a long, strong history of GIS utilization, and plays a leading role in the development of GIS models for a variety of state offices. The Service uses GIT to a lesser degree, and primarily on an individual project basis. Most of the Service's professional forestry staffs use GIS and GPS at its headquarters (HQ) office in Dover and in its three regional offices as well. In addition, the Service's State Forest technicians are currently being trained in the use of GPS for several applications. There is no staff dedicated for implementing or maintaining GIT, a situation that will likely continue given the Service's small staff size. Currently, GIS maintenance services are contracted to Thompson Mapping Services (TMS), through the DDA Planning Section. TMS maintains the DDA's (and therefore the Service's) GIT database. Service staffs at all offices access GIS on individual computers via internet link with TMS. The State Forester works with the DDA Planning Office to ensure that staff is aware of any changes and upgrades to the GIT database provided by the Service. No formal policies regarding GIT usage have been developed to date. Issues regarding GIT center on needs for staff expertise and increasing funds for GIT programming.

### ***2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:***

Service personnel use GPS primarily to aid in forest management activities, including mapping forest boundaries and timber sales, **characterization** of forest stands, impact of insect outbreaks on **forest health**, and to develop property and stand maps for **private landowners**. State Forest technicians, who work on **State** Forests and respond to statewide wildfire occurrences, use GPS to maintain access roads, sensitive areas, and other features, as well as to map wildfire boundaries and estimate **fire** acreage. These data are later incorporated into a GIS in conjunction with aerial photos and topographic maps, to produce maps for the area of concern. The DDA uses GIT in many applications. One example is a joint **land cover** project with several other entities to map high quality agricultural and natural resource land on the Delmarva Peninsula, which will allow the Service to target funds for **land acquisition** and staff for landowner assistance. The collaboration includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS), Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Agriculture and Natural Resources Departments of Maryland and Virginia, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and various counties. The USF&WS are performing the majority of the GIS work. DDA uses the Internet for simple GIS applications to reduce the overhead costs associated with GIS training, software and hardware, and office space. DDA personnel, including Service staff, are **trained** in Internet-GIS use in less than two hours, and all DDA personnel are encouraged to utilize the GIS. DDA's website currently supports two applications; an Urban Forestry Community Grant GIS and a Pesticide Groundwater Monitoring GIS (<http://www.smartmap.com/dda>).

### ***3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:***

The Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC), located in the Executive Department's State Budget Office, serves as the lead for statewide GI/GIT coordination functions. The state does not have a central agency providing GI/GIT services to state agencies, though most agencies have internal GIS activities. The Delaware Geographic Data Committee (DGDC) (<http://www.state.de.us/planning/coord/dgdc/>) and its subcommittee, the State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) serve as the leading GI/GIT coordination groups in the state, though a new Spatial Data I-Team also was recently established (2001) to oversee maintenance and updating of the Delaware Spatial Data Framework. One staff person in OSPC serves as the part time statewide GI/GIT coordinator. OSPC works with the Delaware Geological Survey, which houses the State Mapping Advisory Committee, and the University of Delaware's Research Data Management Services office, which houses the Delaware Spatial Data Clearinghouse

(<http://www.nsd.edu>). The Clearinghouse holds metadata records and other information about GI/GIT in Delaware. The Service has no linkage to these groups at this time; however, it does utilize an interactive Internet-GIS (<http://www.smartmap.com/dda>) maintained by DDA. All DDA developed layers from the site are viewable and are available for download.