



North Carolina

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) (<http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/>) uses GIT in a limited way. DFR uses GIT for various applications, but it is primarily on an ad hoc basis. DFR has one employee who does computer application programming and has GIT responsibilities. DFR is part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (<http://www.enr.state.nc.us/>), which has a dedicated GIS coordinator working with GIS, though he primarily addresses non-forestry matters. Currently, Service Foresters and Technicians in 20 Field Offices, as well as several of the 100 county offices, use GIS. The Division does not have any specific policies regarding the use of GIT. Major issues center primarily on budget constraints, resulting in limits to software acquisition.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

DFR uses GIS for various applications including **forest assessment** and **emergency** management, with efforts on **private lands** as well as **state lands**. In particular, these uses include **forest health**, such as insect and disease inventory and modeling; incident mapping (fires, hurricanes, ice storms, and other natural disasters); **forest characterization** such as inventory; managing State Forest lands under the control of DFR; and forest management mapping when preparing plans for private landowners. Many of the uses are for “disposable” or one-time applications, like the creation of maps for landowners in the field. Data primarily used are 1993 black and white digital orthophotography from the National Digital Orthophotography Program and USGS topographic maps at the 1:24,000 scale. The eastern third of the state also has available 1998 color infrared photos. DFR uses ArcView™ as its standard GIS software.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

Statewide, the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC) serves as the leading GIT coordinating group for the state, while the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) serves as the official GIT coordinating office (<http://www.cgia.state.nc.us/>). CGIA is one of the largest state GIT offices among the 50 states and has several initiatives including statewide data development, applications development for state agencies, and a data clearinghouse. Affiliated groups that assist in state GIT coordination are State Government GIS Users, Affiliated GIS Users Group, GIS Technical Advisory Committee and the State Mapping Advisory Committee. DFR works with these entities, DENR's dedicated GIS coordinator, and has a contract with North Carolina State University (NCSU) for various GIS projects. Under the contract, NCSU is to create county maps for use in ArcView™ with features such as roads, streams, municipal boundaries, and other pertinent attributes. These maps will be used by DFR for fire control and other natural disaster uses. Currently, DFR does not have a series of county maps that are geo-referenced for this type of use. In addition, the University is digitizing stand boundaries for one of the State Forests.