



Colorado

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) (<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/>) is organizationally a part of Colorado State University (CSU) with the agency's State Office located on the CSU campus in Fort Collins. CSFS has 115 employees throughout the state with the largest concentration at the State Office in Fort Collins and others at its 17 district offices. The agency also makes wide use of GIS, with its GIS Program located in the Information Technology (IT) Group. The IT Group consists of two employees, with the GIS Program Manager working for the IT Group Manager. The IT Group Manager deals with IT issues throughout the state, leaving all GIS duties to the GIS Program Manager, who serves as the one individual dedicated to GIT in CSFS. The GIS Program Manager deals with training and project support to other CSFS staff. The GIS Program in CSFS is relatively new and growing; with an emphasis in partnerships to enhance GIT use, as well as employee training and project work to enable additional staff to use the technology.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

CSFS uses GIS for wildland **fire** modeling, project tracking on **state lands**, threatened and endangered **wildlife** tracking, and project feasibility and **planning** analyses, among other applications. Currently, CSFS uses mainly ArcView 3.2 in their 17 district offices. The GIS Program Manager also works with ArcGIS 8.1 and will be moving the agency slowly to the 8.1 platform. CSFS uses vector data (roads, streams, parcel boundaries, etc.) and raster data (DEM, DRG, digital-orthophotos, and some satellite imagery). Concerning remote sensing (RS), CSFS particularly uses LANDSAT, although it engages in little data interpretation of its own. CSFS has ready access to RS expertise, particularly through its association with the University. Most satellite imagery that CSFS uses is as a finished product (LANDSAT data converted to land cover types). CSFS also is acquiring some 1-meter satellite imagery for use on a small project and to evaluate usefulness. The high costs limit the use of such data. While CSFS makes broad use of GIT, most of its data comes from the public domain, or are acquired from cooperating agencies. Data that is created in house is limited in quantity and is usually the result of analyses, such as fire hazard mapping. Colorado State University's Department of Remote Sensing and GIS is using digital aerial photography and related technology for **forest health**, such as detection and monitoring of mountain pine beetle occurrence (<http://www.mediamapper.com/demos/Forestry/>).

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

The recently established Office of Innovation and Technology (OIT) (<http://www.oit.state.co.us>) serves as the official lead for statewide GI/GIT coordination. OIT supports a part-time State GIS Coordinator; a role that is currently being filled by an employee of the Department of Natural Resources. The leading statewide GI/GIT coordinating group in Colorado is known as GISCO (GIS in Colorado) (<http://landuse.com/gisco/>), which specifically focuses on the needs of public sector GIS users. Additionally, a new State Agency GIS (SAGIS) and I-Team working groups also were recently formed. CSFS's GIS Program Manager attends GISCO meetings; however, a linkage to OIT has not yet been formalized.

A clearinghouse has been established, but it only maintains State of Colorado metadata (<http://metadata.state.co.us/servlet/colorado>). It is a link to the FGDC clearinghouse. It contains metadata for a variety of themes including transportation, natural resources, environmental, health, oil and gas, geology, wildlife and climate data. The CSFS is relatively new to GIS and is still developing partnerships to enhance its use of GIS. CSFS acquires much of its data from cooperating agencies such as the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the National Park Service (NPS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), State

Government, County Government, and others. Most of these partnerships involve wildland fire analyses. Since the CSFS is part of Colorado State University, it receives programming at educational discounts and site licenses (ESRI products), but other types of assistance are limited.