 ***Kansas***

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:
The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) (http://www.kansasforests.org/) is a unit of Kansas State University's Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources (http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/), and uses GIT in a very limited way. Currently, GIS use in the KFS is strictly in the development stage, and GPS is being used sparingly for some forestry applications. KFS intends to further develop its internal GIS abilities, eventually incorporating remote sensing (RS) data for application use. The fledgling GIT program in the KFS now extends only to scattered, individual applications, but a more enterprise-wide approach is expected in the future. KFS is assisted by Kansas State University, from which it acquires its GIS software, and through participation with a web-based GIS user group. The KFS has a very small staff of 18 foresters and seven support staff, from which only a couple of foresters and the Forestry Technology Coordinator use GIT. Total GIT use within the KFS is less than 10 hours per week for all personnel. The Forestry Technology Coordinator's role is to learn how to use software, work on large projects, and teach and support staff on individual GIT use. Currently, GIS capabilities exist only in KFS's State Office, although it is expected that field staff will gain access to GIS when data becomes available in a format that is usable to them. No policies regarding the use of GIT within the KFS exist at present. Data compatibility between ArcView 3.2 and ArcInfo and ArcView 8.1 is a technological issue the KFS is working on. Overall, the KFS's role as a landowner service organization has resulted in slow adoption of GIT due primarily to the lack of sufficient land resources by most landowners to justify the expense increasing GIT capability.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:
A few District Foresters in the KFS have acquired aerial photos from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) via NRCS's GIS, but no practical forestry application of this technology has yet been made. Currently, the KFS is using GIT for **forest characterization** in its coordination of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program with the North Central Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The KFS is utilizing GPS in this effort, and will receive a copy of these data and the corresponding ArcView and ArcInfo maps for statewide use for future applications. For future GIT efforts, the KFS intends to use orthophotos and digital maps along with ArcView and ArcInfo software, and will acquire base material from the Data Access and Support Center (DASC) at the Kansas Geological Survey, which is located at the University of Kansas (http://gisdasc.kgs.ukans.edu). One example of future GIT use by the KFS is for locating and tracking the more than 750 pieces of equipment it has on loan for its rural fire program through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. The agency is also considering using ArcView for local projects, including demonstrating wildland urban interface areas to assist in wildland fire mitigation. Further, KFS expects to engage in more regional and statewide GIT projects as it develops its technological expertise.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:
The official lead office for statewide GI/GIT efforts is the Kansas Information Technology Office, a part of the Division of Information Systems and Communications, within the Department of Administration. (http://da.state.ks.us/ksit). Kansas is also served by the Kansas Data Access and Support Center (DASC) (http://gisdasc.kgs.ukans.edu), as mentioned above. DASC receives direction from the State GIS Director at the Kansas Information Technology Office. The Kansas GIS Policy Board is the leading coordination body for GIT in Kansas. Its duties include improved coordination of the State's GIS resources, and development of an infrastructure that promotes efficient service delivery and data sharing among state organizations and government entities. At this time, the KFS has no formal linkage to any of these groups. However, a future link to DASC is anticipated. DASC supports a data clearinghouse and provides data archival, warehousing and distribution services to the GIS Community as an FGDC Clearinghouse

node, in cooperation with the Information Network of Kansas (INK) portal, *accessKansas* (http://www.accesskansas.org).