



Ohio

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Ohio Division of Forestry (<http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Forestry.htm>) is located in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/>). DNR is a strong user of GIT, and has a dedicated GIS Administrator and a GIS and remote sensing (RS) unit that support GIT development throughout the Department. Further, DNR has 12 staff dedicated to GIT, including the Applications/GIS Administrator, and roughly 70 other staff who use it. However, the Division is just beginning to use GIT. Division employees use GIT with the support of DNR datasets, and the Division is heavily dependent on sister divisions and other agencies to produce such datasets. Eight Division staff use GIT, but none are dedicated, full-time users. Rather, they incorporate GIT use while conducting other primary responsibilities. The Special Projects Administrator is responsible for exploring potential GIT uses and coordinating current Division uses with existing datasets. At present, GIT is primarily used within the Division's central office, with data collection slowly becoming a field office responsibility. The Division works under DNR's policies regarding GIT. In the near future, the Division will be working with a consultant to develop a GIS conceptual plan, which may provide additional and/or more specific GIT policies for the Division. The need for increased leadership and direction is one of the challenges the Division faces as it moves forward with GIS. Another challenge has been a lack of resources to provide the necessary equipment and training to broadly implement the use of GIT.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

The Division has access to a considerable GIT infrastructure at DNR and other agencies. It uses GIS for harvest systems and road planning on **state lands**, **multiple resource** and **recreation** management, **ecosystem** planning, and mapping of forest management units and facilities. Division staff are recently using ArcView for limited mapping purposes, and are working on organizing GIS databases to improve their connection with non-graphic data. Examples of digitized data used include property boundaries, compartments, management units and management zones. Property boundaries are acquired from engineering maps of properties, while the other datasets were digitized from these topographic base maps with local forester hand-drawn boundaries. Currently, there is a pilot initiative to have Division field foresters use GPS technology in conjunction with GIS to map their activities on **private land**. DNR's RS unit has used satellite imagery to help develop statewide **land cover**/use analyses, as well as other data and applications. The Division's sole use of this data has been for land use and **land cover analysis**, developed from LANDSAT imagery, to supplement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data supplied by the U.S. Forest Service. DNR maintains an online Metadata system for digital spatial data documentation and dissemination that can be accessed at: www.dnr.state.oh.us/gims/metasearch.htm.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

The Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) has been the lead coordinating organization for GI/GIT in the state for over a decade. OGRIP consists of three key components: the Council, the Forum, and a staff. The Council serves to lead OGRIP in the efficient collection, management and use of geographically referenced data, while the Forum assists in coordination of GIS activities and to encourage access and consistency with others to the maximum extent possible. In addition, the Ohio State University Center for Mapping (www.cfm.ohio-state.edu) has provided some coordination and support of GIT initiatives. DNR's GIS Administrator is a member of the OGRIP Council. The lead GIT contact for the Division of Forestry and DNR's GIS Administrator participate as appropriate in OGRIP Forum meetings.

The GIS Support Center (GISSC), which is a unit within the Ohio Department of Administrative Services distributes U.S. Geological Survey data sets and enhanced data sets (<http://www.geodata.gis.state.oh.us/data.htm>). These data sets include the 24K Digital Line Graphs (DLG), 24K Digital Raster Graphics (DRG), 30 meter Digital Elevation Models (DEMS) and 12K digital orthophotos for the state of Ohio. OGRIP/GISSC actively enhances these data sets to increase accessibility and usability to state and local government, private sector and the general public. Other agencies distributing state data include the Public Utilities Commission (www.puc.state.oh.us/pucogis/), DNR (www.dnr.state.oh.us/gims/metasearch.htm) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) (www.dot.state.oh.us/techservsite/availpro/availpro.htm).