



1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Oklahoma Division of Forestry Services (ODFS) (<http://www.state.ok.us/~okag/frt.htm>), located within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) (<http://www.state.ok.us/~okag>), uses GIT for some applications, but at the individual project level. ODFS receives regular assistance with GIT from DOA's Application Specialist, who assists ODFS with specialized projects, software use and map creation. ODFS also receives occasional assistance by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on a project specific basis. Currently, ODFS has no staff dedicated to GIT, though it does have a total of eleven staff people that use GIT to some extent. GIS is used by a forestry dispatcher in each of three regional dispatch offices, and by the Division's Urban Forestry Coordinator and its Assistant Director. In addition, six Division law enforcement officers use GPS. DOA's Application Specialist assists ODFS in regard to specialized projects, software use and map creation. The Assistant Director handles all GIT matters related to forest and fire management in the eastern part of the state, where the bulk of Oklahoma's forest lands are. Currently, there are no policies concerning use of GIT at ODFS. GIT use has been beneficial for several applications. Issues concerning GIT center on lack of funding for personnel and training.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

Git use for ODFS is just beginning. ODFS currently uses GIS for applications such as **urban forestry** and **fire**. ODFS recently funded a project to aid in the analysis of the effects on air quality of recent tornado damage to city trees in a four city area. ODFS funds were used by Oklahoma City, Del City, Midwest City, and the City of Moore to contract with Cross Timbers Forestry, which used high-resolution digital orthophotos and aerial photos in the analysis. In addition, the City of Edmond has just received an ODFS grant to contract for similar work, which will also analyze the role of urban tree cover in storm water mitigation. ODFS itself uses high-resolution digital orthophotos and aerial photos in its urban forestry efforts. Satellite imagery is not used, but its future potential for land change analysis is recognized.

Fire uses of GIT include billing, reporting, dispatching and mapping, which have helped to improve fire management and decision making. GPS is used for billing and mapping activities, while GIS is used with GIS and legal land survey descriptions for a computer reporting and dispatching system. GIS use is still under development, and will eventually be implemented with a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system for fire dispatch and mapping in the eastern quarter of the state, including the use of GPS to help determine fire locations. The future CAD will allow fire maps to be generated in real time. ODFS also coordinates with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding fire dispatching. ODFS has fire suppression responsibility for BIA lands in eastern Oklahoma. Much GIT utilization has been done at academic institutions within the state, including Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma (OU). Oklahoma Mesonet is administered by the Oklahoma Climatological Survey at OU (<http://www.ocs.ou.edu/>). **Fire** danger maps produced by Mesonet are accessed and used by ODFS personnel through the internet.

The Division's Special Officers use GPS for law enforcement activities on **state** and **private** lands, including verification of violation sites and reports for private landowners. ODFS previously used GIS in an assessment of whether additional timber processing could be ecologically supported. This utilization analysis included mill location and activity monitoring, as well as soil and growth rate data. It was conducted in 1997 as a one-time project to provide a "snap-shot" of timber resource potential. ODFS uses ArcView 3.X as its main GIS, has purchased ArcView extension applications, and utilizes customized applications as well.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission serves as the lead office for GI/GIT in the state. Legislation was adopted in 1994 that directed the Commission to coordinate development of a strategy for developing GIS in the state. This and subsequent legislation in 1995 created the State Geographic Information Systems Council and directed that the Commission serve as its chair (<http://okmaps.onenet.net>). Council membership includes 15 state agency and university representatives, which have worked successfully to increase the amount of data being shared among state agencies, both at a formal and informal level. The Commission serves as the chair of, and provides administrative support for the Council. No direct linkage between these groups and the ODFS exists, however; the DOA has a representative that attends monthly meetings of the state GIS Council and represents the ODFS in forestry matters.