



Rhode Island

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment (<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bnatres/forest/index.htm>), located within the Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), has made some use of GIT, as described below. The Division has limited internal GIS capability, but Division staff do use hard copy aerial photography. The Division also receives some assistance from RIDEM's GIS Coordinator, including a recent contribution of GPS data. The Supervising Forester serves as the lead GIT contact within the Division, but has no specific GIT responsibilities. Although there is no policy directive within the Division regarding present or future use of GIT, the Division would take advantage of data from the Rhode Island GIS (RIGIS) program (described below), if monies were allocated to enhance its database to include forestry-related data.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

The Division has not had much experience with GIS or satellite data, and primarily uses hard copy aerial photography for forestry applications such as forest productivity **assessment**, multiple **natural resource** management, and mapping. Most recently, RIGIS has provided assistance concerning **forest health** by providing maps showing plot locations based on GPS for gypsy moth survey points. RIDEM has been a large user of GIT for several applications other than forestry. In addition, an Internet GIS website has been established by RIDEM (<http://www.dem.state.ri.us>) for viewing RIGIS data focusing on environmental concerns. Availability and use of digital orthophotography is planned for the future, but as mentioned above, is contingent upon increased funding support.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

Statewide, the Rhode Island GIS (RIGIS) (<http://www.planning.state.ri.us/GIS/GISHOME.HTM>) Executive Committee has served as the state's leading GIT coordination group since its inception in 1986. RIGIS is staffed by and physically housed in the Statewide Planning Program (SWP) of the Department of Administration's Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS). It manages a comprehensive geographic information database consisting of several hundred individual data sets or coverages in vector line and raster image format. The Environmental Data Center (EDC) at the University of Rhode Island's (URI) Department of Natural Resources Science has served as a leading operational center for GI/GIT and technical expertise since RIGIS was established. EDC disseminates data resources about Rhode Island for use with GIS (<http://www.edc.uri.edu/>). As mentioned above, RIDEM established an Internet GIS website (<http://www.dem.state.ri.us>) for viewing RIGIS environmental data. The Division's relationship to these entities is yet to be defined as its use of GIT grows.