



1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Tennessee Division of Forestry (<http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture>) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) (<http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/forestry.html>) makes some use of GIT. The Division uses GIT for both individual and Division-wide applications. The Division is primarily self-sufficient in its GIT use; however, it does obtain data from other state agencies such as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Office for Information Resources (OIR). Currently the Division has three GIT positions: two full-time positions (one of which is now vacant) and one seasonal position filled by a summer intern. The GIS Coordinator serves as director, planner, analyst, digitizer, and data-entry operator. GIT is in use to some degree in five of the 14 state forest offices, in most of the 33 county forestry offices, and in most of the six district headquarters. One additional staff member at the state office in Nashville also uses GIT, but this use is secondary to other responsibilities. There are no policies concerning the Division's use of GIT at this time. GIT has provided Division managers with a better understanding of the "spatial factor" for their policy making and management decisions concerning the protection, management, and conservation of natural resources. The present lack of staff is an issue the Division faces in its efforts to more fully utilize GIT. This staff shortage is due to restrictions in administrative personnel classifications, rather than an inability to hire new staff.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

The Division uses GIT for several applications, some on an individual basis, and others across the Division. Several types of software are used, including DeLorme's 3-D TopoQuad, ArcView and ArcInfo. GIS is used as a tool in presenting proposed forest management plans to **private** forest landowners. The Division's primary use of GIT has been in the development of data coverages for all 14 **State** Forests. This effort utilizes background information such as U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:24,000 scale topographic quad maps, aerial photography and GIS layers including roads, streams, boundaries, cemeteries, lakes and ponds. Compartment boundaries, forest stand delineation and data, historic and prehistoric sites, and forest land typing data are also used. Data based on USGS maps are augmented via ground truthing and field data collection. Where available, newly acquired survey information is used as well. GIT is also used in **forest health**, such as the creation of gypsy moth trap grid maps using GPS. As part of an annual effort, Division personnel record trap placement at season's end, then download the data to a GIS layer. The Division has also recently begun to use GPS and some GIS for **fire** mapping purposes. Maps of wildfire occurrence are created on a district and county basis as requested by upper-level administrators as a management tool for suppression efforts. Maps are used to familiarize suppression crew leaders with the location of the fire and the terrain in the immediate vicinity.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

The GIS Services Division in the Office for Information Resources (OIR) (<http://gis.state.tn.us/>) has served as the lead office for GI/GIT in Tennessee since its creation by OIR in 1997. It provides direction, planning, resources, and coordination in managing the information systems needs of the state. Tennessee does not have a statewide GI/GIT group sanctioned by state government, but the Tennessee Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) has been developing a statewide GI/GIT coordination effort since 1994 (<http://www.tngic.org/>). At the same time, all State information technology matters, including GIT, are under the jurisdiction of the Information Systems Council (ISC). TNGIC serves as a grass roots organization that provides user information and networking opportunities for GI/GIT issues within Tennessee. As mentioned above, OIR provides some data to the Division. In addition, the Division provides products to the OIR on a request basis, and the Division's GIS Coordinator, as an individual member of the TNGIC, represents the Division in TNGIC meetings. In addition, the State GIS Users Group is a state agency GIS group that is led by the GIS Services Division. Quarterly meetings permit

state agencies with GIT to keep abreast of new developments and directions within state government, as well as providing a format in which agencies can share their knowledge and resources. The Division's GIS coordinator attends these meetings.

The OIR-GIS Services has a web site providing information about the state's GI/GIT efforts, known as GISource (<http://gis.state.tn.us/>). OIR-GIS Services also plans to implement an NSDI Clearinghouse node for state government agencies in 2001. The node will host FGDC-compliant metadata records for state agencies. The TNGIC Technical Committee also is currently planning to implement an NSDI Clearinghouse node. This site is planned for implementation in 2002. The node will host FGDC-compliant metadata for participants, but not spatial data.