



### GEOSPATIAL MANAGEMENT SETTING in the US Forest Service

---

**National Mission** – The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service mission is guided by the fundamental principle of providing the greatest good for the greatest amount of people in the long run and is characterized by the slogan: **Caring for the Land and Serving People.**

**Scope** – The Forest Service has the direct stewardship responsibility for **193 million acres** of national forests and grasslands and shares responsibility, working through State forestry agencies, for the management, protection, and wise use of about 500 million acres of non-Federal rural and urban forests. Work is carried out primarily through a decentralized organization of regions, research stations, and the Northeastern Area. The headquarters for the agency—located in the Yates Building at 14th Street and Independence Avenue, Washington, DC—provides national policy and guidance in harmony with direction from the Department of Agriculture.

**Strategic Program Direction** – The Forest Service is guided by a long-term strategic plan that includes seven major strategic goals:

1. Restore, sustain, and enhance the Nation’s forests and grasslands.
2. Provide and sustain benefits to the American people.
3. Conserve open space.
4. Sustain and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.
5. Maintain basic management capabilities of the Forest Service.
6. Engage urban America with Forest Service programs.
7. Provide science-based applications and tools for sustainable natural resources management.

**National Geospatial Vision** – *Quality Forest Service geospatial information is current, adheres to Government standards, is developed collaboratively, and is routinely available for use by internal and external customers.*

The following goals will help the agency achieve this geospatial vision:

- Goal 1** Standardized geospatial data are acquired to meet agency business requirements and data quality is assured by responsible stewardship and administration.
- Goal 2** Geospatial applications work together so that users can easily access, update, query and analyze the data within them.
- Goal 3** Forest Service geospatial data are easily located and used by internal and external customers.
- Goal 4** Quality standard map products are easily produced and can be customized to meet the needs of internal and external customers.
- Goal 5** The Forest Service is proactively engaged with partners in the development of geospatial data and information sharing.



### GEOSPATIAL SERVICES on the Monongahela National Forest

---

**Forest-wide Management Direction** – The desired condition for the Forest is to care for the land and serve people through the maintenance and restoration of productive and sustainable ecosystems (**2006 Forest Land and Resource Plan**). The Forest continues to cooperate, coordinate, and consult with a variety of agencies, organizations, and government entities to achieve mutual benefits from Forest resource management. The Forest features a broad array of landscapes and opportunities, from wilderness areas where natural conditions predominate, to concentrated development areas where conditions have been highly altered to meet specific resource needs or concerns. Specific uses, practices, or activities on the Forest are adjusted as needed to reduce impacts to natural resources or to reduce conflicts between users. Ecosystems on the Forest:

- Have ecological and watershed integrity,
- Are dynamic in nature and resilient to natural and man-caused disturbances,
- Have a range of vegetative composition and structure that provide habitat for native and desired non-native plant, wildlife, and aquatic species, and
- Are managed in an environment of public and interagency trust, and cultural and socioeconomic sustainability.

**Scope** – The Monongahela National Forest has the direct stewardship responsibility for **919,302 acres** of federal lands (dated September, 2008) in east-central West Virginia. The Forest Supervisor is located in the Supervisor's Office in Elkins, West Virginia. Four district rangers supervise programs and field work from their offices located on one of the four Ranger Districts: Cheat-Potomac, Greenbrier, Gauley, and Marlinton-White Sulphur Springs. District offices are in Parsons, Petersburg, Bartow, Richwood, Marlinton, and White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The Forest is an administrative unit of the Eastern Region (Region 9) of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Regional Forester's office is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Strategic Geospatial Program Direction** – Strategic geospatial program direction stems from the national effort to implement an Enterprise GIS (EGIS) that is integrated through an entire organization so that a large number of users can manage, share, and use spatial data and related information to address a wide range of business needs. National efforts to migrate Forest information assets, region by region, to a national data center are its initial stages. The current timeline suggests that a complete Forest migration within Region 9 should occur by 2011. Immediate program goals (one to two year time frame) include:

1. Data – transitioning forest data to a file geodatabase format that complies to national standards,
2. Corporate applications – embedding corporate applications in local business workflows for both spatial and non-spatial management needs,
3. Project participation and spatial product delivery – continued integration of geospatial services within Forest-wide programs and projects,
4. Data and information sharing – ensuring public access to geospatial data and products.