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USDA Forest Service Mapping

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Washington, DC

Forest Service Organization

- First Chief of the Forest Service
 - Gifford Pinchot, 1905-1910
- Current Chief of the Forest Service
 - Mike Dombeck, 1997 to Present

Forest Service Regions

- Nine geographic regions.
- Regional offices located in major cities along rail lines.
- Decentralized
 - Decision making at the local level, not in Washington.
 - Decision makers are more familiar with local and region-wide issues.

Mapping in the Forest Service

- Initially was done at the Forest and District level.
- Mapping was a vital part of planning and managing the administrative area.
- Maps were made to the specifications and requirements of the particular Forest.
- Little standardization or consistency among Regions.
- During World War II there was an effort to consolidate mapping for defense purposes, and Forest Service played a key role.
 - Had the equipment and expertise.
 - Mapped areas of the US along the Pacific Coast.
 - Aided the US Hydrographic Service in making detailed maps of Japan.
 - Worked out of Gettysburg, PA.

- Regular Forest Service mapping business continued to be decentralized and non-standardized.
- This trend continued into the late 1960s.
- Mapping technology began to change.
- New, costly equipment, computers, etc., required the centralizing of mapping operations.

Geospatial Service and Technology Center (GSTC)

- Founded in 1975 (Geometronics Services Center).
- Located in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Intent was to consolidate a large part of the Forest Service mapping activities at one location.
- Bring together the skills and resources needed to build and maintain a standardized base mapping program.
- The Center's program expanded to include production of digital data.
- Today GSTC provides a full suite of geospatial services, data and maps.
- These services and products support core Forest Service business needs:
 - Forest Planning
 - Watershed Restoration
 - Resources Inventory
 - Transportation Management
 - Forest health protection
 - Enabling ecosystem sustainability
 - Fire Management
 - Burned Area Emergency Recovery

Remote Sensing Application Center (RSAC)

- Co-located with GSTC in Salt Lake City.
- Provides technical support in evaluating and developing remote sensing, image processing, and related geospatial technologies throughout the Forest Service.
- Provide project support and assistance with using remote sensing technologies.
- Provide technology transfer and training.

Forest Service Maps

- Primary Base Series
 - 1:24,000 scale
 - Single Edition Quadrangle Map Program
- Secondary Base Series
 - Inch/mile scale
 - Base for the Forest Visitor Map

Single Edition Quadrangle

- In 1992 Forest Service entered an interagency agreement with USGS to produce 1:24,000 scale maps over forests.
- Maps are produced by the Forest Service, to USGS standards.
 - With Forest Service information as well.
- USGS prints and distributes the maps for the Forest Service.
- Primarily used for administrative purposes.

Secondary Base Series

- Base cartographic work is performed at GSTC
- The base map is forwarded to Region/Forest where it is enhanced with photos, transportation guides and visitor information to become the standard Forest Visitor Map

Forest Visitor Maps

- Family of maps
- Recently signed agreement with the USGS for the sale of Forest Visitor Maps.
 - Previously only available at Forest Visitor Centers.
 - New agreement provides for the sale of Forest Visitor Maps through USGS vendor network.
 - Provides customers with one stop shopping.
 - Maps are available to vendors at volume discounts.
 - Increased customer service.

Other Forest Service Maps

- Wilderness Area Maps
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Pocket Guides
- Guide to Your National Forest
- Other Specialty Products

Other Collaborative Efforts

- Outdoors America Map
 - Guide to recreation opportunities on Federal lands
 - 11 Federal agencies involved
- Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration
 - Over 15 Federal agencies involved. - Will produce a map/brochure.

- The National Atlas of the United States
- Other Exchanges with USGS
 - Digital Elevation Models
 - Digital Orthophoto Quad production and exchange
- Data Sharing with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM):
 - Cadastral information

US Board on Geographic Names

- Forest Service Director of Engineering is a voting member on the US Board on Geographic Names.
 - Domestic Names Committee
- Forest Service is a key player in updating and editing the Geographic Names Information System

Roadless Area Conservation

- October 1999 President Clinton called a halt to all road construction in unroaded areas of National Forests.
- An Environmental Impact Study was performed.
- First Draft Released May 2000.
- Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) analysis was used to produce maps for the study.
- Final Report is due December 2000.

Support to Wildland Fire Detection, Suppression & Rehabilitation

- Fire Season 2000 was extremely severe.
- GIS and Remote Sensing were essential in fire fighting efforts and are being used in restoration and rehabilitation efforts as well.

Geospatial Advisory Committee (GAC)

- The GAC was formed in 1999 to address the task of moving the Forest Service into a GIS environment.
 - Maps on Demand
 - Use of GIS in Forest Management, etc.
 - Incorporating Forest Service Databases into a GIS environment.

Important Forest Service Web Sites

- Forest Service Home page: <http://www.fs.fed.us/>

- Roadless Web page: <http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- GSTC Web page: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gsc/>