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"Today's geospatial activities—surveying, mapping, remote sensing, and geographic information systems—can be traced to the earliest days of the agency when newly designated lands were surveyed and mapped by Forest Service employees, often for the first time. Surveys established forest boundaries, the locations of privately held lands within forests, and geodetic control needed for further surveying and mapping. Mapping captured the physical and cultural landscape—such as streams, lakes, topography, roads and trails, settlements, forest cover, and soil types. These activities were vital in building the geographic information inventory needed for effective resource management."

Summary of Forest Service Geospatial Activities (July 1997)



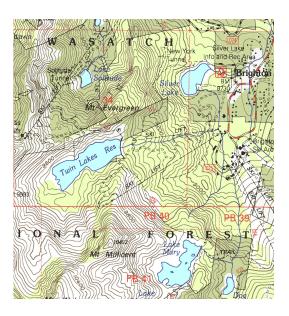






U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

GEOSPATIAL SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER







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The Center



The Geospatial Service and Technology Center (GSTC) is located in Salt Lake City, Utah. GSTC, a

National Service Center, is a unit of the Washington Office Engineering Staff, and is collocated with the Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center.

GSTC employs a uniquely skilled and equipped staff dedicated to providing a variety of geospatial services—from GIS data integration, analysis, and tools development, to web-enabled applications, data production and dissemination, cartographic publishing, technical assistance and training.

Our Mission

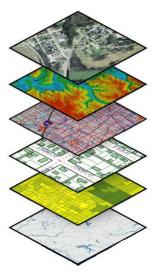
- Provide technical services to users of geospatial data and geospatial technologies.
- Produce and disseminate geographic information.

GSTC services and products reach all levels of the Forest Service—from Districts and Forests to Headquarters Staffs; across all Deputy Areas. They directly support mission critical activities such as: forest planning, recreation, habitat modeling, forest health protection, resource inventories, transportation management, and fire.

As a producer, user, and repository of geospatial information, the Center is an active partner within the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. GSTC programs are closely

coordinated with other federal agencies and are compliant with Federal Geographic Data Committee and Office of Management and Budget requirements.

Activities



Data acquisition, preparation, and integration -

Providing consistent, standard, documented geospatial data supporting a variety of natural resource analyses and applications.



Web services -

Providing on-line, web access to Forest
Service geospatial data and geospatial-enabled applications.



Technical assistance

- Providing a full suite of technical services, from project consultation and analyses support to enterprise geospatial architecture design. Official Forest Service

GISData Dictionary



Standards – Assisting in the development, testing, and maintenance of geospatial data and mapping standards.

Technology assessment and development of applications and tools –

Evaluating geospatial technologies, and building and integrating applications and tools.



Cartographic publishing -

Providing map views of geographic information; including digitally produced hardcopy maps

and web-served maps in a variety of scales and formats.



Training and awareness* -

Developing, coordinating, and delivering geospatial-related training, and raising awareness

of the benefits of using geospatial data and technologies in natural resource management.

* Provided in collaboration with the Remote Sensing Applications Center