**2004 NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program
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A Final Report Prepared for

Federal Geographic Data Committee

By

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Project Narrative:

The Alabama Natural Heritage Program[SM] (ALNHP) is the primary voice for biodiversity in Alabama, and surveys and inventories conducted by the program are critically important to the preservation and management of at-risk species and habitats within Alabama. ALNHP is dedicated to the collection, management and distribution of information regarding the incredibly rich biological resources of the state of Alabama. With that goal in mind, our staff of information managers, GIS specialists and scientists has devoted the last 14 years to the development of the state's most comprehensive and authoritative data sets on the location and conservation status of species and ecological communities. We strive to make these information resources available to the broadest possible audience of citizens and government officials involved in making decisions about the future of these precious resources. One of the most important ways that we can accomplish this is via the Internet, by posting metadata about the extensive information resources available through our program.

ALNHP resources for metadata creation at the beginning of this project included ESRI's ArcCatalog metadata engine. However, this program does not include support of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Biological Profile. Therefore, we purchased Intergraph's Spatial Metadata Management System (SMMS) to include the Biological Profile in metadata for our biological inventory data.

Clearly, the distribution of information held within ALNHP's data sets is essential to our mission. Maintaining accurate, complete, and useful metadata that is posted to clearinghouses is a fundamental strategy for achieving that mission. Thus, the Alabama Natural Heritage Program[SM] is dedicated to the long-term continuation of this effort and has a policy to create metadata as data is collected. Metadata creation and maintenance is part of the ALNHP GIS Specialist's job description. To facilitate the creation of future metadata, several templates were created to make the process easier and more efficient.

This project proposed creating 5 metadata files to document the data contained in our database: ALNHP Element Occurrence Records (EORs), Element Characterization Abstracts, Managed Areas in Alabama, Conservation Sites, and Information Sources. The information contained in these files is indicated below. These metadata files have been posted to our organization website (www.alnhp.org), the Geospatial One-Stop Portal (www.GeoData.gov), and the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Metadata Clearinghouse (http://mercury.ornl.gov/nbii/). The files also will be made available through the AlabamaView Data Portal if feasible.

ALNHP EORs
- Threatened, endangered, and at-risk species (plants and animals)
- High-quality and at-risk ecological communities
- Species and ecological community locations and conservation status
- Species population data
- Ecological community local vegetation data
- Location descriptions

Element Characterization Abstracts
- Species taxonomy and ecological community classification
- Species natural history
- Species and ecological community conservation status

Managed Areas
- Managed area location
- Protected area location and management
- Elements documented in the managed area

Conservation Sites
- Site location and description
- Site significance
- Elements present

Information Sources
- References supporting other data sets

Measurable Project Results:

- 5 metadata files created: ALNHP EORs, Element Characterization Abstracts, Managed Areas, Conservation Sites, and Information Sources.
- Metadata files posted to ALNHP website, Geospatial One-Stop Portal (www.GeoData.gov), and NBII Metadata Clearinghouse (http://mercury.ornl.gov/nbii/).
- 1 additional metadata creation software program purchased (for ability to include FGDC Biological Profile)
- Metadata templates created to be used in creating metadata for spatial files generated on future projects
- Metadata creation and maintenance part of job description for ALNHP GIS Specialist