

Program Mission

The mission of the Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program is to measure, predict, assess, and report the status and trends of the Nation's biological resources to facilitate research, enable resource management and stewardship, and promote public understanding and appreciation of our living resources.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Status and Trends Program has developed a Strategic Plan with specific goals and objectives for achieving its mission and guiding development of a more cohesive, unified Program over the next five years. All four goals and their associated objectives involve partnering to coordinate and integrate information collection, management, and dissemination. Such cooperation, built purposefully and steadily over time, is essential to their achievement.



For More Information

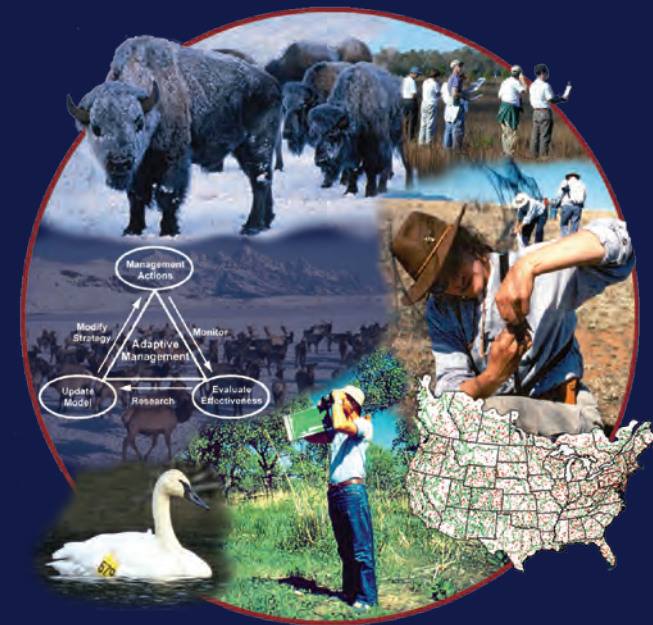
To learn more about the Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program, visit http://biology.usgs.gov/status_trends/

or write to:

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12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 301
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Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program

Goals and Objectives 2004–2009



General Information Product 8

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey**

The Importance of Status and Trends Monitoring

The nation's living resources and the habitats upon which they depend are undergoing constant change. To protect and conserve these trust resources, land and resource managers must first understand the condition, or status, of those resources (what and how many there are, where they are, how well they are doing), and their trends (how those resources are changing over time and space).



The USGS Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program responds to these information needs by providing the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and others with science-based monitoring data and information for local, regional, and national assessments of our biological resources and their supporting ecosystems.



Photo by Wayne Miller

Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program

2004-2009

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Develop a conceptual model and the required infrastructure (a National Monitoring Framework) that facilitates the integration of information from a variety of sources, at multiple spatial and temporal scales, to describe and track the abundance, distribution, productivity, and health of the Nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems.



The Program will work to develop a conceptual model and the required partnerships to facilitate the acquisition, sharing, and integration of

scientifically valid status and trends information. Our objectives for this goal are to:

- identify current inventory and monitoring activities (what, where, why, how, when, by whom, and data accessibility);
- improve coordination among USGS monitoring activities;
- improve communication and coordination between the Program, partners, and stakeholders; and
- develop a framework for monitoring selected biological resources/indicators.

Goal 2: Develop and evaluate inventory and monitoring methods, protocols, experimental designs, analytic tools, models, and technologies to measure biological status and trends.

Successful monitoring requires that methodologies be current, appropriate to their intended purpose, well documented, scientifically sound, and to the extent possible, compatible among studies. To achieve this, the Program will:

- work with others to identify, develop, evaluate, and publish methods, analytic tools, and models to measure the status and trends of biological resources;
- work with others to coordinate and promote valid, consistent, and comparable inventory and monitoring designs and methods; and
- in cooperation with partners, periodically review Program monitoring activities to ensure continued relevance and scientific rigor.



Goal 3: Collect, manage, archive, and share critical, high-quality monitoring data in cooperation with partners to enable a determination of the status and trends of biological resources.

Working through programs and partnerships like the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), we will:

- continue, expand, and improve Program monitoring efforts;
- identify and promote best practices for managing status and trends data and metadata for quality assurance, database design, and data storage and exchange; and
- promote access to inventory and monitoring data and interoperability of databases.



Goal 4: Produce and provide analyses and reports that synthesize information on the status and trends of our Nation's flora, fauna, and ecosystems and respond to the needs of the scientific community, land and resource managers, policymakers, and the public.

Timeliness and ease of access are high priorities for making this information available. Our objectives are to:

- provide print and Web-accessible reports, syntheses, and other information to advance greater understanding, interpretation, and use of status and trends information; and
- provide information and technical support relevant to DOI and other resource management agency and stakeholder needs.

