PAD-US
The National Inventory of Protected Areas

The Protected Areas Database of the U.S. (PAD-US) is the official inventory of protected open space in the United States and is published by the USGS Gap Analysis Program. With over 715 million acres in thousands of holdings, the spatial data in PAD-US includes public lands held in trust by national, state and some local governments and by some non-profit conservation organizations. Easement data is being developed separately.

Learn more about PAD-US, gap analysis and other available data, including land cover and species distribution, at the GAP website.

PAD-US is published by the USGS Gap Analysis Program (GAP). GAP produces data and tools that help meet critical national challenges such as biodiversity conservation, renewable energy development, climate change adaptation and infrastructure investment. **Download PAD-US Version 1.2, April 2011: http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov**

Uses of PAD-US

- Identify lands that need conservation to protect and restore ecosystems
- Better manage public lands to protect biodiversity
- Provide improved recreational access and use to parks and open spaces
- Ensure most effective siting for renewable energy resources
- Develop action strategies to mitigate climate change impacts on biodiversity

Key Features:

- Includes mostly fee protected lands with some other lands under voluntary conservation easement.
- Developed by aggregating state by state inventories, as well as federal agency and national conservation organization data.
- All lands are assigned GAP conservation status codes to indicate the level of protection. GAP codes of 1 and 2 are lands managed for different levels of biodiversity protection; 3 designates lands subject to extractive or other disruptive uses; 4 indicates no permanent protection.
- Supports International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) rankings and represents the United States' contribution to the IUCN World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
- Spatial data is available for public download as a geodatabase or in shape file format.
- Facilitates multiple protected area data summaries and statistics.