Importance

About GAP

GAP's tools and data are essential to achieving national goals of the highest priority:

- Protect America's key ecosystems and outdoor recreational resources—use data and analysis to increase effectiveness of planning and accountability for projects that protect and enhance the health of these crucial lands

- Improve management of conservation lands to safeguard nature—bring the best data and science to the protection of habitat and wildlife

- Adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change—provide core information on sensitive landscapes, biodiversity and protected areas to scientists and policy makers

- Create renewable energy resources—apply data and tools to aid in the designation of the most appropriate sites for solar, wind and other renewable energy resources

- Assess vulnerability of America's wildlife—provide resource managers with data and analysis to proactively manage and maintain habitat

The Gap Analysis Program is part of the U.S Geological Survey, in the Department of Interior. It supports a wide range of national, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and businesses with scientific tools and data.

GAP uses a collaborative approach to do research, analysis and data development, resulting in a history of cooperation with over 500 agencies and organizations.

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GAP is affiliated with the University of Idaho, North Carolina State University and New Mexico State University.

Tools and Data for Meeting America's Conservation, Climate and Energy Challenges
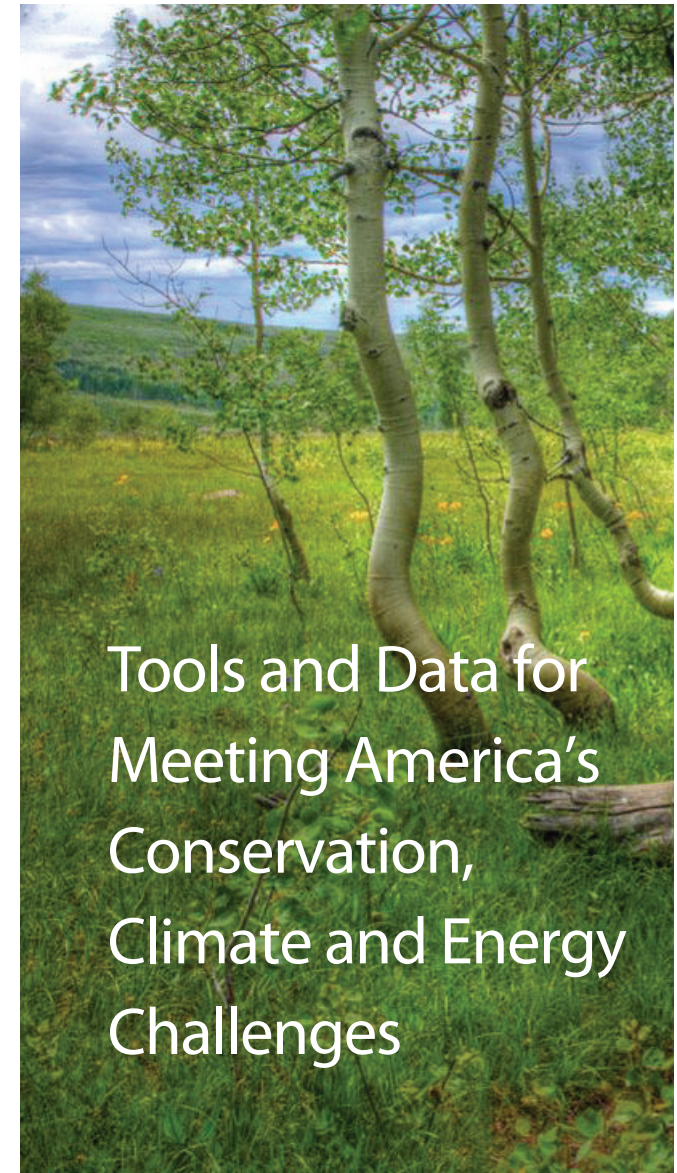
Mission

The USGS Gap Analysis Program (GAP) provides data and analytical tools for national, state and local policy makers and resource managers who are seeking to conserve biodiversity, inform climate action strategies, support effective renewable energy and other infrastructure siting, and improve the use, management and protection of open space and recreational resources.

GAP
Keeping Common Species Common | **USGS GAP ANALYSIS PROGRAM**

GAP's Services

SCIENCE AND ANALYSIS : GAP provides data and tools for science-based analysis of biological diversity. Its widely recognized "gap analysis" methodology helps identify land and water areas needing conservation in order to ensure that common species do not become endangered or threatened.

DATA: GAP publishes three critical U.S. data sets:

- Protected Areas (PAD-US) — ownership boundaries of federal, state and local parks and open space lands. Widely used for planning future conservation and recreation investments, siting energy and transportation facilities, and assessing climate impacts and mitigation strategies.

- Land Cover — the most detailed and consistent data on natural vegetation communities as well as urban land uses. Widely used for biodiversity assessments, State Wildlife Action Plans, climate adaptation plans and more

- Vertebrate Species — defines where birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles are likely to occur and the extent of their range. Used to pro-actively plan for species conservation before threatened or endangered status is attained.

Lark Bunting gap analysis

Predicted distribution of Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)
Conservation lands/Protected areas