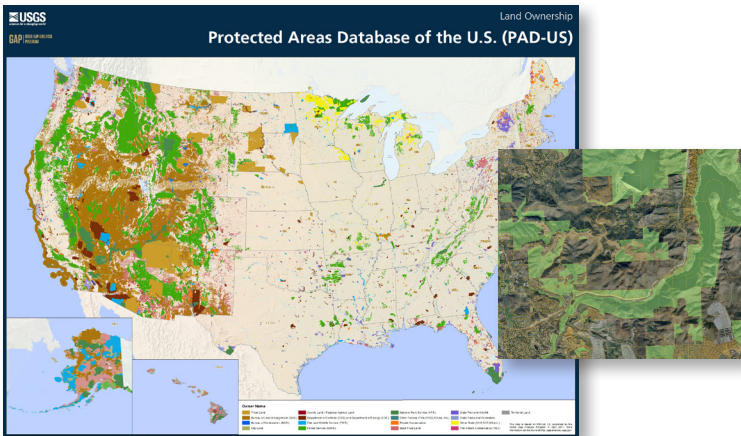# PAD-US
The National Inventory of Protected Areas

The Protected Areas Database of the U.S. (PAD-US) is the official inventory of protected open space in the United States. 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.

View and download PAD-US data at:
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus

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. Learn more about GAP and other GAP data (including species and land cover) at http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov.

PAD-US data is crucial to a wide range of activities:

- Identification of lands that need conservation to protect and restore ecosystems

- Managing public lands to better protect biodiversity

- Providing improved recreational access and use to parks and open spaces

- Ensuring effective siting for renewable energy resources

- Developing action strategies to mitigate climate change impacts on biodiversity

View PAD-US data online at
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus/viewer

Key Features

- Includes 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 multiple use lands that may support extractive uses; 4 indicates no known mandate for permanent protection.

- Supports International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) rankings and represents the United States' contribution to the UNEP-WCMC World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

- Spatial data are available for public download.

- Facilitates multiple protected area data summaries and statistics.