# 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 (GAP). 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.

Learn more about PAD-US, gap analysis and other available data, including land cover and species distributions, 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



## 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 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.

## 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

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