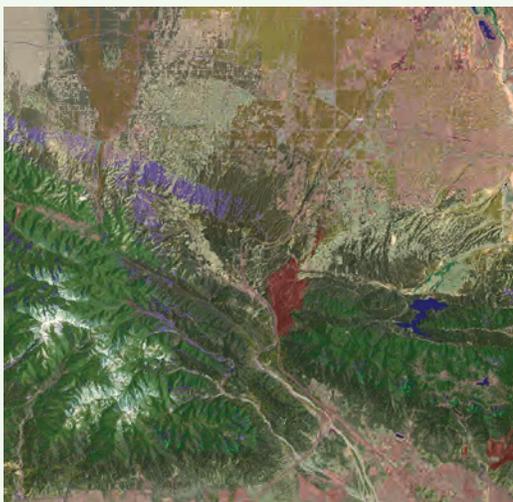


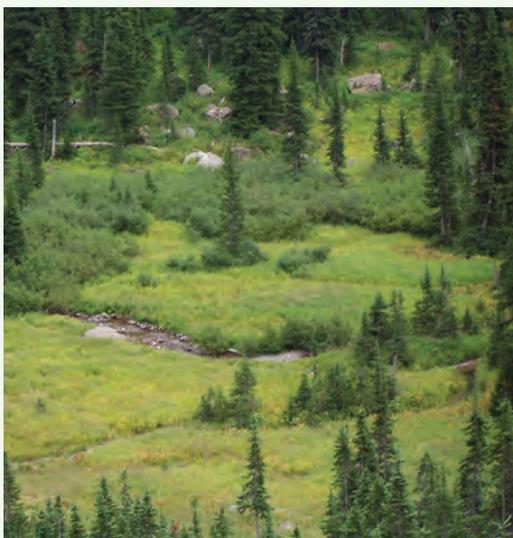
GAP ANALYSIS PROGRAM

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

National Inventory of Vegetation and Land Use



The sources for the land cover data all use similar base satellite imagery, classification systems, and mapping methodologies, which allow for the creation of a seamless national land cover map at 30-meter resolution. The map legend is based on NatureServe's Ecological Systems Classification (<http://www.natureserve.org/publications/usEcologicalsystems.jsp>), which describes vegetation communities at a finer level of thematic detail than previously mapped for the United States.



The Gap Analysis Program (GAP)/Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) National Terrestrial Ecosystems Data represents detailed data on the vegetation and land-use patterns of the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. This national dataset combines detailed land cover data generated by the GAP with LANDFIRE data (<http://www.landfire.gov/>). LANDFIRE is an interagency vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics mapping program sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

View and download the land cover dataset at <http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover>

Key Features

- High spatial resolution of the data allows for mapping of rare and small patches of vegetation, which frequently are of importance to wildlife.
- Seamless nature of map allows for the calculation of summary statistics for any user-defined boundary.
- Data are available for viewing and download from GAP's Ecosystems Viewer, which includes vegetation range maps and descriptions for each of the seven-tiered levels of vegetation.
- The Ecological Systems have been crosswalked to the U.S. National Vegetation Classification (USNVC). This tiered classification system allows users to select from seven levels of thematic detail.

The GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems dataset is produced by the U.S. Geological Survey in collaboration with the LANDFIRE Program. The 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 protected areas and species) at <http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov>.

Uses of GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems Data

- Identify the types of vegetation in a particular state or assessment unit
- Explore relationships between vegetation types, elevation, soils, slope, and aspect
- Use as input into wildlife habitat, hydrologic, land use, conservation planning, and climate change models
- Use as baseline from which to measure the impacts of climate change on vegetation
- Overlay with protected areas data (PAD-US; <http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus/>) to identify ownership and protection status of vegetation types

View land cover data online at <http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover/viewer>