

Importance

The tools and data of the Gap Analysis Program (GAP) 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—provide the best data and science for the protection of habitat and wildlife
- **Adapt** to and mitigate the effects of climate change—provide core information on sensitive landscapes, biodiversity, and protected areas to scientists and policy makers
- **Evaluate** alternative land-use proposals, such as renewable energy development, to minimize effects to wildlife populations and make best use of existing public lands
- **Assess** vulnerability of America's wildlife—provide resource managers with data and analysis to proactively manage and maintain habitat

About GAP

The Gap Analysis Program (GAP) is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. GAP supports a wide range of national, State, and local agencies as well as nongovernmental 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 more than 500 agencies and organizations nationally.

Key contacts

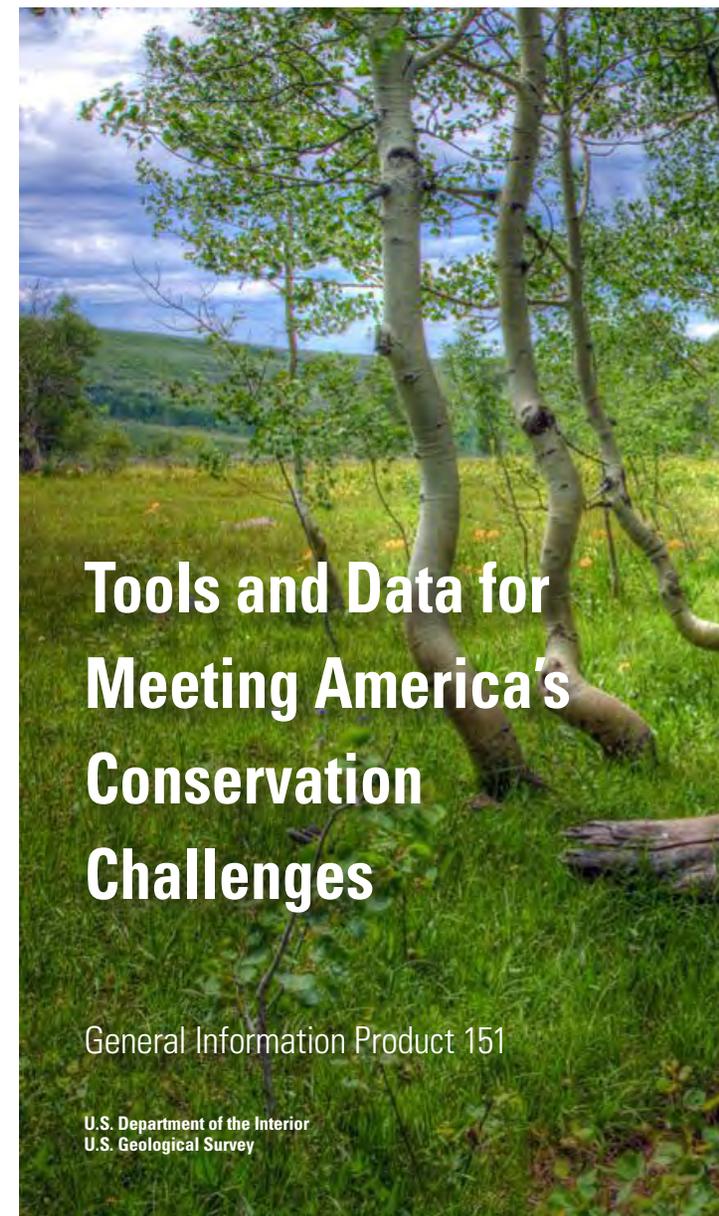
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GAP ANALYSIS PROGRAM



Tools and Data for Meeting America's Conservation Challenges

General Information Product 151

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Mission

The U.S. Geological Survey 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, evaluate alternative land-use proposals, and improve the use, management, and protection of open space and recreational resources.

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Keeping Common Species Common

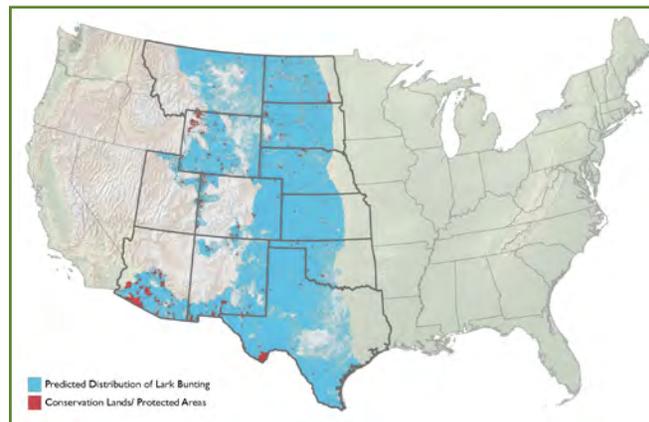
GAP's Services

SCIENCE AND ANALYSIS—GAP provides data and tools for science-based analysis of biological diversity. The widely recognized “gap analysis” methodology helps evaluate land-use effects on species and habitats to ensure that common species do not become endangered or threatened.

DATA—GAP publishes three critical U.S. datasets:

- **Protected areas (PAD-US)**—ownership boundaries of federal, State, and local parks and refuges. Widely used for planning future conservation and recreation investments, and assessing climate impacts and mitigation strategies.
- **Land cover**—the most detailed and consistent data on natural vegetation communities and urban land uses developed nationally. Widely used for biodiversity assessments, State Wildlife Action Plans, climate adaptation plans, and more.
- **Vertebrate species**—spatially identifies where birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles likely are to occur and the extent of their range. Used by resource managers to proactively plan for species conservation before threatened or endangered status is imposed.

Gap Analysis of Lark Bunting



Protected area

