

Iowa Gap Analysis Program

Principal Investigators: Kevin Kane
Bruce Menzel

Research Associates: Robin McNeely
Patrick Brown

Collaborators: Erwin E. Klaas, ISU Professor Emeritus
Katherine Koskovich, Iowa DNR

Duration: April 1997 to December 2003

Funding Source(s): USGS Biological Resources

Goals and Objectives:

The mission of the Gap Analysis Program (GAP) is to provide regional assessments of the conservation status of native vertebrate species and natural land cover types and to facilitate the application of this information to land management activities. This is accomplished through the following five objectives:

1. map the land cover of the United States
 2. map predicted distributions of vertebrate species for the U.S.
 3. document the representation of vertebrate species and land cover types in areas managed for the long-term maintenance of biodiversity
 4. provide this information to the public and those entities charged with land use research, policy, planning, and management
 5. build institutional cooperation in the application of this information to state and regional management activities.
-

Progress:

We anticipate submission of our final report on 12/31/2003. Following is the status of each objective.

Land cover: Landcover mapping is 100% complete. Final maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website. Data can also be viewed on the Iowa Geographic Image Map server at http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/gaplandcover/gap_lc.html

Animal modeling: Models have been completed for all species. Iowa has been a cooperator in the upper Midwest vertebrate modeling initiative along with North and South Dakota. Final distribution maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website.

Land stewardship mapping: Stewardship mapping and attribution is complete. Final maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website. The IA-GAP stewardship image map server can be accessed at: <http://maps.gis.iastate.edu/iagap>.

Analysis: Analysis is complete. Final maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website.

Reporting and data distribution: Final maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website.

Landcover Accuracy Assessment: Final Report submitted to EPA Region VII. The final report can be viewed on the IA-GAP homepage (<http://www.iowagap.iastate.edu/>) or on the National GAP site (http://www.gap.uidaho.edu/Bulletins/10/methodological_study.htm).

NatureMapping: In 1999, Iowa State University Extension (ISUE) Wildlife Programs began offering the Iowa NatureMapping Program a wide-ranging audience. NatureMapping is a citizen-based wildlife monitoring program, which is an education and outreach component of Iowa GAP. Reliable, accurate, and up-to-date information about Iowa's wildlife collected by Iowans will give those considering decisions such as wildlife management and research, urban development, or conservation and preservation a valuable layer of data not otherwise available in traditional land use planning. NatureMapping is a way to collect large datasets while reconnecting people to their local resources. Final maps will be published in the final report and on the IA GAP website.

Iowa Geographic Information Image Server: The Server is serving aerial photography (orthophotos), topographic maps, and other Iowa grid data from <http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu> This service is heavily used by Iowa GAP and our cooperators as well as many other Iowa users for a variety of applications.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Iowa Gap Analysis Project (IA-GAP) finished its fourth and final year of funding in 2001. Progress from that period was directed at submitting draft documents and datasets. All that remains now is submitting the final report and datasets. The IA-GAP homepage is accessible at <http://www.iowagap.iastate.edu/>.