



2025-11-17, 3:07:43 p.m.

 Public Sector  Municipal Parks
 INPC

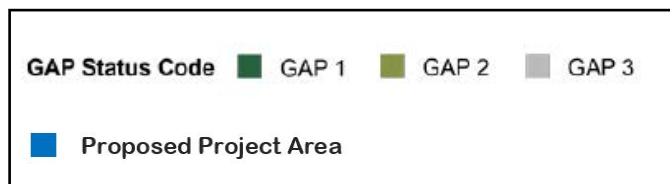
Tri-County Solar LLC

1:9,028
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi
0 0.07 0.15 0.3 km

Kane County/Kucera, Vantor, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC

Protected Areas Database of the United States

National Summary Report



Introduction

The Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) is America's official national inventory of U.S. terrestrial and marine protected areas that are dedicated to the preservation of biological diversity and to other natural recreation and cultural uses, managed for these purposes through legal or other effective means. PAD-US is an aggregation of information from multiple agencies and organization to provide the most comprehensive source of public parks and protected areas in the United States. The PAD-US Data Explorer provides information about areas permanently protected for the primary purpose of biodiversity conservation, as well as lands and waters that provide public access to nature.

Protection Status

Protected land and water management data can be very complicated –with multiple kinds of overlapping protection mechanisms, such as easements and policy designations. This can make it difficult to answer basic questions such as “How much of my state is protected?” If the data includes overlaps, suddenly you are faced with a complex process of making sure nothing gets double counted. To avoid that, a spatial analysis is conducted to produce a “flattened” file where all areas are given just a single protection status, representing the strongest protection in that place. For many questions, this simplified version of the data is all you need.

GAP Status Codes

The mission of the Gap Analysis Project (GAP) is to support national and regional assessments of the conservation status of species and communities. GAP Status Code is a measure of management intent to conserve biodiversity as defined below. This measure facilitates gap analysis of protection of species habitat and broader biodiversity assessments. Learn about the GAP Status Codes below:

GAP 1

An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a natural state within which disturbance events (of natural type, frequency, intensity, and legacy) are allowed to proceed without interference or are mimicked through management.

GAP 2

An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a primarily natural state, but which may receive uses or management practices that degrade the quality of existing natural communities, including suppression of natural disturbance.

GAP 3

An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area, but subject to extractive uses of either a broad, low-intensity type (e.g., logging, Off Highway Vehicle recreation) or localized intense type (e.g., mining). It also confers protection to federally listed endangered and threatened species throughout the area.

For more information on GAP Status Codes, visit:

<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/gap-analysis-project/science/pad-us-data-overview>

Public Access

Open

Requires no special requirements for public access to the property (may include regular hours of availability).

Restricted

Requires a special permit from the owner for access, a registration permit on public land (e.g. self-permitting Wild and Scenic River, backcountry Wilderness registration) or has highly variable times when open to use (e.g. seasonal Wildlife Refuge closure).

Closed

Occurs where no public access is allowed (e.g., land bank property, special ecological study areas, military bases, many easements, etc.).

Unknown

Assigned where information is not currently available.

IUCN Categories

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) management categories assigned to protected areas for inclusion in the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) World Database for Protected Areas (WDPA), the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA Committee) Protected Area Database, and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) North American Terrestrial Protected Areas Database.

For descriptions of IUCN categories visit:

<https://iucn.org/content/protected-area-categories>

PAD-US provides a comprehensive geospatial database of protected and managed areas in the United States. We assemble known publicly available protected areas whose primary purpose is biodiversity conservation, as well as lands and waters that provide public access to nature.

This dataset is considered complete for the information presented. As a compilation of many datasets, completeness and accuracy may vary in different areas. Estimated completeness of the PAD-US inventory, by Federal agency or State, can be found on PAD-US Data Stewards (<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/gap-analysis-project/science/pad-us-data-stewards>) or in the 'State of PAD-US Data' document provided on the FLWG website: <https://ngda-gov-units-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/federal-lands-workgroup>.

This report used most recent version of PAD-US when created. The latest version of the data is always available at <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/gap-analysis-project/science/pad-us-data-download>.

PAD-US is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), but it takes many partners to create this database. Our large collaborator network includes Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) whose work is closely aligned with PAD-US goals.

Federal data stewards coordinate through the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) FederalLands Workgroup (FLWG) that includes geospatial professionals from Federal land management agencies and other Federal stakeholders. Federal land management agencies are the authoritative source of Federal protected areas data in PAD-US.

State and local data stewards coordinate through the State Land Working Group (SLWG) and include representatives from State government agencies, local governments, universities, and NGO. State data-stewards provide State lands data and local government and private lands data.

NGOs also work closely with PAD-US to contribute data for privately-owned protected areas and easements, as well as some data for local park areas.

