

GIS Crucial Habitat Data Online - Key to Early Site Planning*

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Abstract

It is a common requirement that oil and gas development must necessarily coexist with a range of sensitivities, from pristine wetlands and rare ecosystems to crucial habitat for threatened or endangered species. But where is the data? Locating, validating, and compiling this data has often proved difficult. That is about to change.

The Western Governors Association (WGA) recently announced an effort to consolidate and serve crucial habitat data in an online environment set to debut in December 2013. The WGA data viewing tool will display information on important wildlife habitat and corridors across 16 western states. The viewer tool leverages a preceding effort where member states ([Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#)) utilized Crucial Habitat Assessment Tools (CHAT) to identify key areas.

The crucial habitat data will be useful to broad planning, from siting well pads to routing roads and gathering systems. The WGA's process and outcome are an excellent example of collaborative planning and data delivery using ArcGIS.

Websites Cited

For more information:

http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/wildlife/380-chat/#CHAT_states

To see specific examples:

Wyoming: <http://wisdom.wygisc.org/>

Arizona: <http://habimap.org/>



Figure 1. Webpage from Wyoming Interagency Spatial Database & Online Management System (WISDOM), showing example of interface and data available. Web accessed 8 March, 2013: <http://wisdom.wygisc.org/>



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HabiMap™ Arizona
Planning for Wildlife
Environmental Review Tool



Mapping wildlife and habitat conservation potential

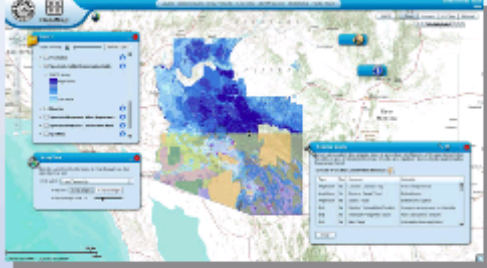
The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) recently revised its State Wildlife Action Plan that provides a framework and information to assist in setting conservation priorities for the state's wildlife and habitats. Data gathered for Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan represents myriad sources and extensive public comment, and is used to support the Department's efforts to develop proactive conservation goals and objectives. Much of that data (more than 200 data layers) is compiled into a single model of wildlife conservation potential, the Species and Habitat Conservation Guide.

To ensure the State Wildlife Action Plan information is accessible and useful to everyone, the Arizona Game and Fish Department developed HabiMap™ Arizona. This user-friendly, web-based tool allows users to visually explore the distribution of Arizona's wildlife, potential stressors to wildlife, the Species and Habitat Conservation Guide, and other relevant data.

The Species and Habitat Conservation Guide provides non-regulatory information compiled from the best available data, and is meant to identify Arizona's wildlife conservation potential at a statewide scale, regardless of ownership. It does not replace or supersede consultation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. HabiMap™ Arizona is intended to be used as an early planning tool for landscape-level analysis and should be used in concert with all available data and expertise to ensure project plans address wildlife and habitat conservation at all levels. Site-specific analysis will require additional wildlife information and on-the-ground expertise from the Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists. For more information on environmental compliance issues and special status species (including plants), please use the Online Environmental Review Tool at <http://www.azgfd.gov/hga>.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department recognizes the need to continually update and refine HabiMap™ Arizona. As new or additional data becomes available to the Department, our team will make appropriate revisions and adaptations to the tool. Likewise, we encourage feedback and questions, which can be submitted through the HabiMap™ Arizona tool or by the webgis@azgfd.gov email address.

Click the image below to go to HabiMap™ Arizona



Arizona Game and Fish Department
Updated February 2013

What's New!

New Popup Information for Layers: You can now view information about individual features. In context of the layer, in HabiMap™ Arizona, simply click on a feature with the layer it is found on to find open. Tool and a popup will display.

New Species Query Tools:

Species of Greatest Conservation Need Query: This tool enables a list of species identified on Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan. It is located on potential species, with feature details, available at a landscape level. The results are displayed at a 25K grid level. For more information about the Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan please see: <http://www.azgfd.gov/azgfd>.

Heritage Data Query: This tool enables a candidate species list generated from the Heritage Data Management System based on historic occurrences. The results are at a regional level. For more information on NDR and special status species, please see: <http://www.azgfd.gov/species>. For more information on environmental compliance issues and special status species (including plants), please use the Online Environmental Review Tool at <http://www.azgfd.gov/hga>.

Breeding Bird Query: This tool enables a species list generated from the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas. It is based on the results of surveys at a block level (approx. 10 sq. miles) and displayed at a regional level. It includes all distributions of bird species determined to be possible, probable, or confirmed breeding within each block.

Help Documents

How-To: HabiMap™ Arizona Basics: Learn the basics of map navigation, zooming, and layers, and how to export maps to a Word or Power Point document.

How-To: Saving Projects in HabiMap™ Arizona: Learn how to save and open project information within HabiMap™ Arizona.

Video Tutorials

HabiMap™ Arizona Help Videos: View a variety of how-to videos on how you can get the most out of HabiMap™ Arizona.

Figure 2. Webpage of HabiMap from Arizona. Web accessed 8 March, 2013: <http://habimap.org/>