



Protected Areas Database –
United States

July 30, 2009

Steering Committee

John Reitsma
Bureau of Land Management

Jim Strittholt (Denny Grossman)
Conservation Biology Institute

Rob Aldrich
Land Trust Alliance

Danielle Conboy
The Nature Conservancy

Brad Smith (Andrew Gray)
USDA Forest Service

John Mosesso (Kevin Gergely)
USGS Gap Analysis Program
(alternates)

Coordinator:

Larry Orman, GreenInfo Network

Dear Colleague:

I'm pleased to send you the attached report of the PAD-US Partnership, *A Map for the Future*, which presents the rationale and recommendations for greatly improving the inventory of protected areas in the United States. A digital version of the report is available for download at the partnership web site, www.ProtectedLands.net.

Creating a complete, current and accurate inventory of U.S. protected areas supports critical efforts to conserve biodiversity, improves strategic land acquisition, broadens public access to information on recreation, strengthens regional and multi-state collaboration, and builds a greater capacity for evaluating and defining open space protection accomplishments.

The PAD-US strategy calls for a major push in 2010-2012 to greatly expand the lands inventoried, to improve data quality and to establish a more robust technical foundation for providing this information to many different users. This effort will involve supporting states to improve their own inventories, integrating and refining federal land data and incorporating protected lands held by non-profits.

The design of this strategy has been developed by a public-private consortium, the PAD-US Partnership. The founding members of the Partnership include federal agencies (USGS, BLM and Forest Service) and non-profits (Conservation Biology Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Land Trust Alliance), with coordination by GreenInfo Network. Funding for the design project was provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the USGS Gap Analysis Program.

We hope your organization or agency will consider endorsing the PAD-US strategy and will work with the Partnership to incorporate national data standards into relevant land management data. To get connected and share ideas, visit the Partnership's web site at www.ProtectedLands.net/partnership – the web site also has a wealth of information on protected lands inventories, including links to current data sources for most states and federal agencies.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Orman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Larry Orman, PAD-US Project Coordinator

Creating the Next Generation of Protected Area Inventories in the United States