

**16.5. GIS community response to certification and licensing issues.** Many professional (foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, engineers, etc.) working in natural resource management currently use GIS to assist in making management decisions. Why might they be concerned about the issue of GIS certification and licensing?

They may be required to obtain additional education, establish and document a GIS work history, pass licensing examinations, and pay fees to become certified or licensed.

If certification and licensing is someday required for certain uses of GIS, natural resource professionals will need to:

- (1) take the coursework and exams necessary to become certified, or
- (2) take the necessary coursework and exams, and spend time working under a licensed professional, all in order to become licensed, or
- (3) continue working as before, running the risk of being reprimanded (or worse) for performing work that someone certified or licensed should be performing, or
- (4) stop performing certain tasks with GIS.

Some of these caveats require that the employing organization is willing to support the process of certification or licensing, and require that employees have the time to seek certification or licensing.