

3.1. Acquiring GIS data about Alabama National Forests. Assume you are interested in obtaining information about the streams related to the Shoal Creel Ranger District of the National Forests in Alabama. The Internet site related to the GIS data is www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gis/alabama/ (USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, 2001). Based on the information the National Forest Internet site provides [Please do not contact the Alabama National Forests GIS coordinator for answers to these questions]:

a. What type of GIS database are available?

ArcView shape files, mainly, plus digital raster graphics files. The shape files include:

- Administrative boundaries (ownership boundaries)
- Continuous inventory (Inventory plots)
- Elevation contours
- Rights of way
- Roads
- Scenic management system
- Soils
- Special use areas
- Streams
- Sub-surface ownership (mineral rights)
- Surface ownership
- Survey sections
- Survey townships
- Timber compartments
- Timber stands
- Trails
- USGS Quad boundaries
- Water bodies

In reviewing the "data dictionary,"

b. What scale map was used to create the streams GIS database?

1:24,000

c. What datum, projection, and spheroid are used to represent the streams?

Datum: NAD27
Projection: State plane
Spheroid: Clarke1866

d. What data structure is used to represent the streams?

arcs (lines)

e. What is the extent of coverage of the streams GIS database?

Extent of Shapefile: District Wide

f. Who is the primary contact, should one have further questions?

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