



The NDGS is an affiliate of the Earth Science Information Center (ESIC) network. Coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey, the nationwide ESIC network provides information about geologic, hydrologic, topographic and land use maps, books and reports; aerial, satellite, and radar images and related products; earth science and map data in digital form and related applications software; and geodetic data. As a ESIC office, the NDGS can assist the public in locating earth science materials dealing with North Dakota, as well as other states. For more information contact Karen Mitchell at (701)328 8000.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ask.usgs.gov

The USGS has released a new information Web site: <http://ask.usgs.gov>. Part of the "Ask-USGS" information delivery strategy, the site replaces the previous public ESIC Web pages. It provides data on natural sciences under the categories listed below.

- Who Are We: A definition of the USGS and its mission.
- Spotlight: News, events, and features of the USGS.
- Questions: Frequently asked questions that pertain to biology, hydrology, geology, and mapping as well as telephone and e-mail contact information.
- Sources of Information: USGS resources, such as Information Specialists, ESIC's, Libraries, State Representatives, and State ESIC's.
- Maps and Other Products: Maps, aerial photographs, digital data, satellite imagery, publications, new products, software, and real-time data.
- Educational Resources: Educational materials.
- Online Information: Internet links to natural science information.

The "Ask-USGS" information delivery strategy now includes four ways for customers to obtain USGS information:

Telephone: 1-888-ASK-USGS (888-275-8747)

FAX: 703-648-4888

E-mail: ask@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://ask.usgs.gov>

Publications Status Report

The following USGS publications are now available:

"Ground Water", File number 93-0175

Revised General Interest Publication

Free-of Charge

"National Wetlands Inventory Products"

USGS Fact Sheet 080-99, November 1999

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslists/plofprl.html>

"Hydrologic Unit Maps List"

Product list 67-0018, February 2000

Electronic format only: <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslists/plofprl.html>

"Magnetic Field Maps List"

Product list 67-0034, February 2000

Electronic format only: <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslists/plofprl.html>

"Maps of the World"

Revised multicolor leaflet, September 1999

File number: 93-0255

Supersedes previous edition.

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslsts/leafposter.html>

"Using Maps in Genealogy"

New fact sheet 140-99, August 1999

Supersedes the General Interest Publication of the same name, 94-0196.

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslsts/fctsht.html>

"The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid"

Revised fact sheet 157-99, February 1999

Supersedes fact sheet 142-97, September 1997

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslsts/fctsht.html>

"Geographic Names Information System"

Fact sheet 127-95, August 1998

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslsts/index.html>

"Map Projection Publications"

Fact sheet 087-99, May 1999

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/pubslsts/index.html>

Paper copies, if available, can be requested from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4692).

State Map Lists

The USGS has printed revised editions of the following State map lists: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts-Connecticut-Rhode Island, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. They are all dated March 2000. The file number for each map list follows a standard format; for example the file number for Alaska is TAKB. The beginning and ending letters remain the same while the middle two letters are the State code.

Printed State map lists now include the version date for each map: the most recent date printed under the map name in the lower right-hand corner. The version date replaces the previously shown currentness date which indicates when the information on the map was last collected or verified. State map lists are also available in electronic format which includes both the version date and the currentness date information at <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/maplists.html>. Customized map lists can also be created using the State map list Web site.

Printed State map lists can be requested free of charge from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX 303-202-4693).

GNIS Digital Gazetteer CD-ROM

The USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) Digital Gazetteer CD-ROM, July 1999 version, is now available. The new CD contains updated information as of July 1999; no changes to the software or the databases have been made.

The GNIS CD can be ordered from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693). Customers who fax orders should include a credit card number and expiration date.

The FFS file number for the GNIS CD is 01-GNIS. The price is \$57.00 plus \$5.00 handling per order.

Map-on-Demand

Using print-on-demand technology, the USGS is implementing map-on-demand (MOD) printing for selected, infrequently requested map products. With the advent of newer technologies, high-speed, large-format printers have been coupled with innovative computer technologies to turn digital map data into a printed map. It is now possible to store and retrieve data from large geospatial data bases and to print a map when needed, thereby eliminating the need to warehouse a paper inventory of products for which there is low demand.

The paper and inks used in the MOD process are not as durable as those used in traditional USGS lithographic products. Although the inks are ultraviolet resistant, they are not water stable. These products must be protected from high humidity and wet conditions and from prolonged and consistent exposure to the sun and other radiation sources. The MOD maps can be written on with either ink or pencil with no smudging and they can be heat laminated with no "bleeding" of the colors.

To view the MOD products currently available or obtain an order form for MOD products, please visit the MOD Web site. <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/mod>

Maps selected for sale using MOD printing will be available only in this format. The price of each MOD sheet is \$20.00 plus a \$5.00 handling charge per order. There are no discounts permitted for MOD products and because they are printed at the request of the customer, they cannot be returned or exchanged. MOD products can be ordered through the mail from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225, by FAX (303-202-4188), or by calling 888-ASK-USGS. For fax orders, please include a credit card number and expiration date.

Shaded Relief Map of North America

A beautiful new "Shaded Relief" map of North America has been published as part of the National Atlas of the United States. The map measures 39" by 43.5", is published at the scale of 1:10,000,000, and covers all of North America. Digital elevation data and computer software were used to produce a stunning portrait of America's terrain.

The terrain is "illuminated" from the northwest with a simulated sun angle of 45 degrees. 23 distinct color tones depict broad elevation ranges. Within each color range, the lightest color tones represent fully illuminated steep slopes and the darkest tones represent steep areas in shadow. This is a particularly effective method for portraying relief since this "hill shading" technique produces an easily interpreted image of the landscape and a good impression of general elevation.

The "Shaded Relief" map is available from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225. The price is \$7.00 per sheet, plus \$5.00 handling per order. The stock number is TUS5682. Credit card orders may be faxed to 303-202-4693. Please include the credit card number and expiration date.

The National Atlas of the United States of America is designed to promote greater geographic awareness through the development and delivery of products that provide easy to use, map-like views of our natural and socio-cultural landscapes. Visit the National Atlas online at <http://www.usgs.gov/atlas>

Minerals and Materials Information CD-ROM

The February 2000 issue of the U.S. Geological Survey's "Minerals and Materials Information" CD-ROM is now available. This CD supersedes all previous editions and includes the "1993-1998 Minerals Yearbook" chapters, the "Mineral Commodity Summaries (1995-1999)," the "Statistical Compendium (1970-1990)," "Metal Prices in the United States Through 1998," and other publications.

The CD features Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 with search capabilities and may be run from a PC, Macintosh, and other computer systems.

The "Minerals and Materials Information" CD can be purchased from the Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. The GPO stock number is 024-004-02469-1. The price is \$17.00 domestic and \$21.25 foreign. The price includes regular domestic postage and handling.

Minerals information is also available through the MINES FaxBack at 703-648-4999 and the minerals Web site: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

A Tapestry of Time and Terrain

The USGS has published a new thematic map, Geologic Investigation Series I-2720, titled “A Tapestry of Time and Terrain,” which combines the topography and the geology of the United States. This composite of two existing images of the lower 48 States is the most detailed and accurate portrait of the U.S. land surface and the ages of its underlying rock formation yet displayed in the same image. I-2720 may be viewed at <http://tapestry.usgs.gov>

One of the map’s two components is a digital shaded-relief image showing the shape of the land surface by variations in brightness. The second component of the map, color, represents geologic time. The 52 colors used on I-2720 show the geologic ages of rocks and surficial deposits at the Earth’s surface. Lines representing faults have been omitted.

I-2720 is accompanied by a pamphlet which explains how the map was made and describes 48 physiographic features shown on the map. The pamphlet includes two color figures: physiographic features based on terrain texture, rock type, and geologic structure and history; and State boundaries with the numbered locations of the specific features discussed in the pamphlet. The pamphlet is non-technical in nature and includes a reference section for customers who wish more detailed or technical information.

Orders for I-2720 (File number: GI2720T, Price: \$7.00 plus \$5.00 handling per order) can be sent to USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693).

Arsenic in the Nation’s Ground Water

The results of a USGS study on the occurrence of arsenic in ground water are now available. An online fact sheet, “Arsenic in Ground Water in the United States,” a map showing concentrations of arsenic across the nation, a detailed report, and a list of frequently asked questions can be found at <http://co.water.usgs.gov/trace/arsenic/>

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in the environment. Its presence in ground water is largely the result of minerals dissolving naturally over time as rocks and soils weather. The new map shows U.S. counties in which wells might exceed the World Health Organization guideline of 10 micrograms of arsenic per liter. The map, and the data from which it was created, can be downloaded from the Web site.

In addition, the more detailed technical report, “A Retrospective Analysis on the Occurrence of Arsenic in Ground-Water Resources of the United States and Limitations in Drinking-Water-Supply Characterizations,” is available both on the Web site and in printed format as Water Resources Investigations Report 99-4279. The report summarizes more than two decades of data collected in various studies done in cooperation with State, local, and other Federal agencies.

WRIR 99-4279 can be ordered from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225. File number: WRIR994279, Price: \$4.00 plus \$5.00 handling per order.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Publications Status Report

The following free USGS information products have been received from the printer:

“Educational Materials from the U.S. Geological Survey”
Revised fact sheet 044-00, March 2000
Supersedes fact sheet 068-99, March 1999

“Finding Your Way with Map and Compass”
New fact sheet 079-99, February 2000
Supersedes the leaflet of the same name dated June 1993.

Electronic versions of these information products are available in .pdf and .html formats from the World Wide Web at <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/publists/fctsh.html>. Paper copies can be requested from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693).

Scientists in Action

The USGS has just released a colorful new booklet (11" x 17") called "Scientists in Action." For middle and high school students, it describes numerous careers in the natural sciences by providing narratives of professional scientists at work. The booklet will be useful for events such as Geography Awareness Week and the National Science Teachers Association conference. It can be distributed to students and parents as well as educators.

"Scientists in Action" (File number: 97-1000) is available free-of-charge from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693). An online version of "Scientists in Action" is also viewable at <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/booklets/scientists/>.

Exploring Caves

The "Exploring Caves" poster, previously part of the teacher packet of the same name, is now available as a separate publication (File number: 97-0400P, Price: \$7.00 plus \$5.00 handling fee per order). The lessons and activities for "Exploring Caves" are available in electronic format at: <http://www.usgs.gov/education/caves>.

The "Exploring Caves" teacher packet is an interdisciplinary set of materials on caves for K-3 grades. It includes lesson guides, activities, and a list of multimedia resources as well as the poster. Print copies of the packet are still available in limited quantities and will be distributed free-of-charge until the stock is depleted. At that time, the "Exploring Caves" lessons and activities will be available in electronic format only. The file number for the printed teacher packet is 97-0400.

The poster provides an accurate and detailed illustration of a limestone cave and its animal inhabitants. On the back of the poster, the pictures and text describe key events in the teacher packet's read-aloud story that describes the adventure of two children who get lost in a cave and are led to safety by a talking bat. The poster also serves as a teaching tool: other types of caves are depicted, and environmental and safety issues are addressed.

Additional teacher packets and other educational materials can be found on the Learning Web. <http://www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/>. Requests for the free printed teacher packets and orders for the poster can be sent to USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693).

DIGITAL DATA



Published Data Users Guides Discontinued

The USGS has discontinued distribution of published Data Users Guides both for sale and with orders for digital data. Paper copies of the following Data Users Guides are no longer available.

- "Digital Line Graphs from 1:24,000-Scale Maps," Data Users Guide 1
- "Digital Line Graphs from 1:100,000-Scale Maps," Data Users Guide 2
- "Digital Line Graphs from 1:2,000,000-Scale Maps," Data Users Guide 3
- "Land Use and Land Cover Digital Data from 1:250,000- and 1:100,000-Scale Maps," Data Users Guide 4
- "Digital Elevation Models," Data Users Guide 5
- "Geographic Names Information System," Data Users Guide 6
- "Alaska Interim Land Cover Mapping Program," Data Users Guide 7

An electronic version of Data Users Guide 6 is included on the GNIS CD-ROM and on the GNIS Web site. http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/ti/GNIS/gnis_users_guide_toc.html

Electronic versions of the unrevised Data Users Guides 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are still online for ftp download and can be reached through <http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/products/dgeospl.html>. Data Users Guide 7 is not available in electronic

format. Information contained in the electronic Data Users Guides may also be out-of-date. For the most current technical information about geospatial data, please refer to the National Mapping Program Standards, available in paper format from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225. They are \$5.00 per set plus \$5.00 handling per order. Standards documents are also available in electronic format from the Standards Web page: <http://mapping.usgs.gov/standards/>.

USGS plans to revise and republish the Data Users Guides in electronic format.

Mineral Databases on CD-ROM

The CD-ROM "U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Databases-MRDS and MAS/MILS" by E.J. McFaul, G.T. Mason Jr., W.B. Ferguson, and B.R. Lipin (DDS-52) is now available.

This two CD set contains the latest version of the Mineral Resources Data System (MRDS) database and the Minerals Availability System/Minerals Industry Location System(MAS/MILS) database for coverage of North America (disc 1) and the world outside North America (disc 2). The records in the MRDS database contain almost 200 data fields describing metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, deposits and commodities. The records in the MAS/MILS database contain almost 100 data fields describing mines and mineral processing plants. Both of the databases are included on the CD's in a FoxPro Version 2.6 format that can be imported by a wide variety of database and spreadsheet programs.

To enable the user to search the two databases and display the results in the form of a map, a public domain software tool called LandView III has been included on the CD's. Two tutorials, in Adobe Acrobat .pdf files, assist the user in understanding how to search and extract information from the MRDS and MAS/MILS databases.

Requests for copies of DDS-52 (File number: 01-DDS-0052, Price: \$42.00) can be sent to USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693). Please include a \$5.00 handling fee for each order.

Publications Status Report

The following USGS information products are now available:

"US GeoData Available Through the Internet"

FS 046-00, February 2000

This fact sheet is now available in electronic format only. It supersedes FS 124-95.

"Digital Raster Graphics"

Fact sheet 070-99, February 1999

"Digital Orthophoto Quadrangles"

Revised fact sheet 039-00, March 2000

Supersedes fact sheet 129-96

"National Land Cover Dataset"

New USGS Fact Sheet 136-99, July 1999

"National Elevation Dataset"

New fact sheet 148-99, September 1999

"The National Hydrography Dataset"

New USGS Fact Sheet 106-99, May 1999

Electronic versions of these information products are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/isb/pubs/publists/>. Paper copies, if available, can be requested free-of-charge from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (FAX: 303-202-4693).