

14-Digit Hydrologic Unit Delineation--Fall, 1999 Update--Jo Ann Shaw, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

[Mark Caldwell](#)

More detailed and accurately mapped delineated hydrologic unit boundaries support a Missouri multi-agency effort to examine the relationship of natural resources with their respective contributing drainages. Watershed characteristics reflect many of the very important biological, chemical, and physical processes that define ecosystems. Hydrologic units provide a natural hierarchy for organizing this identification process and analyzing the systems at different scales. Understanding both the land and water systems and the linkages between them is key to protecting and managing natural resources.

At the request of Roger Hansen, State Conservationist, NRCS, a group of technical specialists were called together to formulate procedures to address refinements to Missouri's fourteen-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-14) GIS coverage. Jo Ann Shaw, MDNR DEQ GIS Coordinator, was chosen to chair the group. According to Jo Ann, the group has agreed that NRCS should continue to be the custodian of the HUC-14 coverage. In addition, a small technical work group was chosen. This group is composed of Robert Magai (MDNR DEQ WPCP), Charles DuCharme (MDNR DGLS WRP), and Terry Barney (NRCS). Mark Caldwell (MDC Fisheries GIS Specialist) was chosen as the technical work group coordinator. The technical work group will review proposed changes to line work. Mark Caldwell will coordinate the process or make changes for review by the technical work group. The group will decide on the appropriate criteria for prioritizing each delineation.

The HUC-14 Refinement Project completion date is June 30, 2002. NRCS will continue to make corrections to the coverage as errors in attributes are discovered. If there is a change in line work, the version number of the coverage will increase. If there is a change in attributes, the version decimal will increase. Metadata for the HUC-14 coverage will be completed sometime this fall. The current version is number 4.

List of Acronyms:

MDNR Missouri Department of Natural Resources
DEQ Division of Environmental Quality
DGLS Division of Geology and Land Survey
WPCP Water Pollution Control Program
WRP Water Resources Program
NRCS Natural Resource Conservation Service
MDC Missouri Department of Conservation
GIS Geographic Information System
HUC Hydrologic Unit Code

Definition:

GIS Coverage = a digital version of a map forming the basic unit of vector data storage in Arc/Info. A coverage stores geographic features as primary features (arcs, nodes, polygons, and label points)



and secondary features (tics, map extent, links, and annotation). Associated feature attribute tables describe and store the attributes of the geographic features.

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