LUWG GIT Funding Project Ideas: 2024

The following GIT funding project ideas have been submitted to the WQGIT for ranking at their March 25th, 2024 meeting. The projects will be ranked, along with projects submitted by other WQGIT-related workgroups, and submitted to EPA in April 2024.

[LULC1] Improving communication of high-resolution land cover/use data

Brief description of project, including key tasks: Improve communication of high-resolution land use and land cover data by developing county-wide fact sheets displaying impervious surface cover (similar to the Tree Canopy fact sheets developed in 2021) based on stakeholder feedback to communicate information on the impervious surface characteristics, extent, and patterns and how they relate to stormwater runoff, water quality, and stream health.

Targeted audience/user base: Local organizations involved in stormwater management, watershed protection, and stream restoration.

GIT priorities that will be addressed through project funding and implementation: Maintain Healthy Watersheds.

Identification of (any) cross-GIT application(s): Land Use Methods and Metrics, Land Use Options Evaluation, and WIP2025.

Intended results: Increased awareness of the environmental implications of impervious surfaces and urban development.

Projected budget: $90k

What other funding sources have been pursued for the project? USGS intern hired in spring 2024 to explore content for these fact sheets.

[LULC2] Estimating the pollutant loads from "mixed open" lands

Brief description of project, including key tasks: The "Mixed Open" class in the Phase 6 model is considered to load slightly more than forests and represents a catch-all for herbaceous lands that don't qualify as turf grass, cropland, pasture, or wetlands. This is concerning because a diverse array of land use classes are encompassed in the "mixed open" category, many of which probably load much higher than forests. In the latest 62-class high-res land use data, mixed open is composed of construction, timber harvests, solar pervious lands, natural succession, and suspended succession (e.g., road and utility right-of-ways, landfills, reclaimed mines, junkyards, etc.). Of these classes, only natural succession loads similar to forests. All other component classes are either somewhat compacted or require BMPs to not yield loads significantly higher than forests. This project would come up with an expert-based process to determine the loading rates for the major component classes of mixed open as recommendations to the WQGIT for consideration in Phase 7.

Targeted audience/user base: CAST users

GIT priorities that will be addressed through project funding and implementation: Phase 7 Model Development

Identification of (any) cross-GIT application(s): Land Use Methods and Metrics, Land Use Options Evaluation, and WIP2025.

Intended results: Improve the accuracy of the Phase 7 model

Projected budget: $60k

What other funding sources have been pursued for the project? None to date.