THE NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAM

The National Mapping Program publishes a variety of multipurpose maps to serve all map users. In addition to published maps, basic map data and open-file map byproducts are available. These include aerial photographs, satellite images, advance and reproducible map materials, geodetic control data, geographic-names data, status maps, microfilm map copies, and map data in digital form.

An *Index to topographic and other Map Coverage* and its companion *Catalog of topographic and other Published Maps* is available for each State.

TYPES OF MAPS:

Topographic Maps

A topographic map accurately represents the natural and manmade features of the land. USGS topographic maps are compiled to National Map Accuracy Standards using modern mapping techniques. The shape and elevation of the terrain are portrayed by contour lines and specific features such as roads, towns, water areas, and vegetation are portrayed by map symbols and colors. Standard quadrangle series maps are produced at the scale and formats shown.

Topographic-Bathymetric Maps

A topographic-bathymetric map provides topographic and planimetric detail of the land areas and bathymetric metric contours and depth gradients in the coastal water areas. These maps, covering selected coastal zone areas, are cooperatively produced by the U. S. Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service at scales of 1:24,000, 1:100,000, and 1:250,000. Offshore protraction survey data compiled by the Bureau of Land Management are shown on 1:100,000-and 1:250,000-scale maps.

Land Use and Land Cover Maps

Standard land use and land cover maps at 1:250,000 or 1:100,000 scale are available for the entire United States. These maps depict the 9 level I and 37 Level II USGS catergories of data. Five associated overlays show political units, hydrologic units, Census county subdivisions, and Federal land ownership and state land ownership overlays for a limited number of states. Associated maps are made available in the form of diazo or photographic prints or film copies. Most of these products have to be ordered.

Orthophotomaps

An Orthphotomap is a multicolor orthophotoquad having extensive cartographic treatment including contours, lettering, and some symbols. Where conventional topographic line maps are ineffective in portraying terrain features, colored orthophotoimagery accentuates subtle detail. For some areas–predominately marshlands and coastal zones–the orthophotomap is the standard 1:24,000-scale map.

Orthophotoquads

An orthophotoquad portrays planimetric data by photoimage, but does not contain contours and has little or no symbolization or lettering within the mapped area. Most orthophotoquads are prepared in monocolor from black-and-white film, and are made available, upon request, in the form of diazo or photographic prints. There are a limited number printed in color, and available as published maps. Most of these products have to be ordered.

State Maps

State-format maps are generally available in three editions–base, topographic, and shaded relief–usually at a scale of 1:500,000. Some state base maps are also available at 1:750,000 and 1:1,000,000. The maps show urban areas, major communication routes, hydrographic features, and political boundaries.

County Maps

Produced at 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 scale, county maps show selected natural and cultural features. At the present time, county maps are available for a limited number of areas.

Special Maps

Special-purpose maps are usually derived from standard topographic maps. These include maps of specific cultural or geographic regions, satellite image maps, shaded relief maps, metropolitan area maps, and sets of maps illustrating special physiographic features.

United States Maps

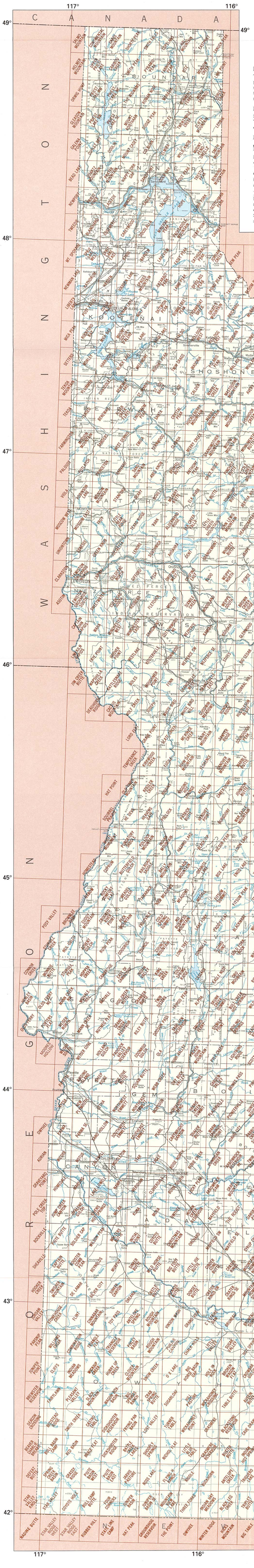
There are several different U.S. Maps available in a variety of formats and scales. For this information see the matrix on "United States Maps."

National Park and Monument Maps

Maps of national parks, battlefields, and historic sites are prepared at various scales from standard topographic maps. Many are available with shaded-relief overprint which gives a three dimensional impression of the terrain

National Atlas Maps

Separate sheets of selected thematic and general reference National Atlas maps are available. The content ranges from physiographic information to enviromental and population trends. A set of maps (also available singly) covers the United States in 21 sections at 1:2,000,000 scale.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