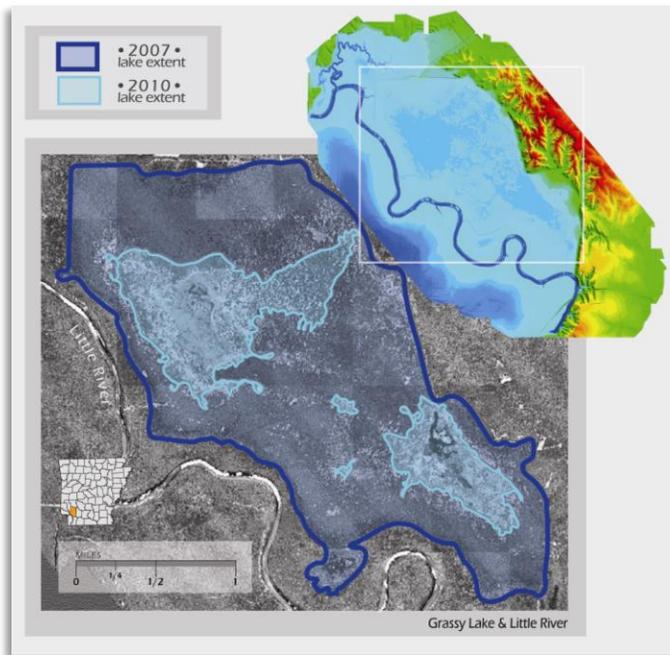


## ***Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act: Improving Real Property Stewardship***

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has repeatedly (108<sup>th</sup>-112<sup>th</sup> Congresses) designated 'Managing Federal Real Property' one of the high-risk areas within the Federal government most prone to waste, fraud and abuse. One of the reasons cited by GAO is the fact that the government does not have a current, accurate inventory of the land it owns. The General Services Administration (GSA) collects data from at least 30 Federal agencies, but its system has been criticized by GAO for being "unreliable and of limited usefulness" and "not current or reliable." On the other hand, the government inefficiently maintains a plethora of land inventories that are inaccurate, out-of-date, single purpose, and non-interoperable. The inefficient and wasteful nature of the government's current way of doing business was demonstrated by then-Interior Secretary Gale Norton's 2005 testimony before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee:

*"The Department currently uses 26 different financial management systems and over 100 different property systems. Employees must enter procurement transactions multiple times in different systems so that the data are captured in real property inventories, financial systems, and acquisition systems. This fractured approach is both costly and burdensome to manage."*

This inefficiency should not be the case when a single, uniform, reliable, regularly-maintained database is currently available through state-of-the-art geographic information systems (GIS) technology.



In 2011, Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Rob Bishop (R-UT) introduced the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act, H.R. 1620, and now includes ten bipartisan cosponsors. In the Senate, S. 1153 was introduced by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Mike Lee (R-UT). This bill creates a single, Federal multipurpose cadastre (a uniform Federal computer database), in accordance with standards recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. The bill also calls for an "inventory of inventories," so that duplication can be identified and eliminated. The FLAIR Act will provide all agencies owning Federal real property an improved accounting of their land assets. Such an inventory will assist in improved Federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection and utilization of real property, as well as identify property the Federal government no longer needs to own.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

**MAPPS respectfully urges Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 1620 with Representatives Kind and Bishop. To become a cosponsor, contact Kevin Warnke in Representative Kind's office at 5-5506, or John Newhall in Representative Bishop's office at 5-0453. MAPPS respectfully urges Senators to cosponsor S. 1153 with Senators Hatch and Lee. To become a cosponsor, contact John Tanner in Senator Hatch's office at 4-5251. For more information, contact John Byrd, MAPPS Government Affairs Manager, at [jbyrd@mapps.org](mailto:jbyrd@mapps.org) or (703) 787-6996.**