Geographic Names/Locations for Physical and Cultural Features

Description

An automated inventory of the names and locations of physical and cultural geographic features located throughout West Virginia. Named features include airport, area, bar, basin, bay, bend, bridge, building, canal, cape, cave, cemetery, channel, church, civil, cliff, crossing, dam, falls, flat, forest, gap, hospital, island, lake, locale, military, mine, oil field, other, park, pillar, post office, populated place, range, reservoir, ridge, rock, school, spring, summit, swamp, tower, trail, tunnel, valley, and woods.   
  
The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN), contains information about physical and cultural geographic features. An updated dataset was received, customized, and published by WVGISTC in January 2006. In 2011 the WVGISTC downloaded a newer version (August 2011) of the GNIS database. The pipe-delimited ("|") text was converted using ArcGIS to a shapefile, which was then sorted into additional historical and current versions. The latest GNIS database was downloaded and converted in 2013 (June 2013).

Scale

1:24000

Extent

[Statewide](http://wvgis.wvu.edu/data/data.php?searchStr=clearinghouse%3C:%3Esearch%3C::%3ELocation%3C:%3E54000)

Attribute Information

Feature name, type, ID, USGS quadrangle, county, state, latitude, longitude, elevation, historical, SAMB tile. For features in close proximity to county boundaries, the county name may be in error, since a small scale, 1:100,000-scale Census boundary file was utilized to intersect with the GNIS points.

Data Source

U.S. Geological Survey, Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)

Data Created

2013

Coordinate System

Latitude/longitude in decimal degrees (NAD 27 and NAD 83) and UTM Zone 17 (NAD 83).

File Format

Compressed ESRI point shapefiles

Supplemental Information

1. [GNIS Home Page](http://nhd.usgs.gov/gnis.html)
2. [GNIS Data Users Guide](http://geonames.usgs.gov/GNIS_Maintenance_Forms_User_Guide.pdf)

Full Metadata

[Click for metadata](http://wvgis.wvu.edu/data/fullmetadata/gnisMetadata2011.html)