

Project WILD -

Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife

Activity: "Then and Now" page 41

Objectives: Students will:

- 1. Describe ways that human settlements have influenced wildlife habitat and populations.**
- 2. Interpret aerial photographs and related sources of information.**
- 3. Describe the effects of human-made structures on native and non-native species.**

Land Cover Change Map

GIS Unit – Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

These images show the ability of GIS to identify, visualize and map changes in the landscape. The 2 aerial photographs, acquired in spring of 1994 and 2002, show dramatic urbanization over a period of only 8 years. The land cover maps on the right show a slightly larger portion of southern Loudoun County. Black boxes outline the areas covered in the aerial photographs. These land cover maps, interpreted from 1992 and 2001 satellite imagery, span a period of 9 years. Developed area (shown in red) greatly increased, while agriculture, forest, and wetland area all decreased. Such changes significantly reduce the amount of natural habitat available to wildlife, as well as decrease water quality.

For additional maps or to download copies of the [Land Cover Change Map](#) visit our web site at:

<http://www.dgif.state.va.us/gis/MOM.html>

This map produced for *Map of the Month* – February 2004