Kentucky Rural Development

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This project examines the development and progress of Kentucky’s urban areas within major population centers. The project uses land cover maps and surveying techniques that can be very useful for tracking development over a 10 year time period, from 2001 to 2011. The 2001 and 2011 land cover data have been downloaded from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) of the US Geological Survey. The datasets were recoded to simplify the maps for easier interpretation.

ArcGIS software and data from the NLCD database of the USGS were used for this project. Land cover and surveying techniques were used to analyze the data. Census data were integrated with the NLCD data to examine rural and urban areas to see how the area has changed over time. This map was projected using the NAD 1983 projection. A total of 4 maps were created: western Kentucky in both 2001 and 2011 and the metro Louisville area in 2001 and 2011.

The main objective of this study is to study the urban development of Western Kentucky and more closely the Louisville Metro area. Studying these areas can help us understand Kentucky’s growth over the past 10 years and how we can develop urban areas, but still protect farms and other crucial infrastructure. Understanding how Kentucky has grown in the past, and how it is growing now will help predict the development in the future. In terms of future infrastructure, urban development, and population growth plans this study should provide insights to better understand how we can protect and maintain the population while still developing our infrastructure. This should help decision makers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky understand growth trends and how they can create regulations that benefit the citizens in the region.