

Image Analysis for ArcGIS FAQs¹



Fall 2004

Remote Sensing Applications Center
<http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us>

How Do I Perform an Overlay?

Use ArcToolbox to perform a GIS Overlay. Several Overlay tools are available that allow analysts to combine, update and erase data from two input files. This document describes how to perform an Overlay in ArcToolbox.

What You Will Need and Other Assumptions

- Two spatial data sources are required
- All data sources used in Overlay analyses must be converted to a Coverage format

Overview of Steps

1. Open ArcToolbox.
2. Convert input files to Coverages, and select an appropriate Overlay analysis.
3. Perform the analysis.

Step-by-Step Example

1. Start ArcToolbox from your Desktop, or on the Windows Taskbar click **Start | Programs | ArcGIS | ArcToolbox**.
2. In ArcToolbox, use **Conversion Tools** to convert input files from their current formats to a Coverage format.
3. In ArcToolbox, select **Analysis Tools | Overlay**.
4. Select an appropriate Overlay operation, and ensure you specify the correct parameters.
5. Inspect the results.

*Note: ArcToolbox has several different types of Overlay analyses. It is important that you have a clear understanding about the type of information you require. Read the analysis descriptions carefully from the **Help** menu before performing an Overlay analysis.*

¹ Produced by the USDA Forest Service RSAC (<http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us>). A Forest Service version of Image Analysis for ArcGIS was used to develop this reference document. No warranty is made as to completeness or accuracy.