

CPAD Structure

[00:00:01.00] Hi, let's take a look into the structure of the California Protected Areas Database, CPAD. Before getting into specifics about CPAD structure, we'll note that with each release we provide an updated user manual on calands.org. It is also included in the general database download zip files.

[00:00:21.91] The manual is very complete so it is a great resource for all of your CPAD questions, including its structure. And we encourage users to take the time to read through it. We aim to be clear about what's in the data set, how lands are added and document unique scenarios. The manual is a terrific resource we use it ourselves here in the office on a daily basis while editing CPAD.

[00:00:46.62] All right, let's get into the structure. Sending back for a second and going a little into the technical details here. CPAD is actually three different types of geometry. There are holdings, there are units and there are super units. Each of those is a separate shaped file in the release and they behave this way.

[00:01:07.17] Holdings are the most detailed, which represents individual ownership usually at the parcel level. Those get aggregated into units, dissolved by the attributes listed here under core attributes. Units are a great level for those who are interested in understanding how ownership and county boundaries change across the landscape.

[00:01:28.79] Finally, we aggregate units into super units, the most simplified version of the database. These are dissolved on the core attributes with an asterisk next to them. The way I think of super units is the way we ask the public typically interact with a park. We know the name, we interact with the park managing agency, with their website maybe or by paying a park fee et cetera.

[00:01:53.25] And finally, we know whether we have access to it. The park's owner and its county is not identified here. This holdings units and super units relationship is really important for how CPAD works and it gives us a great deal of analytical strength as well as makes it easier to track over time.

[00:02:14.53] Let's take a look at an example. Here's Henry Coe State Park, which is in Santa Clara County and Stanislaus County. Super units are the most general definition of a park and tend to serve those that are looking at a regional or state level. We're looking to understand recreation.

[00:02:34.72] We use manager instead of owner for the dissolves to reflect how users experience recreation. And this example, many visitors to Coe are likely not concerned with the change in County. And the unit level, which breaks on County boundaries, there are two units Coe in Santa Clara and Coe in Stanislaus.

[00:02:58.60] The reason for breaking on County lines is to accommodate the frequent need for users to work within counties. It also assists in the process of identifying who owns the land and

how that may differ within a park. These two distinctions have proved important for CPAD users over time, especially for planners.

[00:03:21.11] And their most detailed layer is the holding's file. For Henry Coe park, we identified the 156 parcels that make up the park. This detailed structure allows us to include more granular information such as special uses, your protection and sub-park features. For example, some communities divide one large park into two uniquely named parks such as a dog park and a playground.

[00:03:53.26] Another example is Las Trampas Regional Wilderness in the Bay Area. In the holdings level view, individual parts are divided up on the parcel level. In the units level view, the data is more generalized but you can see the split at the County line.

[00:04:10.36] And in the Super units level view, all the details are dissolved to only differentiate between name, manager, and access. This is the recreation of focus, where the most important details are public access and who manages the land. Thank you and we encourage you to continue exploring our video series.