The Arkansas Geological Survey is an active participant in the STATEMAP part of the National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program (NCGMP), having participated since 1995. Arkansas recognizes the importance of geological mapping as a tool for decision makers who have a need to understand the nature, composition, and distribution of earth materials.

Geologic mapping has been and is an important information gathering tool. This information is used for informed decision making and for the protection of the state's resources. The more accurate the geologic information is the better developers and planners decision making abilities can be to protect the environment and serve the public equally.

Geologic maps provide valuable information to aid in hydrogeologic research, particularly in the Buffalo National River. Several STATEMAP geologic maps were utilized by geoscientists at the University of Arkansas Department of Geosciences. Geoscientists at the University in Fayetteville are working with the National Park Service and the USGS to improve protection for groundwater and surface water along the Buffalo River. Geologic maps are necessary for understanding the hydrogeological framework or how water travels from the surface through rocks underground. Without the basic geologic data for the area, many of the resource-management decisions would be of lesser quality or impossible.

Since Arkansas began its participation in the STATEMAP Program, it has completed 80 surficial maps at a scale of 1:24,000 and three quadrangles at a 1:100,000 scale. One 7.5 minute geologic quadrangle map in northeast Arkansas will be completed by July 1, 2020.