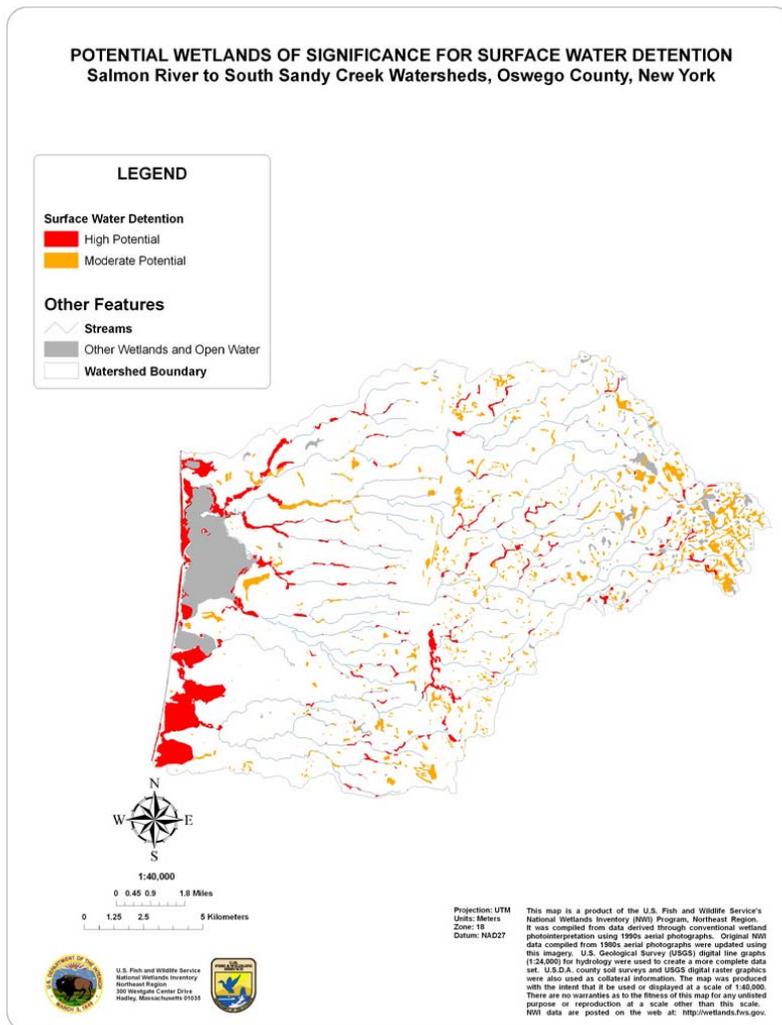




Adding Functional Assessment to the National Wetlands Inventory Using LLWW (Tiner)

Landscape, Landform, Water flow path, and Waterbody



With climate change, more local, regional, or state agencies will need to assess cumulative impacts to wetlands functions to plan for restoration, adaptation, or mitigation. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) has developed an HGM (hydrogeomorphic)-type coding system, complimentary to the wetlands classification standard. That system, developed by Ralph Tiner in the Fish and Wildlife Service's northeast region, is currently being tested by the NWI to determine how well it applies to other regions.

Referred to as "LLWW," for landscape position, landform, water flow path, and waterbody, this system can be used to assess nine general wetland functions at the landscape level. This new approach was developed to assist local planners in developing comprehensive plans for wetland conservation and restoration strategies for their watershed and to help understand the effect of wetland changes on wetland functions.

This map was taken from a series of functional assessment reports by Ralph Tiner, Fish and Wildlife Service. It displays the potential wetlands of significance for surface water detention in select watersheds in New York. In addition to maps for wetlands landscape position, landform, water flow path, and waterbody, other potential functions mapped include: wetlands that provide stream-flow maintenance, wetlands that provide fish and shellfish habitat, and waterfowl and waterbird habitats.