



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Providing Wetlands Information to the Nation

National Wetlands Inventory



Idaho wetland and riparian habitat

How data are used

Inventory wetland maps and wetland information are important tools that help government and citizens develop areas responsibly while conserving our Nation's wetlands. Improved management of natural resources requires up-to-date knowledge of the extent, nature, and distribution of wetlands and other habitats on which fish and wildlife depend. Inventory products support wetland acquisition programs beneficial to migratory birds. They are also used for fishery habitat restoration, floodplain and watershed planning, endangered species recovery efforts, and to plan for energy resource and infrastructure development. *The SLAMM (Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model) uses Inventory data for predicting sea level impacts on wetland habitats.*

David G. Davis

Wetlands are the cornerstone of many important and complex ecosystems. They provide countless benefits for fish, wildlife, and people. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 directs the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to map our Nation's wetlands and deepwater habitats and produce information on their characteristics, extent, and status.

Past and Future Actions

The Inventory is focusing its efforts to address emerging conservation issues such as climate change, sea-level rise, energy development, species population changes, and losses and degradation of our Nation's wetland resources.

For over 30 years, the Service has provided Federal and State agencies, the private sector, and citizens with scientific data on wetland location, extent, status, and trends. As the Service's National Wetlands Inventory program maintains, coordinates, and distributes wetlands geospatial data, it will continue to conduct

status and trend assessments to guide resource management and decision-making, analyze wetlands data, strategically map wetlands, and build a digital wetland database with the help of partners.

Digital Data

The Inventory uses new technologies for on-screen digital mapping of 1% of the Nation each year and older Inventory maps are converted to digital data for geographic information system



