

National Wetlands Inventory

		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Wetlands Inventory	\$(000)	4,572	4,647	66	-12	4,702	+55
	FTE	32	32	0	0	32	0

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for National Wetlands Inventory

<u>Request Component</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Program Changes		
Program Management Savings	-12	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	-12	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for the National Wetlands Inventory is \$4,702,000 and 32 FTE, reflecting a +\$55,000 increase over the FY 2006 enacted level.

Program Management Savings (-\$12,000)

To enable the Service to address its highest priorities during constrained fiscal times, the Service proposes reducing program administrative funding by \$1,980,000. Using Activity Based Cost information and other budgetary analyses the Service anticipates achieving a savings of \$12,000 in National Wetlands Inventory. These savings will be realized by streamlining program administrative support activities.

Program Overview

Wetlands are the cornerstone of the Nation’s most ecologically and economically important ecosystems. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 directs the Service to map our Nation’s wetlands and deepwater habitats, and produce scientific information on their characteristics, extent and status. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory (Inventory) has produced digital wetlands maps for about 49 percent of the nation. The Inventory provides federal, state, tribal, and local governments and the public with wetlands data that is widely used to help conserve and restore wetland resources. This scientific wetlands program supports the DOI Resource Protection Goal of improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources.

The Inventory is guided by a 2002 Strategic Plan that is the foundation of all program priorities and activities. This Plan supports the Department’s Strategy to improve the scientific information base for resource management, technical assistance, and decision-making, and is consistent with the President’s Management Agenda and Electronic Government initiatives.

The three goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- Strategic mapping;
- Habitat trend and change analyses; and
- Identification and assessment of threats to aquatic habitats.

The strategic outcome to be achieved by the program is to provide mission critical habitat information in state-of-the-art digital formats to help guide the conservation and stewardship of the Nation's wetlands and aquatic resources for the benefit of the American people.

The Service strategically updates digital wetland maps for priority landscapes and watersheds to address planning and resource management needs of the Service, our conservation partners and industry. Resource managers and the public are increasingly interested in securing our updated maps for use in environmental reviews for strategic conservation purposes, as well as for planning and reviews of energy, transportation, water resources, and habitat restoration projects. Within the Service, new and updated digital map data will strengthen and support resource management actions in support of the National Fish Habitat Initiative, and for our National Wildlife Refuges, coastal watersheds, river systems, Indian reservations, endangered species, energy development, migratory birds and enhance streamlined project reviews.

The Service continues to modernize the Inventory to achieve operational efficiencies and enhance service to customers over the Internet. The improved National Geodatabase houses and displays all available digital wetlands data in an improved seamless format for the conterminous United States, Alaska, Hawaii (shown below) and Trust Territories. This database provides resource managers and the public with contemporary digital wetland information via the Internet that can be used in geographic information systems, as well as key assessment reports to address complex conservation issues with our partners.

The United States is now close to or is achieving a net gain of wetlands. The Service's updated National Wetlands Status and Trends report will be released shortly and will provide the most recent data showing whether this goal has been achieved yet. This report and other habitat assessments produced by the Inventory are crucially important for understanding and scientifically documenting the status and trends of wetlands. In affirming the strategic importance of these scientific data on Earth Day 2004, the President directed the Service to move to more frequent wetland status and trend reviews beginning in 2005.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The program will focus on science based status and trend wetland assessment reports that are implemented consistent with its strategic plan. Many of these mission-focused results will be achieved with partners, and all accomplishments support the DOI Resource Protection Goal of improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources, by improving the information base, information management and technical assistance.

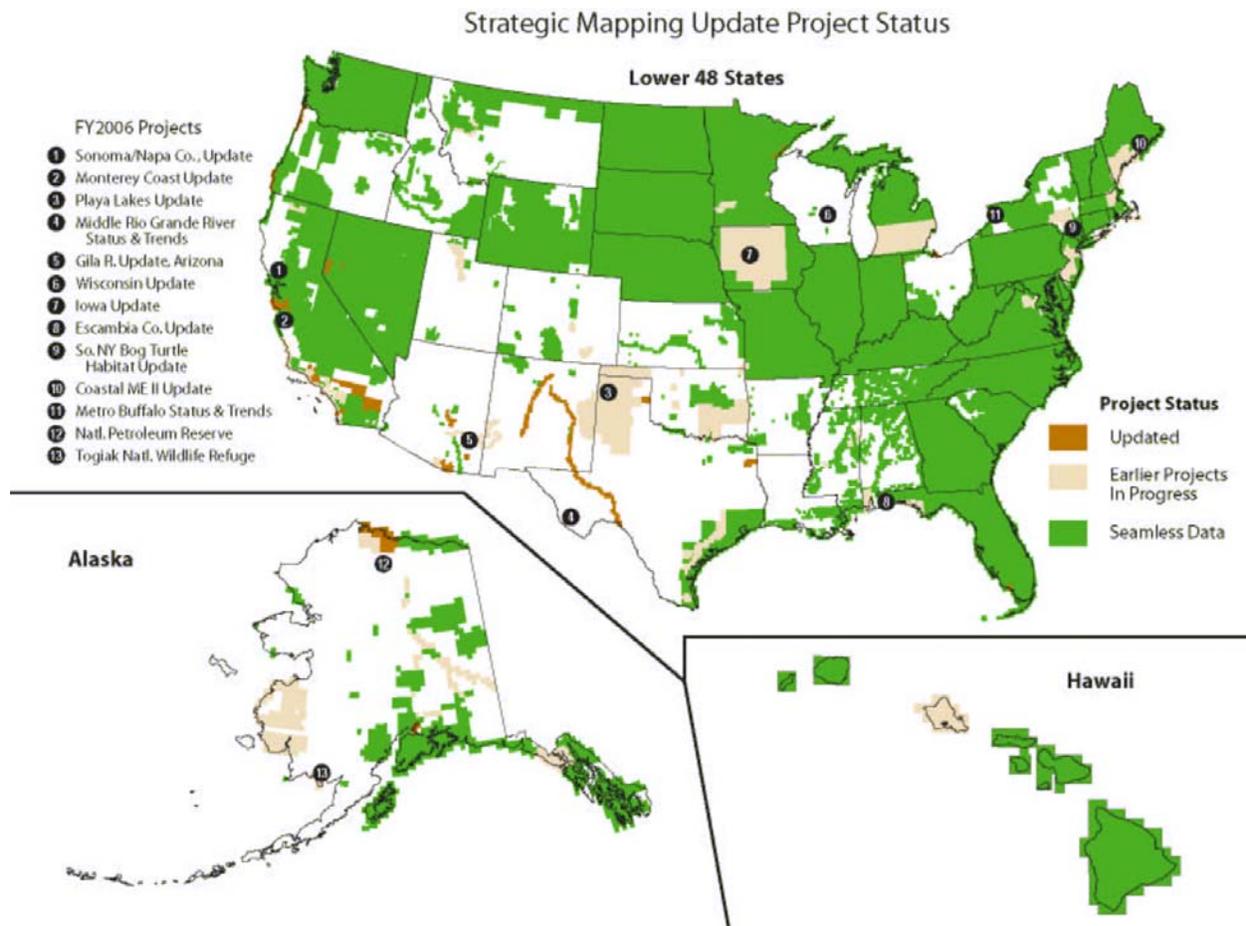
The Service will also implement the final phase of restructuring to align the program with its Strategic Plan in order to more fully capitalize on changing technology and position resources to fulfill wetland

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The NWI is using key means and strategies to achieve improved results, in conformance with the Departmental Strategic Plan and other Administration directives:

- The 2002 National Wetlands Inventory **Strategic Plan** has repositioned the program to produce and distribute updated wetlands information over the Internet to increase public access and utility of our data.
- Contemporary digital wetland information is of fundamental **value** to citizens and decision-makers to collaboratively manage landscapes, watersheds, and marine resources. Over 6 million customers used our online resources and retrieved over 725,000 wetland and riparian habitat data files in FY 2005.
- The National Wetlands Inventory is **restructuring** to align the program with its strategic plan and more fully capitalize on **changing technology, in order to increase performance while reducing costs.**

status and trend program responsibilities. These changes are expected to increase overall performance by reducing costs, allowing the Service to update digital wetland and riparian data for about 9 million acres of landscape, and to complete additional wetland status and trend reports.



2006 Planned Program Performance

The Service will continue to focus its efforts using the three goals of the Strategic Plan. Program restructuring will proceed in order to achieve operational efficiencies and performance gains, and position the Inventory to more frequently report on wetland status and trends.

In FY 2006, the Service will achieve a critical performance goal: completion of *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States: 1998 to 2004*, as directed by the President on Earth Day 2004. In order to increase the frequency of reporting wetlands status and trends, the Service will continue to reposition resources to complete regional or ecosystem level studies in priority areas where wetland change and the needs of planners, resource managers and decision-makers require the most contemporary scientific and statistical wetlands data available to guide wetlands conservation and policy.

In addition, the Inventory will complete about 12 priority projects that cover a wide range of Service needs, including mapping and assessments for National Wildlife Refuges, vulnerable coastal watersheds and river systems, Indian reservations, energy development, enhanced streamlined project reviews, and to support endangered species recovery. The funding of these priority projects will result in updated wetland

and riparian map data encompassing an estimated 19 million acres to strengthen and support resource management actions by the Service with our conservation partners. The 2 million acre increase in FY2006 performance over that achieved in FY2005 is expected due to operational and technology efficiencies in updating digital maps.

Key projects include digital map updating in: the National Petroleum Reserve and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska; Sonoma/Napa Counties and the Monterey Coast in California; New York and Maine coastal watersheds in the northeast; and the Playa Lakes and Verde, Gila, and Middle Rio Grande Rivers and riparian areas in the Southwest.

Major planned FY 2006 program accomplishments include:

- Leading the Administration's effort to produce the second annual report *Conserving America's Wetlands; Implementing the President's Goal*, to document federal progress towards an overall gain of 3 million acres of wetlands by 2009.
- Producing a joint wetlands status report with the Canadian Wildlife Service on the prairie pothole wetlands of North America, in support of priority migratory bird management and habitat conservation needs.
- Working with Oregon to complete a wetlands status and trends report for the state.
- Continuing a multi-year partnership with California that will produce digital wetland data encompassing about 8.5 million acres for many priority areas throughout the state.
- Posting on the Internet a major contribution of new digital data for the 21 million acre Yukon Delta NWR, the second largest refuge in the United States. Digital wetlands data for 14.5 million acres of the refuge will be available by January 2006.
- Completing and posting online additional updated digital data for Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and Washington.
- Leveraging about \$1.0 million in direct support and an estimated \$2.2 million in contributed products or services with conservation mapping partners to develop digital data to be posted on the Internet. This is a 9 percent and 4 percent decrease from FY 2005 respectively. Partners include 11 States, 4 federal agencies, and 3 local government entities.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

Key results were achieved in support of the President's wetlands initiative, as well as the Strategic Plan for the Inventory. The Service implemented the contributed federal agency funding strategy in order to successfully complete the updated National Wetlands Status and Trends study requested by the President. EPA, USDA, DOC and DOD all contributed funds to help ensure the Status and Trends Report was updated in 2005. In addition, strategic digital mapping and regionally important scientific wetland assessment reports were also completed consistent with our strategic plan. Many of these mission-focused results were achieved with partners, and all accomplishments supported the DOI Resource Protection Goal of improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources, by improving the information base, information management and technical assistance.

Major FY 2005 program accomplishments included:

- Helping the Council on Environmental Quality produce and publish the Administration's first year progress report, *Conserving America's Wetlands; Implementing the President's Goal*.
- Publishing the updated wetlands status and trends report, *Florida's Wetlands: An Update on Status and Trends 1985 to 1996*.

- Improving the national Geodatabase to provide improved E-Government customer service by making all wetland and riparian data and metadata more broadly available for GIS and on-line analyses, and custom map printing over the Internet.
- Producing digital wetlands data focused on Service and partner conservation priorities for 11.3 million acres in the lower 48 States, Alaska and Hawaii. New and updated digital wetland and riparian habitat data was added for Alaska, California, New Mexico, and Texas. FY 2005 performance was 5.7 million acres below the planned target, due to project completion delays and the shifting of some program resources in support of the President's request for an updated National Wetlands Status and Trends report. The incomplete FY 2005 project data will go online in FY 2006.
- Digitizing wetland maps to assist the Service, Federal Highway Administration, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and other partners to develop a comprehensive plan to guide development and conservation in the rural Mat-Su Borough of Alaska.
- Completing up-to-date digital wetland/riparian maps for two-thirds of southeast Arizona's vital southwest willow flycatcher habitat, and helping to integrate wetland/riparian classifications and bird habitat ratings to enhance the usefulness of Inventory products for species recovery work in that area.
- Working with partners, wetland maps encompassing 37 million acres were converted to online digital data for 9 states: Alaska, California, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming.
- Leveraging about \$1.1 million in direct support and an estimated \$2.3 million in contributed products or services with conservation mapping partners to develop digital data to be posted on the Internet. This is an 83 and 215 percent increase over FY 2004 respectively.
- Completing digital wetland coverage for 28 States, adding Kentucky and Nevada.
- Completing a cumulative total of about 49 percent of the United States with online digital wetland maps. This represents a notable 3.1 percent gain in available online wetlands data for the Nation from that available in FY 2004.

Program Performance Overview

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 Change from 2005	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
# of acres of lands digitally mapped (in millions)	17.0	11.3	-5.7	19.0	+7.7	28.0	+9.0
% (cumulative) of lands with digital data available (acres in millions)*	46.5%	48.9%	+2.4%	49.4%	+0.5%	51.2%	+1.8%
	1,073/ 2,307.8	1,135.4/ 2,324.2	+62.4/ 2,324.2	1,149/ 2,324.2	+13.6/ 2,324.2	1,199/ 2,324.2	+50/ 2,324.2
# of scientific/technical reports produced	5	8	+3	15	+10	16	+1

In FY 2005, the NWI switched from a quadrangle map to a geodatabase performance metric calculation.