An Update of National Wetlands Inventory Activities in New York

Ralph Tiner
Regional Wetland Coordinator
USFWS-Northeast Region
ralph_tiner@fws.gov

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National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

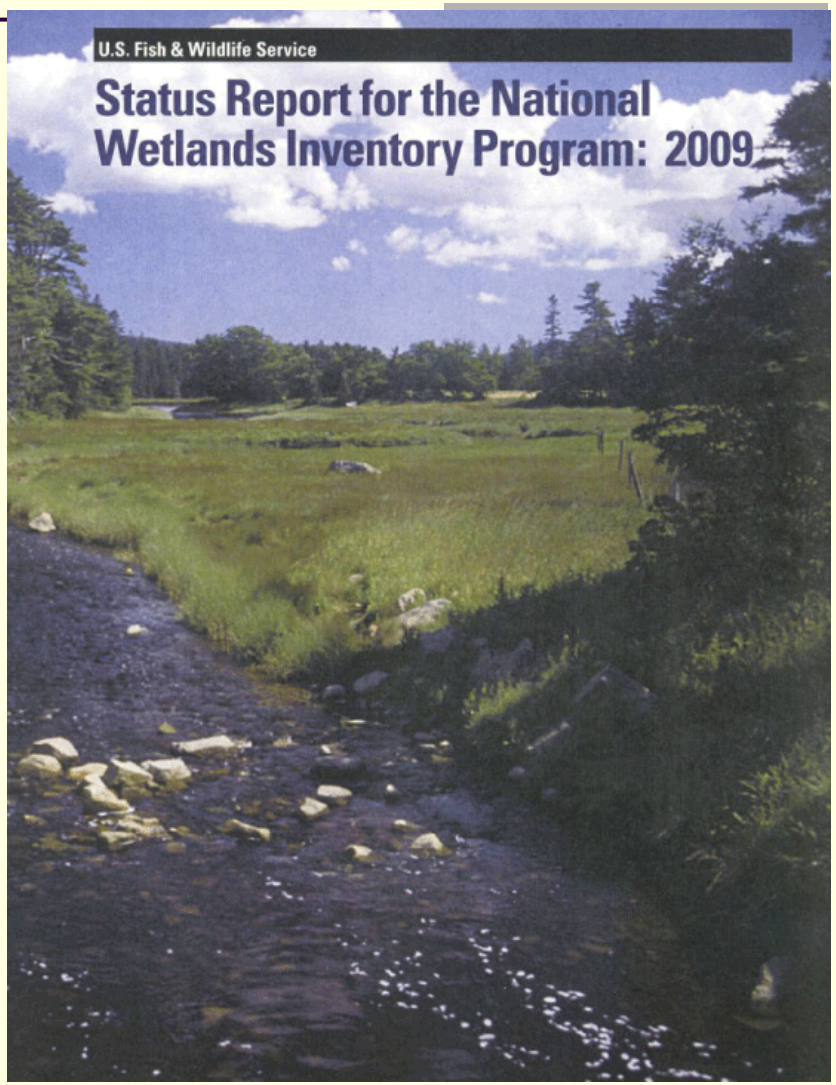
- Mapping the Nation's wetlands since the mid-1970s
- Reports on national wetland status and trends at 10-year intervals
  - Next report due in late 2010/early 2011

Just released: "*NWI Status Report-2009*"

- Available online at:

http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/

- Describes evolution of NWI mapping
- Special Products
- Uses of NWI Data
- Reviews status of NWI across the country



Regional Activities

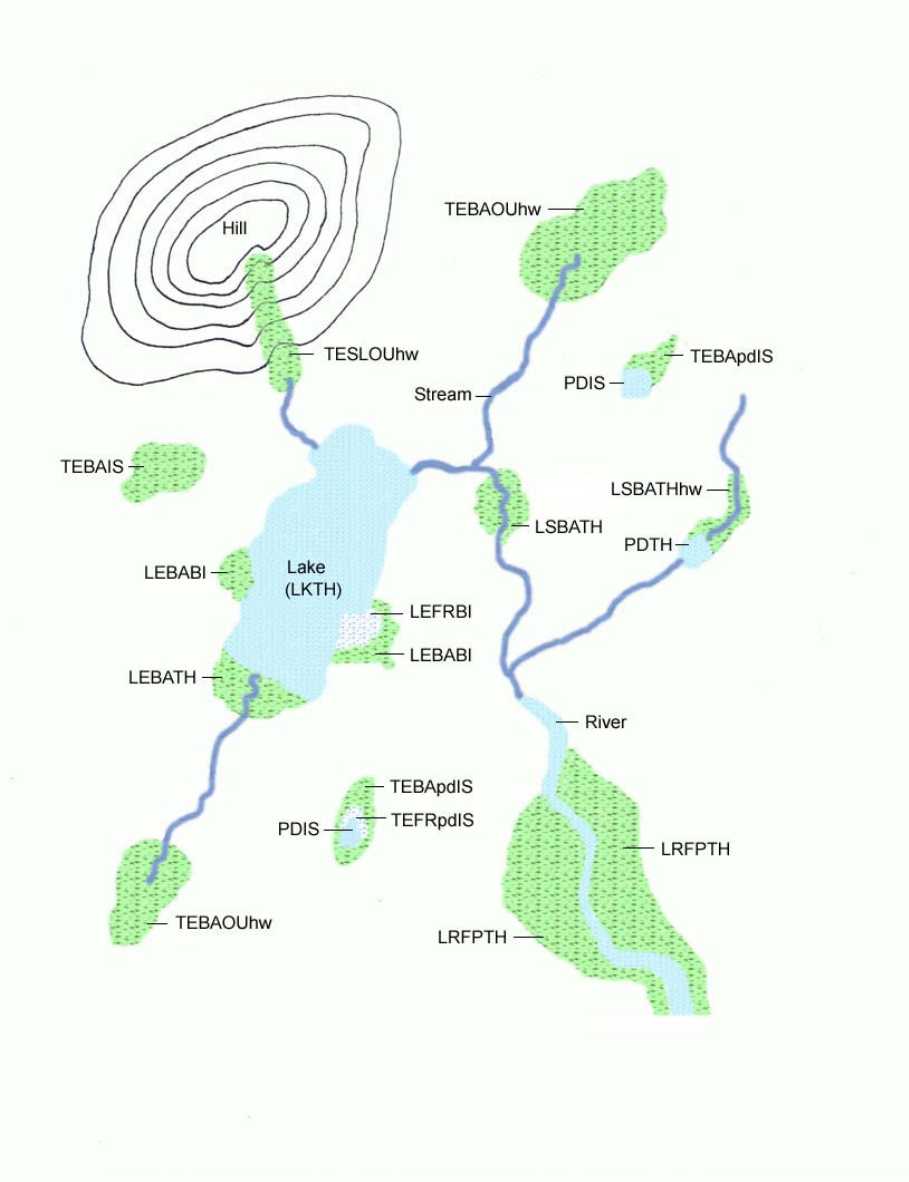
- Mapping
- Special Projects
  - Local Status and Trends
  - Watershed-based Wetland Characterizations and Preliminary Assessments of Wetland Functions
  - Potential Wetland Restoration Site Inventories
  - Others

Mapping

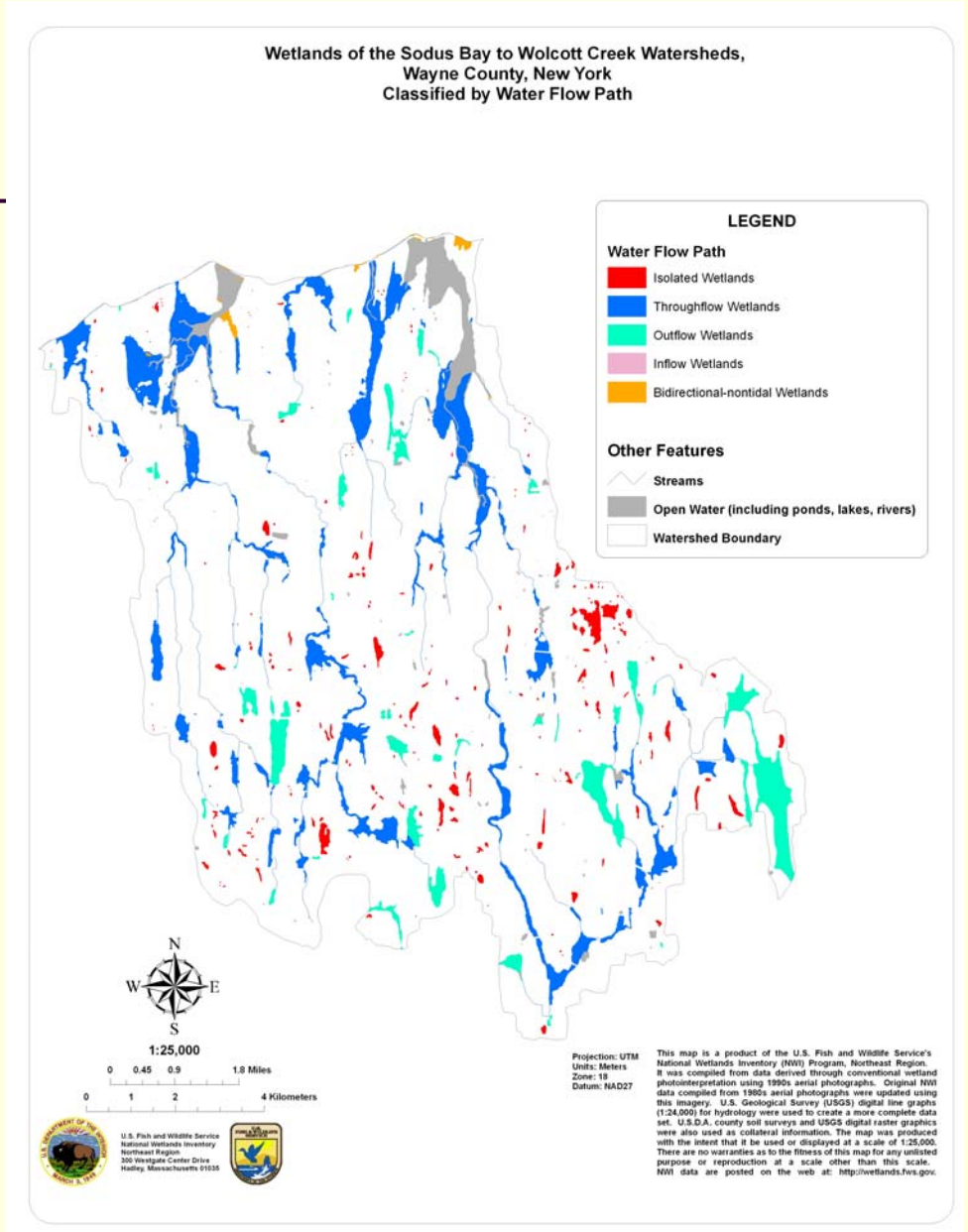
- Using digital imagery to identify wetlands
  - Following new FGDC wetland mapping standard
- Integrating hydric soils information into NWI data (H-wetlands = areas where wetlands may also exist due to soil mapping)
- Expanded classification – NWIPlus
  - Standard mapping for the Northeast; in other regions being done on a priority basis

NWIPlus

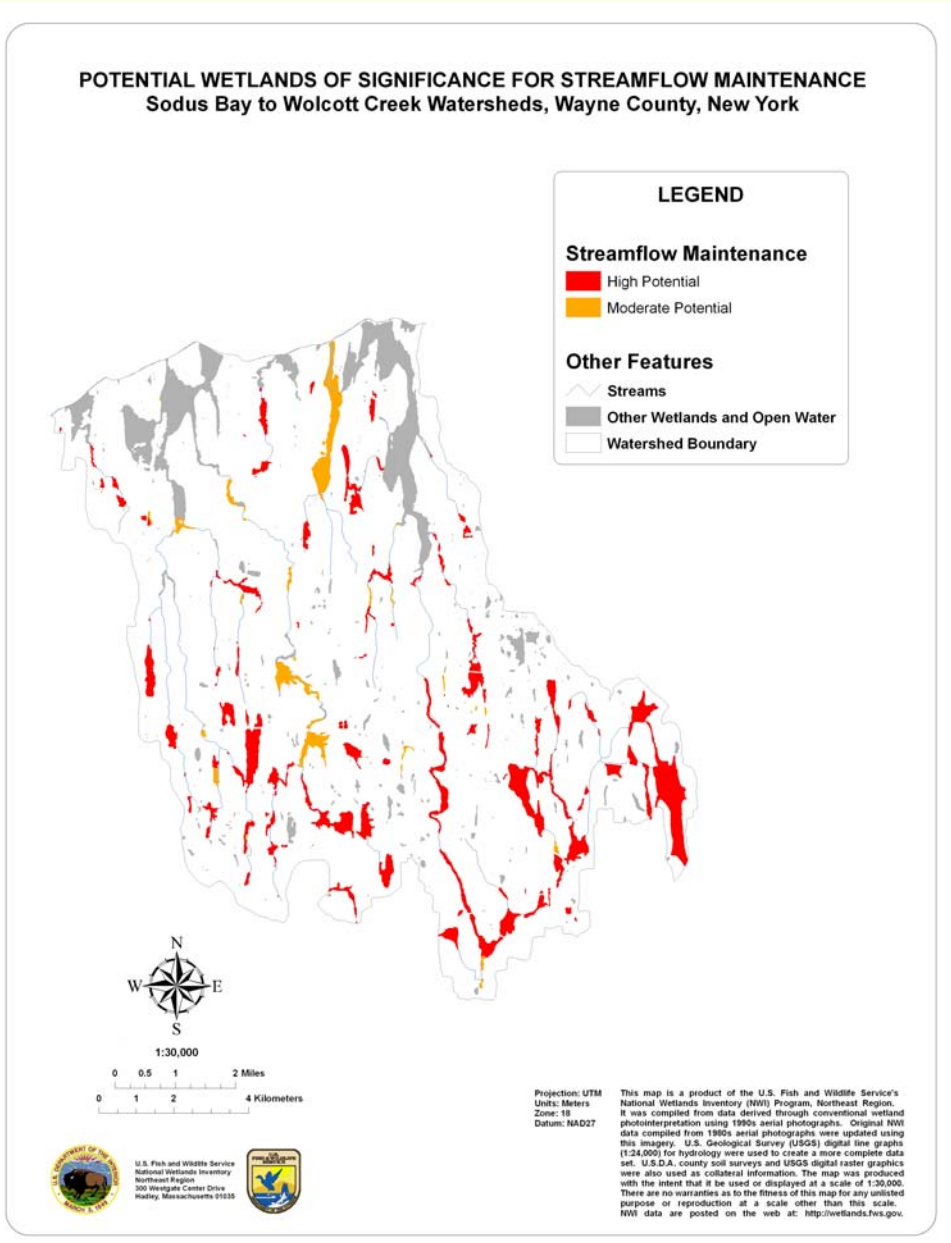
- In addition to NWI attributes expanding database to include LLWW descriptors
- Allows better characterization of wetlands and prediction of wetland functions at the landscape scale



Improved Classification and Characterization

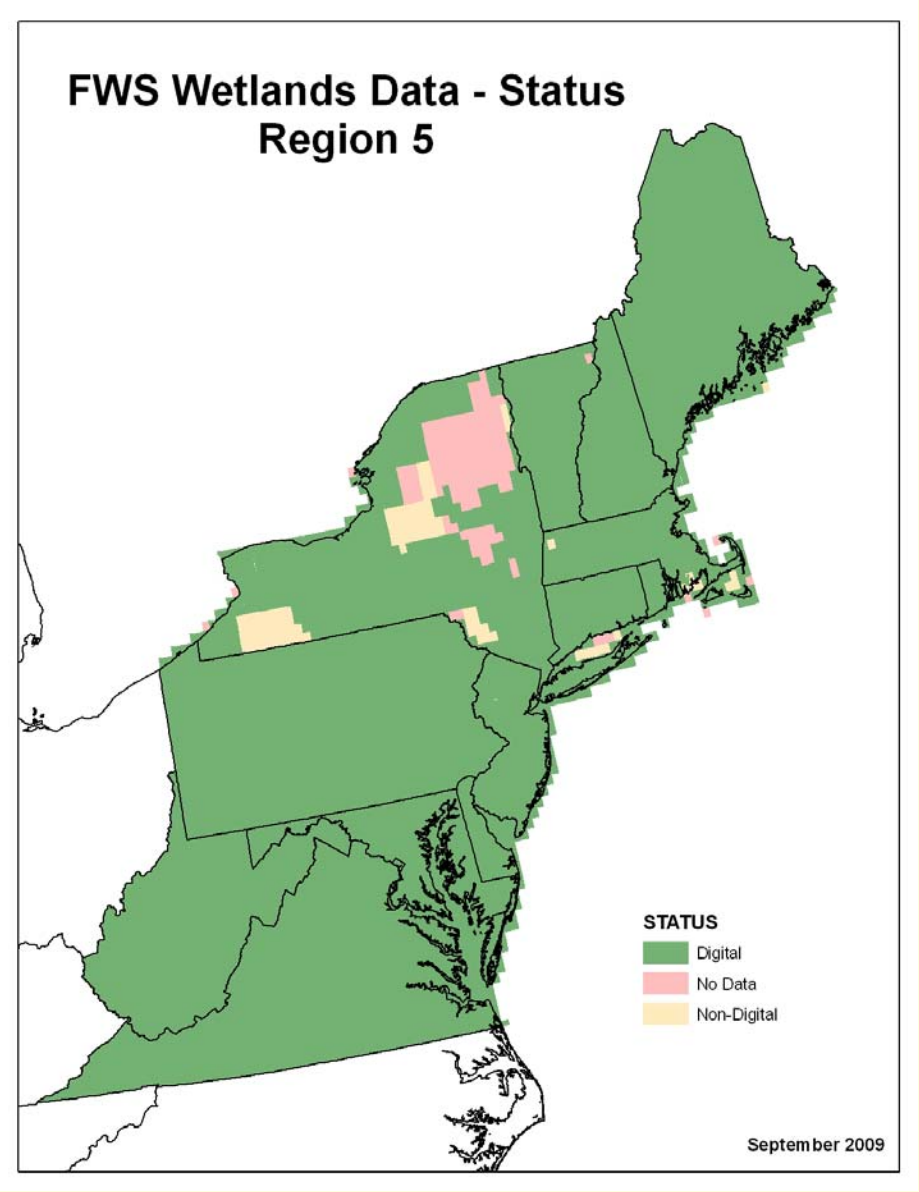


Predict Wetland Functions at the Landscape Level

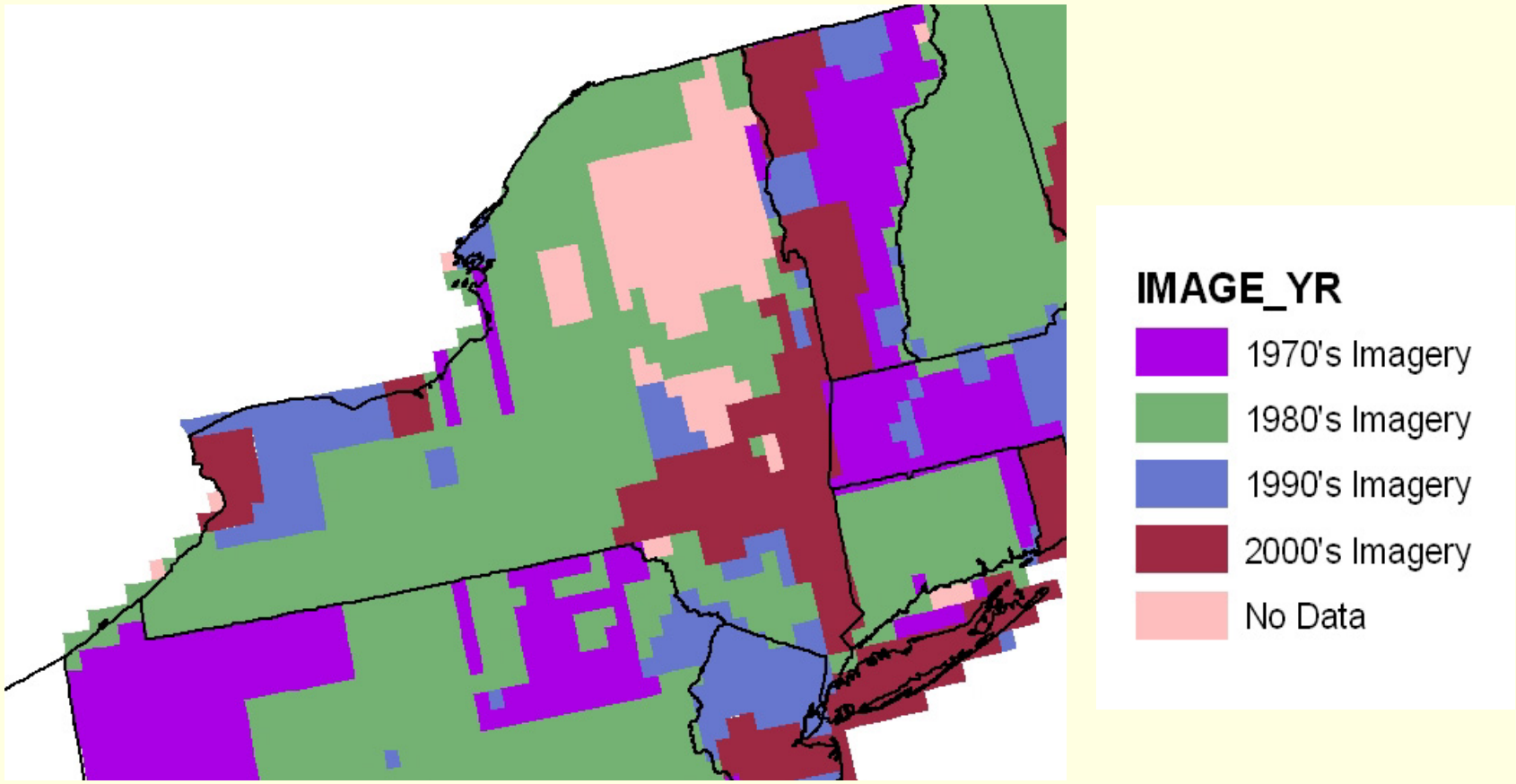


Mapping Status

- Digital Data
- Hardcopy Maps
- No Data

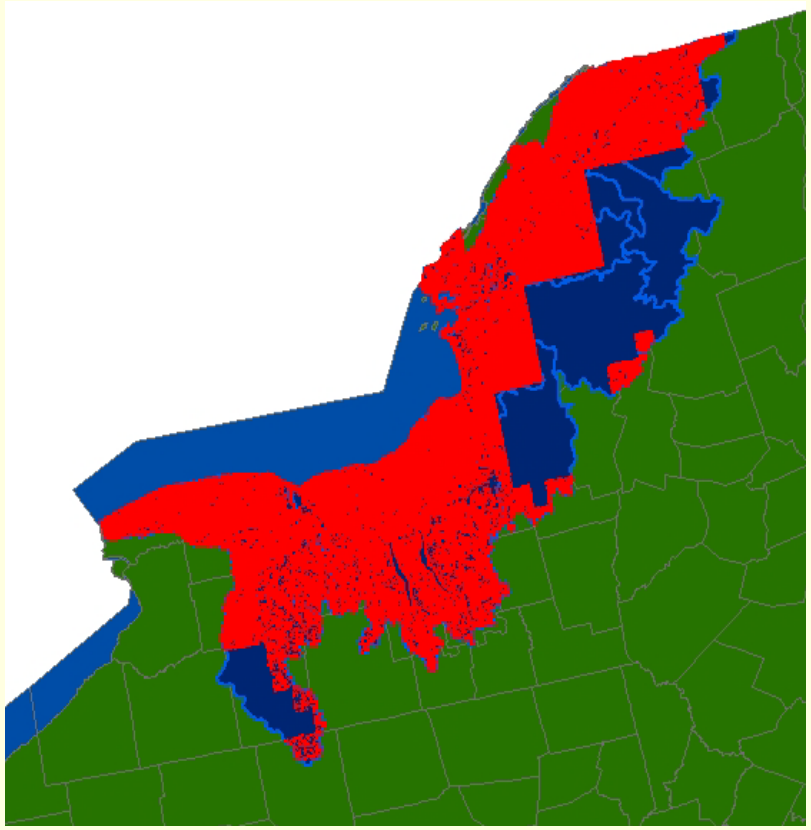


NWI Status: New York



Mapping Initiatives for 2010-2112

- Mapping wetlands in the Lake Ontario Watershed
- Original mapping (unmapped areas)
- Updating existing data
- NWIPlus for all areas
- Inventory of potential wetland restoration sites



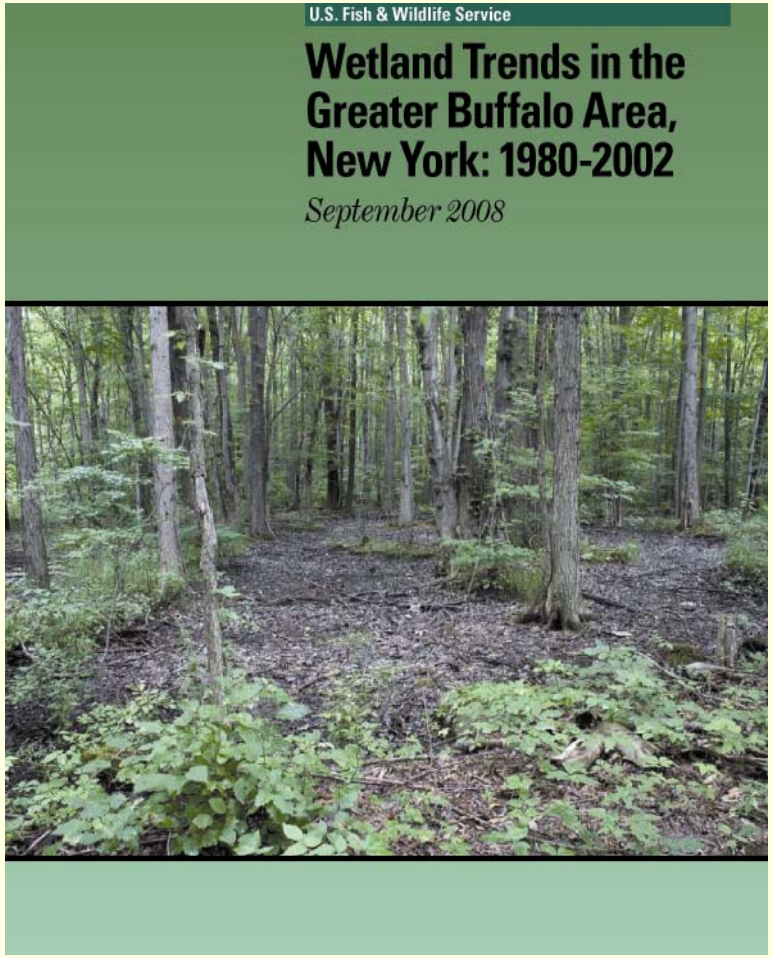
Special Projects

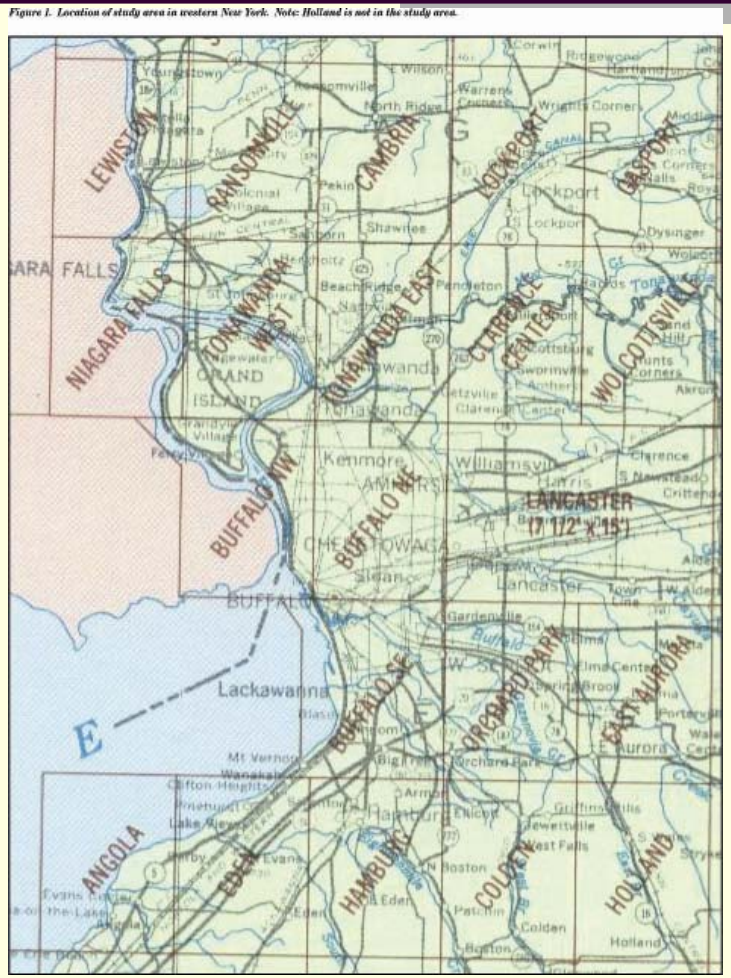
- Published Reports
- Nearly Completed Studies
- Ongoing Studies for Completion by 2011

Recent Published Reports

- Buffalo Metro Area Trends
- West of Hudson Wetland Trends
- Northeast Region NWI Findings
- Watershed-based Wetland Characterizations and Preliminary Assessments of Wetland Functions

Buffalo Area Trends: 1980-2002

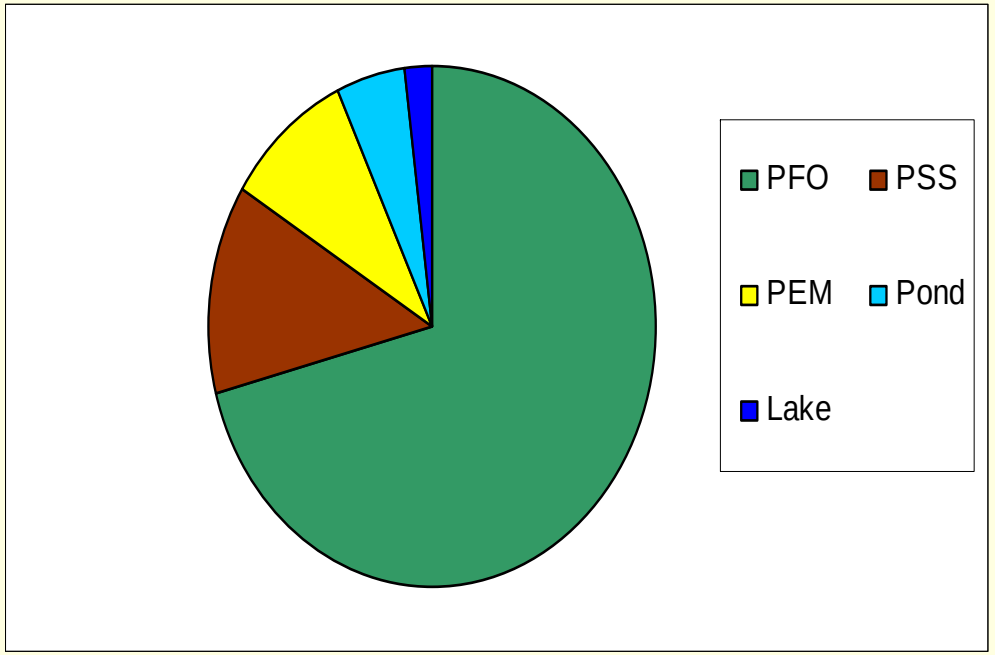




Some Findings – Buffalo Metro Area

2002 Wetlands Status

- 11% of study area
- PFO = 70%
- PSS = 13%
- PEM = 9%
- Ponds = 5%
- Lacustrine = 2%



Trends 1980-1994 - Vegetated Wetlands Net Annual Loss = 109 acres

Losses

- 1560 acres of vegetated
- Mostly PFO
- 43% to residential
- 13% to commercial
- 11% to ponds
- 9% to gravel mining

Gains

- 75 acres
- Mostly from abandoned farmland
- Rest from plant colonization of ponds

Trends 1994-2002 – Vegetated Wetlands Net Annual Loss = 67 acres

Losses

- 545 acres destroyed
- 38% residential
- 22% transitional land
- 13% commercial
- 13% ponds

Gains

- 9 acres

Change in Type

- 24 acres from conversion of PFO to PEM

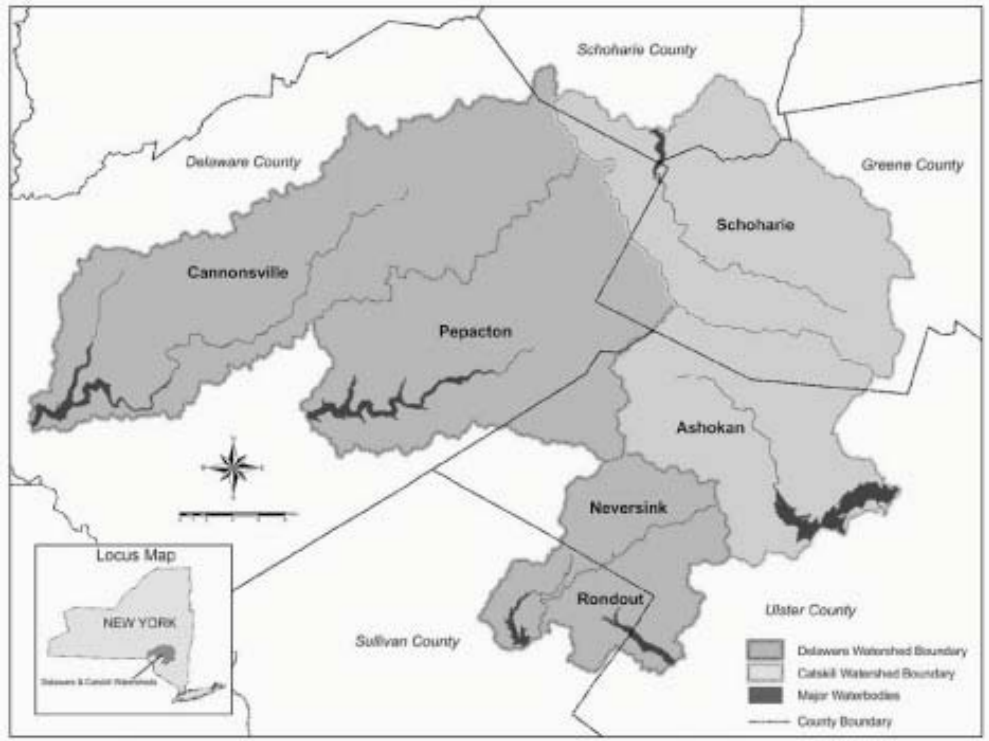
Trends 1980-2002 - Ponds

- Total gain of 1220 acres
- 38% increase from 1980-1994
- 10% increase from 1994-2002
- Gains from both uplands (1076 acres) and vegetated wetlands (268 acres)
- Mostly on farmland and for golf courses

West of Hudson Status and Trends Report

Funded by NYCDEP

- Mid-1980s to 2004
- 10,560 acres of wetlands in 2004
- 1% of watershed
- PEM – 29%
- Pond – 26%
- PFO – 21%
- PSS – 15%



WoH Trends

Mid-80s to mid-90s

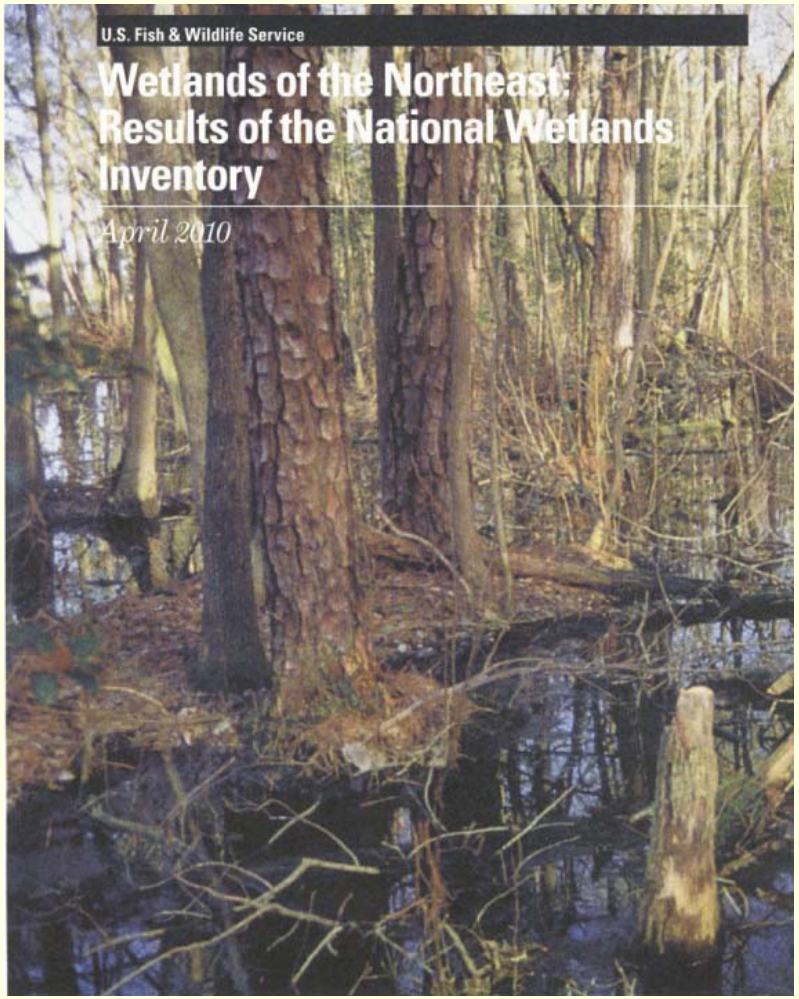
- Net loss of vegetated wetlands = 87 acres
  - Mostly from ponds
- Net gain in ponds = 527 acres
  - Mostly from upland

Mid-90s to 2004

- Net gain in vegetated wetlands = 3.5 acres
- Net gain in ponds = 109 acres

NWI Data: Regional Summary

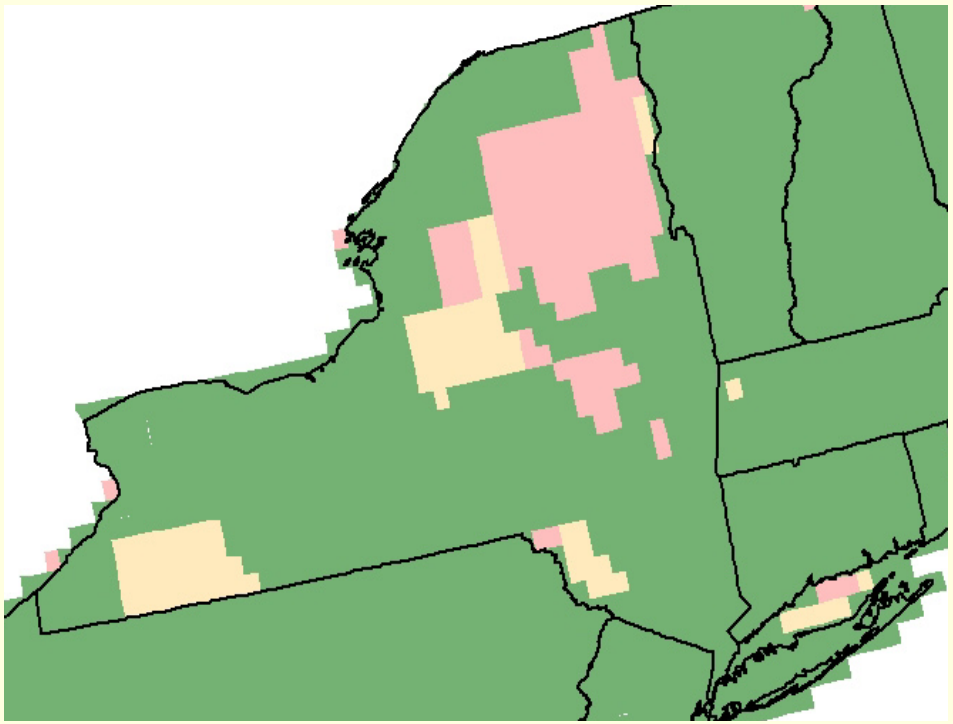
- Just completed
- Describes Region's NWI operation and products
- Summarizes NWI findings for all 13 states
- Complete list of NWI special products and reports



Wetlands of New York

Findings based on 74% of state

- Green areas



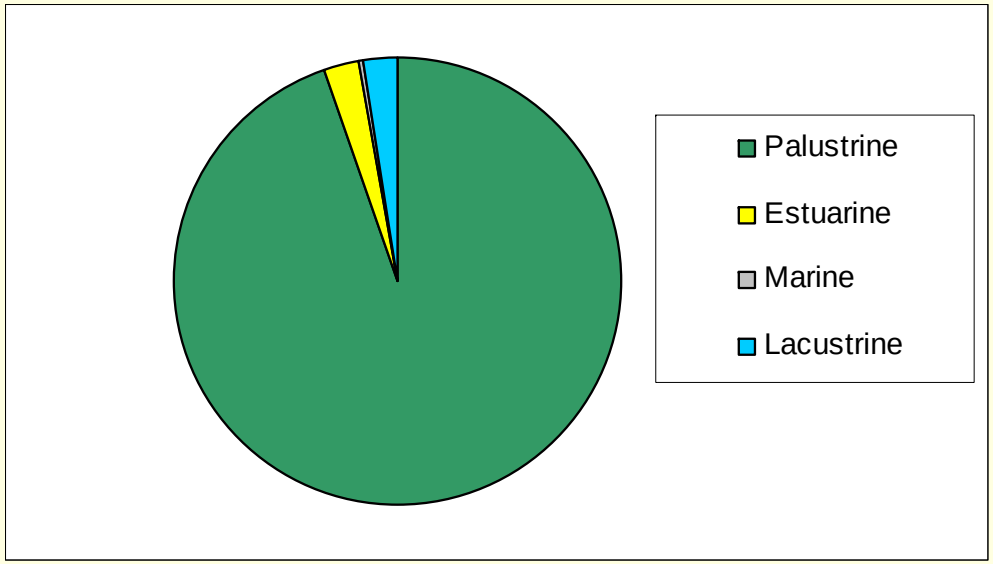
Wetlands of New York

Almost 1.6 M acres mapped to date

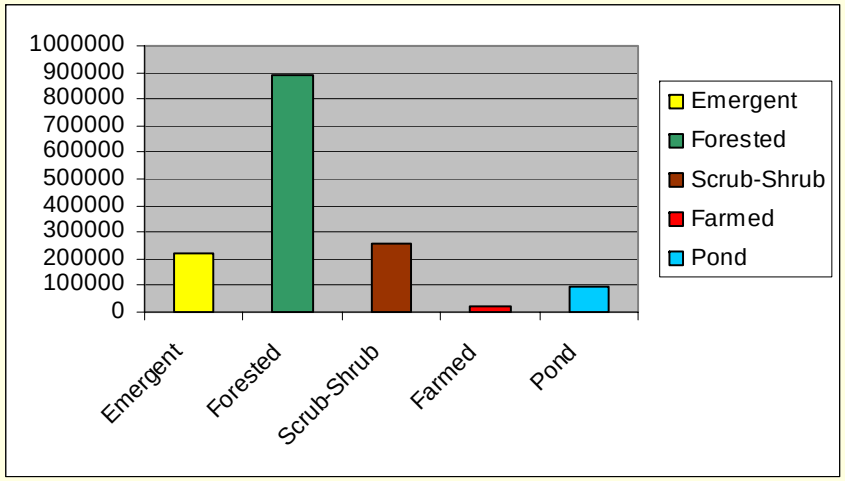
2nd Ranked among 13 Northeast States (even when based on NWI data for only 74% of state; ME = 2.2M acres)

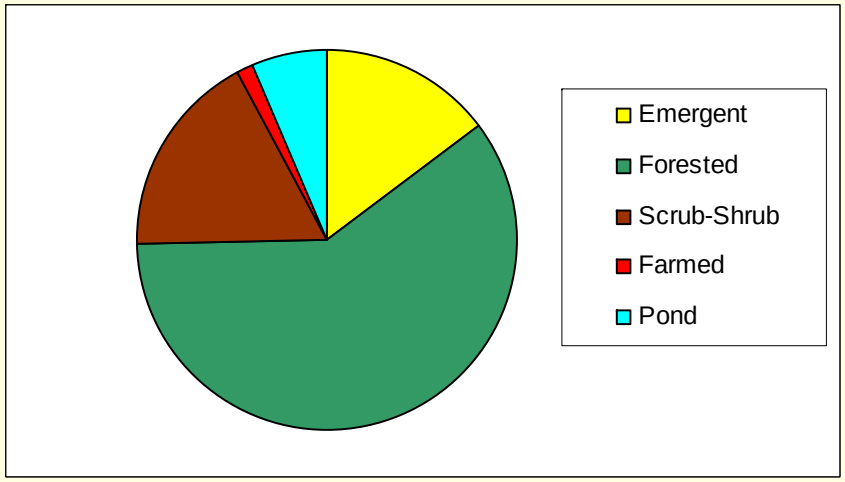
~7% of state's land area

- Palustrine = 94%
- Lacustrine = 3%
- Estuarine = 2%
- Riverine = <1%
- Marine = <1%



Palustrine Wetlands = 1.486M a.

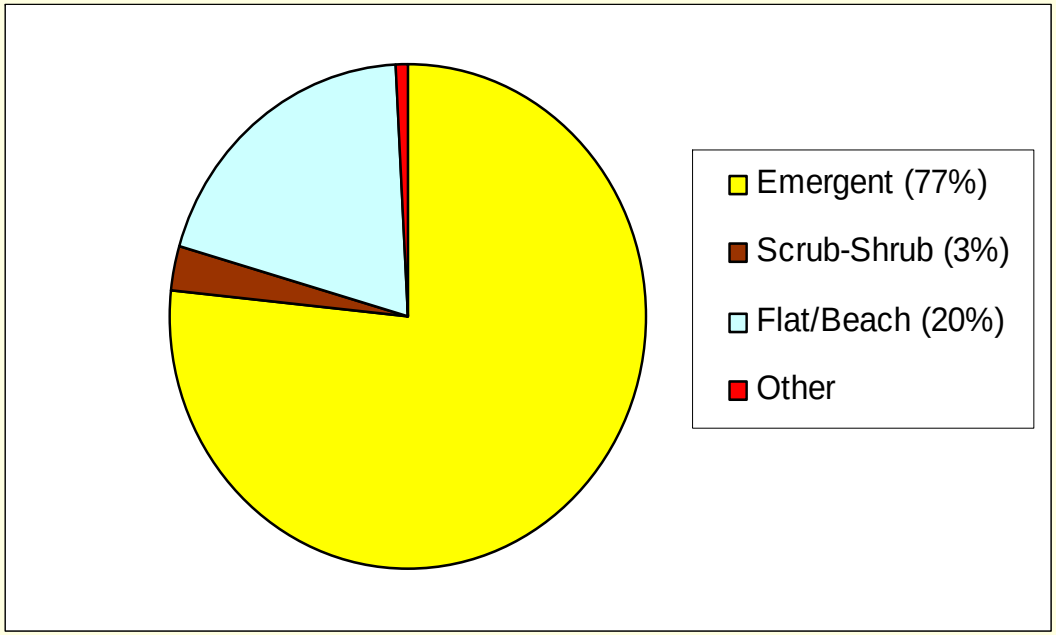




- Forested = 892,019 acres
  - 60%
- Scrub-Shrub = 257,411
  - 17%
- Emergent = 219,944
  - 15%
- Farmed = 21,731
  - 1%
- Pond = 94,741
  - 6%

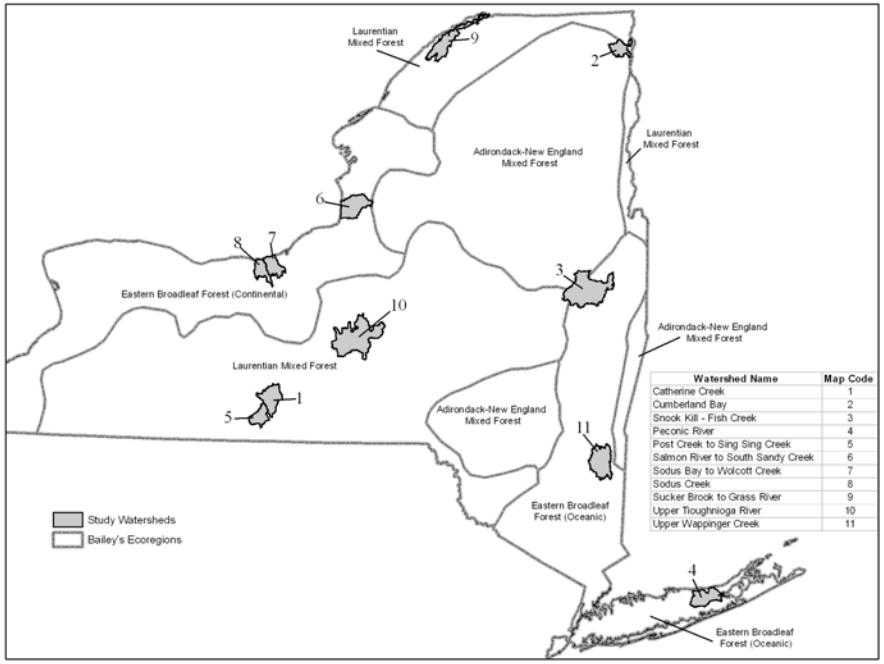
Estuarine Wetlands = 36,161 a.

- Emergent
  - 27,684 acres
- Scrub-Shrub
  - 1,077 acres
- Flat/Beach
  - 7,074 acres
- Other
  - 326 acres



Watershed-based Wetland Characterizations and Preliminary Functional Assessments

- 11 Small Watersheds
  - Funded by NYSDEC
  - Completed in 2006
- NYC Water Supply Watersheds
  - Funded by NYCDEP
    - Catskill
    - Delaware
    - Croton



Forthcoming NWI Reports

- **Long Island Wetlands**
  - NWI Status
  - Recent Trends – “Inventory of Change”
  - Historic Trends (early 1900s to present)
  - Wetland Characterization and Preliminary Functional Assessment
  - Inventory of Potential Wetland Restoration Sites
  - Report due in summer 2010

- **Eastern Long Island Sound Eelgrass Inventory**
  - Fishers Island and North Fork (June 2010)
- **West of Hudson Watershed**
  - Characterization and Functional Assessment including lost/gain in functions re: trends (Sept. 2010)
- **Historic Wetland Trends for Buffalo Area**
  - Include general assessment of lost functions (Fall 2010)
- **Wetland Changes in Shinnecock Bay Estuary**
  - Since 1930s (December 2010)

Summary

- The NWI has been very active in New York
  - Updating data
  - Producing special products
  - All data are or will be available online
- We are updating our regional website to provide links to most NWI reports
  - http://www.fws.gov/northeast/wetlands/

For additional information

Contact me at: ralph_tiner@fws.gov