# *National Wetlands Inventory*
# Wetlands Data Layer

*The NWI Wetlands Data Layer provides users with scientifically-based information on wetlands and deepwater habitats to promote the understanding and conservation of the Nation's wetland resources.*

## Inventory and Stewardship

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Program was established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to inventory the location, extent and types of wetland and deepwater habitats in the U.S. and its territories. NWI data are used to promote the conservation and restoration of wetlands and inform wetlands science, policy and best management practices.

The NWI geospatial dataset is available for the conterminous U.S., Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the major Northern Mariana Islands and over 40 percent of Alaska. Competing mapping for Alaska is currently a priority of the Program. The NWI dataset constitutes the Wetlands Data Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and is identified as a National Geospatial Data Asset.

The Service is responsible for producing and maintaining the Wetlands Data Layer, to meet the stewardship requirements outlined by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

## Wetlands Data Layer

The Wetlands Data Layer is the product of over 40 years of work by NWI and its collaborators. To date, over 165 organizations have contributed to the national Wetlands Data Layer. The NWI Program developed standards for both wetland classification and mapping that were subsequently adopted by the FGDC as the federal standard. All federally funded wetlands mapping projects are required to use these standards. State and private mapping projects are strongly encouraged to use the same standards to foster a consistent national dataset.



*NWI wetlands data as displayed on the Wetlands Mapper. Credit: USFWS*

The Wetlands Data Layer currently contains over 35 million wetland and deepwater features, and continues to grow as data are updated at a rate of 50 to 100 million acres annually. The NWI Program provides technical support and guidance to facilitate standard compliant data submissions.

## Data Access

The Wetlands Mapper is the public interface of the Wetlands Data Layer where users can view, query, download and print wetlands data and related resource information. Users can explore wetland and deepwater features throughout the Nation or in their specific area of interest. Informational pop-up windows provide access to wetland specific information and metadata as well as local, state, regional and national wetland documents. NWI data can be downloaded by state or watershed in several formats for use in maps and analysis. Web mapping services are also available so that GIS users and application developers can incorporate NWI data into their own desktop and web-based applications. These services are used widely within local, state and federal agency applications.

## Analysis and Partnership

The Wetlands Data Layer provides users with information to inform a variety of applications, including infrastructure development projects, habitat assessments, climate change resilience planning, species status assessments, wetland restoration, invasive species assessments and more.

NWI Wetlands data are viewed by over 250,000 unique users and downloaded over 40,000 times a year. The Service is committed to helping users get the most out of NWI data and has developed several resources aimed at supporting analysis including a set of geospatial tools and online resources. NWI actively partners with government agencies and other organizations interested in pursuing wetland and deepwater habitat mapping and analysis and can provide guidance and support throughout the life cycle of a wetland project(s).

For general questions, please email: wetlands_team@fws.gov.

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
**Ecological Services**
**5275 Leesburg Pike**
**Falls Church, VA 22041**
**703-358-2171**
**www.fws.gov/wetlands**

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