



# *National Wetlands Inventory* **Mapping Guide for EPA's Wetland Program Development Grant**

This factsheet provides guidance on next steps for those who have been awarded Wetland Program Development Grants from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## **What is required of organizations who receive federal dollars to produce wetland mapping?**

All proposals requesting federal funds to map wetlands are required to comply, at a minimum, with the federal [FGDC Mapping and Classification Standard](#). Completed wetland mapping projects will be submitted to the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Program and once approved, the data will be made available to the public for viewing and download through the NWI [Wetlands Mapper](#). Organizations applying for wetland mapping funds are encouraged to work with NWI during the proposal process. NWI encourages recipients to contact NWI during the proposal process to ensure that adequate funds are requested and to better understand the wetland mapping standards and requirements.

## **Your federally funded wetland mapping proposal was successful. What's next?**

A separate NWI [Coordination and Communication document](#) provides a detailed explanation of the mapping process highlighting the roles, responsibilities and expectations for all parties. It is strongly encouraged to become familiar with this document to better understand the steps a wetlands mapping project and data will go through from start to finish.

## **A brief overview of the wetland mapping process:**

1. Complete an [NWI Project Initiation Form](#) and email the completed form to the appropriate NWI coordinator for review.
2. Initiate a kickoff meeting with the assigned NWI project lead.
3. Develop a "Statement of Work" for "Request for Proposals" and "Quality Assurance Project Plan" and secure a qualified mapping contractor. NWI can assist with both.
4. Mapping contractor or cooperator submits interim data and reports to NWI project lead and to funder at regular intervals, usually at 10%, 30%, 50%, and 100% completion.
5. Mapping contractor or cooperator prepares final project report and submits final data for NWI Quality Assurance and entry into the NWI Master Geodatabase for display and download.

## **What NWI will provide:**

- Contracting Support: including Statement of Work (SOW) development, review of bids, identification of contractors with NWI mapping experience, and more.

- Quality Control and Assistance for the entirety of the project to ensure the project runs smoothly.
- Knowledge of wetland science, habitat mapping, and photo interpretation.
- Training for wetland mapping and photo interpretation (in-person and/or virtual).

For more information, please contact [wetlands\\_team@fws.gov](mailto: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](http://www.fws.gov/wetlands)**

**January 2023**