

# Plan for Divestiture of Hard Copy Mylar Wetland Maps

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## **Background:**

The National Wetlands Inventory has mapped approximately 95 percent of the conterminous U.S., 35 percent of Alaska, 100 percent of Hawaii and various portions of the Pacific Trust Territories, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Map data were originally produced as hard copy reproducible mylar overlays, composite overlays with the USGS base map. An original set of these mylar map products were retained as a project library and another set sent to National Archives. These maps constitute a major capital investment by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the data needed to be stored and scanned as raster files.

As a result of the program reorganization, the existing library of original mylar wetland maps was moved from St. Petersburg, FL to the offices in Madison, WI. Over 800 flat boxes (estimated 18,574 map sheets) were involved in this move. These maps were originally stored in off-site storage, but recently have been moved in-house where they are to be cataloged and scanned. Storage requires climate controlled storage space to accommodate these map separates that are packed and organized in boxes. Due the weight of the mylar sheets, specialized storage units are required.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey provided funding to scan all wetland inventory hard copy mylar maps in 2008 -2009. Additionally 8,769 BMP files produced at the National Wetlands Inventory Center in St. Petersburg (composites and separates of 5,287 maps) were also delivered to the Madison office.

Disposition of the mylar maps once the data have been scanned is an issue.

## **Data Handling and Formats:**

All mylar maps are targeted to be scanned, stored as raster image files, and posted to the Wetlands Mapper for distribution and use. The goal is to eventually produce vector data for the raster files as available funding or work by cooperators allows.

During the data transformation process, all mylars are cataloged, cleaned, scanned, quality inspected, compressed, and geoprocessed. This process includes scanning and geoprocessing the mylars to produce a georeferenced image. This image will be used to portray the wetland data on the Wetlands Mapper or an ArcIMS server in ArcMap, or extracted and distributed as a raster database. The raster scans of the wetlands map data have been added to the web map service (WMS) allowing users to bring the raster data into ArcMap over the web.

There are three possible data formats; hard copy mylar, scanned rasters or vector data. In some cases, cooperators have digitized (produced vector data) for map areas that have been scanned to raster images. In these instances the data have been replicated in three different formats.

**Disposal of Hard Copy Mylar Maps:**

Once the map data are scanned or digitized and inspected there is no need to retain the mylar copy. Several options have been carefully considered for the disposition of the mylar maps. These include:

- 1) Retain in storage. This option is costly and involves the use of office space for storage of large, heavy flat map boxes. It is prohibitively expensive.
- 2) Distribution to map sales offices. Shipping costs are prohibitively expensive and the data on the maps are outdated. This would facilitate distribution of erroneous data.
- 3) Recycling. Mylar is not recycled as is paper or aluminum. The costs for recycling are prohibitively expensive.
- 4) Disposal. This is least inexpensive, expedient and logical solution.

**The hard copy mylar maps will be disposed of following scanning, quality checking and cataloging. One box representative of the different eras of mapping, scales and product types produced (separates, composites, etc.) will be retained as an archive.**

Approved:



Thomas E. Dahl  
Data Steward, Wetlands

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Date