

It is important to the Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the internet delivery of updated digital data and keep pace with the growing demand for wetland resource information. The goal of the Wetlands Mapper is to provide a greater awareness of wetland map data and to improve the delivery of this information to its users. It allows users to access the Wetlands Geospatial Data Layer as well as provides a tool for the integration of large relational databases with spatial information and map-like displays. The national wetlands layer can be easily expanded and updated, and contains several levels of metadata as well as supplemental wetland information. All metadata are compliant with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata Version 2.0. Users can explore this resource information on a web-based discovery site at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/>.

Contributing to the NSDI Wetlands Layer

Organizations and individuals have the opportunity to contribute their data to the Wetlands Geospatial Data Layer. Contributors will be acknowledged for their work and assistance can be given in order to prepare data to meet qualification standards. For more information on how you can contribute data to the National Wetlands Database visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/wetlandslayer/ContributedData.html>.

The Future of the NSDI Wetlands Layer

The FWS continues to work to improve the integrity and scope of the wetlands layer. The wetlands layer is increasing in size each year primarily due to existing analog data being converted to vector or raster images. Contributed data from other Federal, State and local organizations is also increasing. The FWS has limited budgetary resources and faces many challenges in balancing increasing demands for wetlands map information for high priority resource conservation applications. As a consequence, under current budget scenarios completion of the national geospatial data layer will be a long-term goal. However, through its strategic mapping projects, the FWS will continue to provide updated information as well as add map data to provide a complete National data layer. Additionally, the FWS will work with partner organizations to facilitate the incorporation of wetlands map data and provide this information to the public.

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“The present goal is to provide the citizens of the United States and its Trust Territories with current geospatially referenced information on the status, extent, characteristics, and functions of wetlands, riparian, and deepwater habitats in priority areas to promote the understanding and conservation of these resources.”



Bayou Cocodrie NWR, USFWS Digital Library