



## National Wetlands Inventory [Ecological Services](#)

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### **National Wetlands Inventory Data:**

- [Wetlands Mapper](#)
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Visit the [Wetlands Data index page](#) for more information.

### **National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Wetlands Layer:**

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Important Reports](#)
- [Federal Geographic Data Committee \(FGDC\)](#)
- [Other Highlights](#)
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- [Status Information](#)

Visit the [Wetlands Layer index page](#) for more information.

### **Wetlands Status and Trends:**

- [National Reports](#)
- [State and Regional Reports](#)
- [Technical Information](#)

Use the [Document Search Engine](#) to view and/or download other Status and Trends Reports.

### **Other Wetland Topics:**

- [What are wetlands?](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Environment](#)

- [Riparian](#)
- [Habitat Assessment Tools](#)
- [Wetland Plants](#)
- [Service Wetland Related Programs](#)

Visit the [Other Current Wetland Topics](#) index page for more information.

**Contact Information:**

- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Regional Wetlands Coordinators](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

You can also email the FWS [Customer Service Center](#), or call 1.800.344.WILD (1.800.344.9453).

## Data Limitations, Exclusions and Precautions

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery and/or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

**Exclusions** - Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

By policy, the Service also excludes certain types of "farmed wetlands" as may be defined by the Food Security Act or that do not coincide with the *Cowardin et al.* definition. Contact the Service's Regional Wetland Coordinator for additional information on what types of farmed wetlands are included on wetland maps.

**Precautions** - Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

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