



American Wetlands Month

**LEARN!
EXPLORE!
TAKE ACTION!**





- Why Celebrate?
- History of American Wetlands Month
 - Wetlands in Your Community



Thank you Partners!



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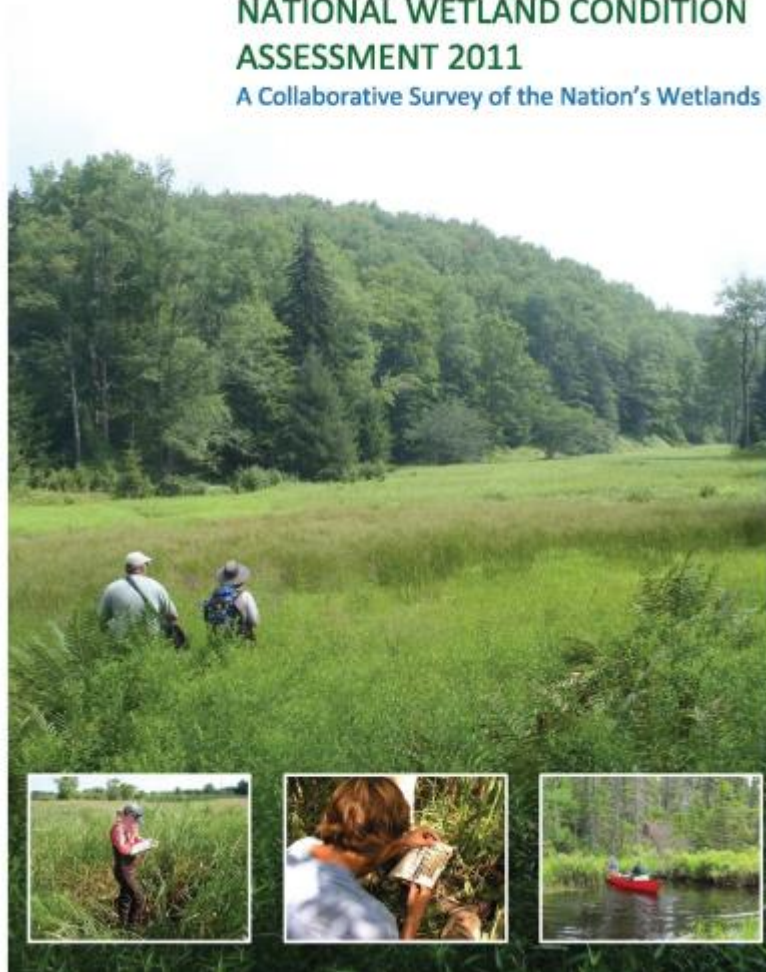
EPA's National Wetlands Program

- ▶ CWA Jurisdiction
 - ▶ Section 404 Regulatory and Enforcement Program
 - ▶ Wetlands Monitoring and Analysis
 - ▶ State, Tribal, and Local Program Support
- ▶ *Core Elements of a Comprehensive Wetlands Program:*
 - ▶ **Monitoring and Assessment**
 - ▶ Regulatory Activities including 401 Certification
 - ▶ Voluntary Restoration and Protection
 - ▶ Water Quality Standards for Wetlands

National Wetland Condition Assessment 2011

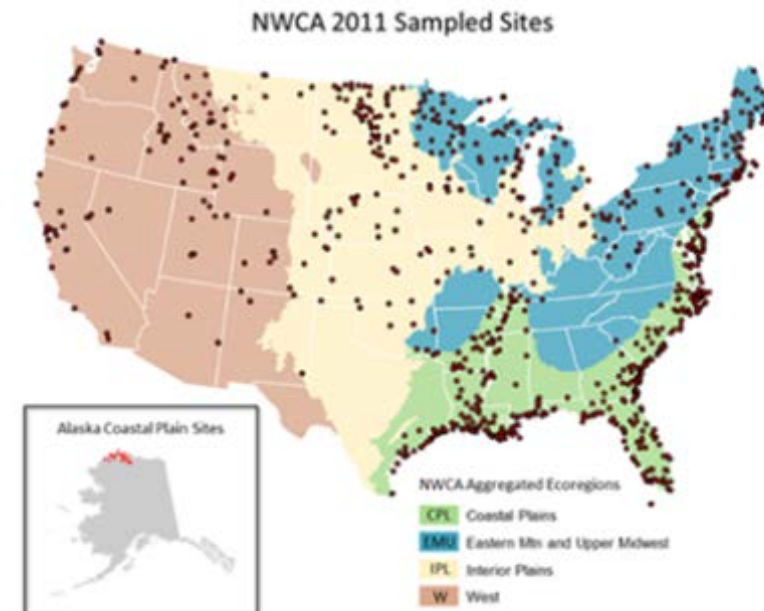


NATIONAL WETLAND CONDITION
ASSESSMENT 2011
A Collaborative Survey of the Nation's Wetlands



NWCA 2011 Highlights

- ▶ First study on the ecological condition of the nation's wetlands
- ▶ Baseline to evaluate change and trends in wetland condition
- ▶ Catalyzed state efforts to monitor and assess wetlands
- ▶ Extensive collaboration with federal partners
- ▶ Innovations that advance wetland science
- ▶ Completes first cycle of National Aquatic Resource Surveys



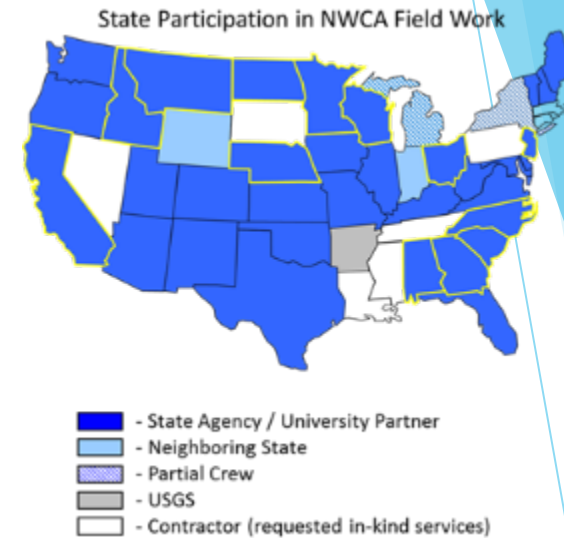
Key Report Findings

- ▶ Less than half of wetland area - 48% - is in good condition based on plant community characteristics
- ▶ Physical disturbances to wetlands and surrounding habitat such as soil compaction, ditching, and plant removal are most widespread stressors
- ▶ Nonnative plants are a problem, particularly in the interior plains and west
- ▶ West is in poorer condition and has higher levels of stressors than other regions



NWCA Collaboration

- ▶ Extensive collaboration between EPA, states, and federal partners in implementation of NWCA
- ▶ Informed and catalyzed state efforts to monitor and assess wetlands
- ▶ Worked closely with federal partners on survey design, protocols, and access to sites on federal lands



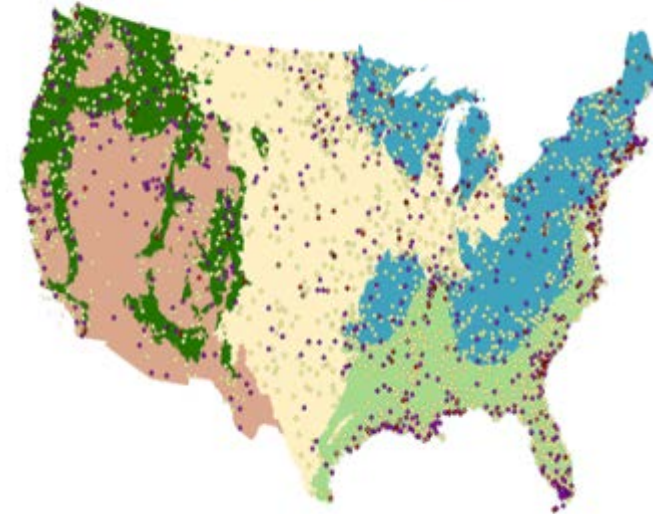
"The Association of State Wetland Managers found in a recent study of state wetland programs nationally that state involvement in the 2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) played a key role in building monitoring and assessment programs in many states. State wetland programs have been strengthened through the development of new baseline data and monitoring tools, especially new rapid assessment methods"

NWCA Innovations for Wetland Science

- ▶ Development of national indicators of biological condition and stress
- ▶ Wealth of data to pursue research into development of other wetland assessment protocols and indicators



NWCA 2016 Sites



NWCA 2016 Status

- ▶ Field sampling began April 17th in Georgia
- ▶ Continue to conduct regional trainings for state and contract field crews
- ▶ Field logistics, sampling, and laboratory contracts all up and running

Thank You!

Happy American Wetlands Month!

- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands>
- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/nwca>
- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/may-american-wetlands-month-learn-explore-take-action>



Learn!
Explore!
Take Action!