



COALITION FOR NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) geospatial dataset has supported wetland conservation for over 40 years. Unfortunately, this foundational dataset has not been updated at a national scale and is now at risk. Current funding levels for the USFWS NWI program are not adequate to acquire data for the entire U.S., nor maintain existing data. With wetlands being a \$7.7 trillion asset for the U.S and the need for wetland ecosystem services growing, now is the time to invest in this critical resource.

COALITION FOR NWI

Recognizing the critical nature of this dataset for supporting waterfowl conservation, as well as a wide variety of beneficial ecosystem services, Ducks Unlimited is leading an effort to form the Coalition for NWI (C-NWI), with the goal of updating the NWI dataset across the U.S. over the next decade. We are confident that an updated NWI dataset will benefit all Americans through a host of environmental and economic benefits. We need your advocacy to ensure this foundational conservation dataset not only retains but increases its conservation value through the provision of contemporary wetlands data.

C-NWI GOAL

Advocate for the resources necessary to support the development of a complete, contemporary National Wetlands Inventory geospatial dataset by 2030 and updating of this dataset every 5 years henceforth.

NWI ECONOMIC STATEMENTS

WETLANDS PROVIDE OVER \$7.7T IN BENEFITS annually within the conterminous United States.¹ The cost of maintaining the NWI dataset is <0.0021% of this annual benefit.

¹ Source: Based on Adusumilli 2015 and the NWI geospatial dataset. This estimate addresses benefits derived from recreation, water quality and supply protection, commercial fishing, and flood control, and was adjusted to reflect current values (i.e., 2020).

ESTIMATED \$8.25M SAVED ANNUALLY through support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 preliminary and approved jurisdictional decision process.² Several million dollars of additional savings is accrued annually by states and the commercial sector.³

*² Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
³ MN NWI requirements, 2009 and personal communications with states.*



HOW THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY DATASET IS USED

SPATIAL MODELING EFFORTS

- Manage migratory waterfowl
- Predict changes in tidal marsh area and habitat type in response to sea-level rise
- Predict storm surge heights
- Production of nationally standardized database of land cover and land change information for the coastal regions of the U.S.
- Planning of fast and concealed routes on- and off-road for military soldiers

OTHER USES

- Streamlining the wetland regulatory process
- Agricultural planning
- Emergency management
- Endangered species recovery
- Energy development
- Hurricane planning and recovery efforts
- Informed real estate decisions
- Land use planning
- Legal defense cases
- Stormwater management and flood control planning
- Transportation planning
- Water quality planning and compliance
- Watershed planning
- Wetland restoration and mitigation efforts

TESTIMONIALS

“Enviva and its wood suppliers rely on the National Wetlands Inventory on a daily basis, as a critical safeguard ensuring sustainability in our wood sourcing decisions for our wood pellet operations”.

- Jennifer C. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer, Enviva Biomass

“If wetlands maps cannot be used in the planning process ... more time and money must be spent for on-the-ground reconnaissance to achieve the same level of information.”

- Jennifer Boyer, Wetlands Supervisor for Dupage County, Illinois

“Having a robust and complete NWI product is critical in helping us guide development and protect the quality of life that attracts many to our borough.”

- Kim Sollien, Planning Division Services Manager
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska



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