



Wetland News Digest

Editor's Note

Dear Wetlanders,

The first edition of *Wetland Breaking News* (now called *Wetland News Digest*) was published in 1996, with Jennifer Brady-Connor at the helm as staff editor of the publication. To put it into perspective, in the same year Ebay was launched, Prince Charles and Princess Diana got divorced, and Nintendo 64 was released. Even more telling – it was only three years earlier in 1993 that the world wide web became publicly available. A lot has changed over the last 27 years – most people consume their news online via social media and news stories seem to lose much of their relevance after a day or two. Although NAWM has kept up with advances in technology, this news ezine, *Wetland News Digest* (WND), has lost its utility in our fast-paced world.

Although this will be the last issue of WND, we will continue to share weekly news stories via our weekly membership email called Insider's Edition. This ensures that our members receive timely updates on important changes in wetland science and policy. We will also continue to send out our monthly Note to States and Tribes to any state or Tribal government employee, regardless of membership status. And our members will still receive in-depth articles and updates in their bimonthly edition of *Wetland News*.

NAWM memberships are a great way for anyone to stay abreast of current events from around the nation. If you haven't explored the many [benefits of membership with NAWM](#) yet, I encourage you to take a look – our prices are very reasonable and considered low by industry standards. We keep them low intentionally to make membership accessible for as many wetlanders as possible.

WND has had a great run, and we thank each and every one of you for your interest and support for the publication over the many years of its existence!

Best regards,

Marla Stelk
Editor, *Wetland News Digest*
NAWM

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*Dedicated to
Protecting
the Nation's
Wetlands*



Editor's Choice

White House to agencies: Tally projects' financial damage to ecosystems

By Jean Chemnick – E&E News – August 1, 2023

Federal agencies would be required to do a full accounting of how their decisions affect ecosystems the public depends on under a draft guidance that the White House will release Tuesday. The Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy guidance targets the benefits people derive from forests, wetlands and waterways. While ecosystems have sometimes appeared in the cost-benefit assessments that agencies must write to support their rules, policies and projects, there has never been a government wide directive or guidance for doing that accounting. [Read more.](#)

EPA Proposes to Streamline Requirements for States and Tribes, Strengthen Co-Regulator Partnerships to Protect Nation's Waters

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – July 19, 2023

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposed rule that would streamline and clarify the requirements and steps necessary for states and Tribes to administer programs protecting waterways from discharges of dredged or fill material without a permit. The Clean Water Act envisions collaborative implementation between EPA and state and Tribal co-regulators to protect our nation's waters that support public health, thriving ecosystems, business development, recreation, agriculture, and more. EPA's proposal would address key barriers identified by states and Tribes to administering Clean Water Act section 404 while expanding opportunities for Tribes to meaningfully engage in permitting actions. [Read more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

NAWM'S 2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

June 18-21, 2024

**National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV**

More information coming soon.

If you have any questions, please call (207)892-3399

National News

Deep Dive: Supreme Court Wetlands Ruling Imperils Waters on Public Lands

By Bobby Magill – Bloomberg Law – August 3, 2023

Wetlands and waterways in national parks, monuments, forests and other federal public lands are newly vulnerable to pollution and development in the wake of the Supreme Court's May ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, natural resources attorneys say. But because federal lands have some protection under the National Environmental Policy Act and a raft of other laws, there is broad disagreement among attorneys about how *Sackett* affects public land. [Read more.](#)

NOAA and partners announce below-average 'dead zone' measured in Gulf of Mexico

Contact: Tyler Wittkofsky – NOAA – August 2, 2023

Today, NOAA-supported scientists announced that this year's Gulf of Mexico "dead zone"— an area of low to no oxygen that can kill fish and marine life — is approximately 3,058 square miles. That's almost two million acres of habitat potentially unavailable to fish and bottom species — nearly as large as the land area of Yellowstone National Park. The five-year average size of the dead zone (also known as the hypoxic zone) is now 4,347 square miles, which is over two times larger than management targets. [Read more.](#)

Senate appropriators spare Interior, EPA of deep cuts

By Kevin Bogardus, Michael Doyle, and Nidhi Prakash – E&E News – Greenwire – July 27, 2023

Senate appropriators approved legislation Thursday morning for agencies paramount to President Joe Biden's climate and environmental justice priorities. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its plan to fund the Interior Department, EPA and other agencies. The bill passed 28-0. The legislation would approve almost \$42.7 billion in appropriations for fiscal 2024, according to a bill summary released Thursday morning. That is much more than the \$25.4 billion in the House's version. Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) called the bill "incredibly important when it comes to protecting our kids from breathing polluted air, drinking contaminated water or being exposed to chemicals like PFAS." Murray said the bill protects "keystone species like salmon, and public lands like our national parks that are vital to our national identity and rural economies." [Read more.](#)

Climate out as Freedom Caucus chair leads House disaster panel

By Mia McCarthy – E&E News Daily – July 27, 2023

One of Congress' most outspoken skeptics of mainstream climate science has taken over a House panel focused on disaster issues. Climate change, he says, will no longer be on the agenda. Rep. Scott Perry (R-Pa.), chair of the Freedom Caucus, also leads the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management — the panel responsible for overseeing the federal response to natural disasters. Perry's leadership comes as extreme weather events increase worldwide. According to a report from the World Meteorological Organization, climate change has increased disasters fivefold in the last 50 years. [Read more.](#)

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We're celebrating NAWM's 40th Anniversary!

In commemoration of this milestone, our limited-edition T-shirt has been a popular item and we now have limited stock available. When you donate \$40 or more to NAWM, you may choose to receive one as a Thank You gift.*

- The T-Shirts are Allmade Organic Cotton Tees.
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- Unisex sizes: Extra Small, Small, Medium, Large

*Please note, we are only shipping t-shirts to U.S. addresses. Shipping is included.



Your private donations directly support NAWM's ability to respond to time-sensitive issues as they arise and allow us to provide information, expert analysis, and recommendations regarding the impacts of potential policy and law on wetland protection programs and efforts. NAWM needs adequate, unrestricted funding to be able to respond to unexpected, rapidly emerging issues critical to wetland protection.

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1. Fill out the [donation form](#) with a donation of \$40 or more.
2. Send an email to laura@nawm.org with your t-shirt size and mailing address.

State and Tribal News

AK: Record glacial flooding damages homes in Alaska

By Miranda Nazzaro – The Hill – August 8, 2023

At least two buildings were left destroyed and Alaska's capital city issued a local declaration of emergency Sunday as the city was hit with record flooding due to a release of water from a glacier-dammed lake. The city and borough of Juneau, the capital of Alaska, announced a local declaration of emergency Sunday after a major release of water from the Suicide Basin — a side basin of the Mendenhall Glacier – caused record flooding. [Read more.](#)

AK: Alaska's Newest Gold Rush: Seaweed

By Juliet Eilperin The Washington Post – August 2, 2023

Dune Lankard piloted the gleaming gill-net fishing boat to Simpson Bay, where eight buoys bobbed in the sunlight. The bright orange inflatables, connected by lines and spread out across five acres, provided the only indication of the ocean farm that lay beneath the water's surface. Lankard, 64, spent decades fishing while running the Native Conservancy and the Eyak Preservation Council, nonprofits that have preserved a million acres of land in this part of Alaska. But now, he raises kelp, a type of seaweed, as a way of buffering his communities and others from the dwindling numbers of wild salmon and other species they catch and hunt. [Read more.](#)

CA: Study analyzes nearshore California marine heatwaves and cold spells amid changing climate conditions

By California Polytechnic State University – PHYS.org – August 2, 2023

The first-ever study to look at drivers of both marine heatwaves and cold spells in the shallow nearshore along the California Current—coordinated by California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary—found that certain environmental conditions and the state of the ocean can lead to an enhanced risk for ocean temperature extremes. [Read more.](#)

CA: As work begins on the largest U.S. dam removal project, tribes look to the future of growth

By Adam Beam – Associated Press – July 31, 2023

The largest dam removal project in United States history is underway along the California-Oregon border — a process that won't conclude until the end of next year with the help of heavy machinery and explosives. But in some ways, removing the dams is the easy part. The hard part will come over the next decade as workers, partnering with Native American tribes, plant and monitor nearly 17 billion seeds as they try to restore the Klamath River and the surrounding land to what it looked like before the dams started to go up more than a century ago. [Read more.](#)

CO: Climate change may have siphoned a Lake Mead-sized sip of water from the Colorado River Basin

By Sharon Udasin – The Hill – July 25, 2023

Scientists are holding human-induced climate change responsible for the Colorado River Basin's loss of more than 10 trillion gallons of water — or about the entire storage capacity of Lake Mead — over the past two decades. Without the impacts of anthropogenic warming, drought conditions would not likely have depleted reservoir levels low enough to require a first-ever federally declared water shortage, which the U.S. government instituted in 2021, the scientists determined in a new study. [Read more.](#)

FL: Go underwater with the scientists rushing to rescue coral from the Lower 48's only barrier reef

By Jenny Jarvie – Los Angeles Times – August 1, 2023

Three and a half miles off the Florida Keys, Kylie Smith kicked to the surface of the ocean, then looked back down through her scuba mask to confirm what she had seen in the coral reef 15 feet below. A colony of baby elkhorn coral was bone white. Another grouping of the animals was dying from rapid tissue loss disease. Smith's team of volunteers had planted the baby coral in the last year and watched them thrive. Now both colonies — which had slowly spread, with tiny nubs reaching toward filtering sunlight — were being damaged as water temperatures spiked. [Read more.](#)

FL: Wetland regulations set for review by Manatee County

By Lesley Dwyer – Observer – August 1, 2023

Suncoast Waterkeeper has collected nearly 1,000 signatures on a petition urging the Board of County Commissioners to keep Manatee County's Comprehensive Plan as is when it comes to protecting local wetlands. Commissioners George Kruse and Vanessa Baugh thought the move to align Manatee County's wetland protections with state regulations — in other words allowing construction closer to wetlands — could be premature. Kruse said he doesn't like cutting environmental protections, and while Baugh won't be voting due to her resignation taking effect July 30, she doesn't believe any of the commissioners had enough information yet to consider such cuts. [Read more.](#)

FL: Alachua County OKs Gainesville wetland payment

By Seth Johnson – Main St Daily News – July 13, 2023

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted Tuesday on how the city of Gainesville will mitigate wetland impacts at its Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative (EHEDI) off Hawthorne Road. Because of site challenges and the importance of the project, the BOCC voted 4-0 to enact staff's recommendations that lead to the city paying \$108,852 in wetland mitigation to a site in Marion County. The 22-acre site, owned by the city except for the urgent care clinic, contains wetlands not originally included in the concept plan. The city bought an adjacent parcel that added wetlands, and development plans will encroach on the wetlands, forcing mitigation. [Read more.](#)

FL: Rare 'Super' Ghost Orchid now blooming at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Florida Weekly – July 12, 2023

The “Super” ghost orchid at Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is now blooming. Ghost orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) are rare flowering plants that rely on extremely sensitive, wetland habitats, and are only known to live in South Florida and Cuba. “This amazing plant, which relies on the unique microclimate found only in swamps like Corkscrew, has been a gift to the scientific community,” says Keith Laakkonen, Sanctuary director. “Discovering the true pollinator of these special orchids was a testament to the value of research partnerships and the importance of protecting natural ecosystems.” [Read more.](#)

IN: Indiana lawmakers could further dilute state wetlands protections

By Casey Smith – Inside Indiana Business – July 26, 2023

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling from earlier this year will effectively remove federal protections for most of Indiana’s wetlands — and enable Hoosier lawmakers to repeal already-weakened state protections for those areas. The high court ruled in May that federal protections for wetlands under the Clean Water Act only apply to wetlands with a continuous surface connection to federally protected waterways that make them “indistinguishable” from those waters. It’s not yet clear how Indiana lawmakers plan to respond, but the Republican-dominated legislature has in recent years refused more “restrictive” water regulations. Instead, GOP-led efforts have resulted in rollbacks and removals of protections for certain wetlands. [Read more.](#)

LA: Sediment diversion breaks ground, promising to stave back land loss on Louisiana’s coast

By Claire Sullivan – New Orleans City Business – August 11, 2023

Humans have long tried to tame the Mississippi River with levees. In the process, they starved many of Louisiana’s coastal wetlands of the sediment that sustains them. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, billed as the first project of its kind, seeks to remedy that by replicating those natural land-building processes by reconnecting the basin to the mighty river. The \$2.9 billion effort to stave back coastal land loss began construction officially Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Potawatomi: Michigan tribes fight long odds to restore wild rice, their history

By Ashely Zhou – Bridge Michigan – July 31, 2023

On Nottawa Creek, a tributary of southwest Michigan’s St. Joseph River, tall stalks of wild rice form a dense grassland atop the water, making the shallows nearly impassable by kayak. To the untrained eye, the 10-foot-tall stands of slender, flowering grass may look like weeds. To John Rodwan, they’re a sight to behold. Rodwan is the environmental department director of the Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Potawatomi, a tribe whose reservation is in Kalamazoo County. This wild rice bed — part of a 30-mile stretch managed by the Nottawaseppi — is part of an effort to restore a tribal staple food once common in Michigan, but wiped out by human development. [Read more.](#)

MN: Mankato pursuing establishment of new wetland park

By Mark Fischenich – The Free Press – July 16, 2023

Songbirds singing, waterfowl paddling, reptiles scurrying, cattails and bulrushes swaying in the breeze. And providing access to it all, a grassy path encircling what would likely be Mankato's biggest piece of parkland. If the wetland park comes to be, though, it will only be because of a lot of imagining, lobbying, land-purchase negotiating, dam designing, neighborhood communicating, grant writing, environmental consulting, seed planting, weed controlling and more. [Read more.](#)

NH: Wetlands protection in NH after the Supreme Court ruling

By Paul Doscher – NH Business Review – July 20, 2023

In late May, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in a case brought by landowners in Idaho in which the court dramatically changed a portion of the purview of the 1972 Clean Water Act. For us in New Hampshire, the question arises: "Will this change how we protect and regulate wetlands in our state?" Ted Diers, assistant director of the NHDES water division, has said simply, "Nothing changes, right now." [Read more.](#)

NC: A North Carolina Wetland Continues to Suffer as Farm with Massive Hog Waste Spill Nets New Violations

By Will Atwater – The Daily Yonder – August 14, 2023

Last August, during a routine surveillance flyover, Samantha Krop spotted something odd at White Oak Farm, a Wayne County biogas and industrial hog farm operation. "I noticed that the lagoon, which is a covered lagoon, meant to be producing biogas through the anaerobic digestion process, was flattened, and it just looked different," said Krop, the Sound Rivers Neuse Riverkeeper. Curious about what she'd seen during the flight, Krop decided to dig through the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's records for possible answers. "We found sort of a treasure trove of documents outlining a major spill that had happened there over Memorial Day weekend," Krop said. [Read more.](#)

OR: OSU: Columbia River Basin fish stocks fail to improve despite billions in conservation spending

Global Seafood Alliance – July 31, 2023

New research from Oregon State University shows that more than \$9 billion in inflation-adjusted tax dollars, spent over the course of four decades, has failed to improve stocks of wild salmon and steelhead in the state's Columbia River Basin. [Read more.](#)

PA: Invasive snakehead fish reported in Lower Susquehanna River

By Leah Hall – Fox 43 – August 2, 2023

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PBC) issued a strong advisory to encourage anglers who catch an invasive species to report and dispose of it. An invasive Northern Snakehead in the lower Susquehanna River has been spotted in Conowingo Reservoir by anglers and natural resource agency biologists this summer, including the first evidence of Northern Snakehead reproduction in the reservoir. [Read more.](#)

VT: Floods reinvigorate push from climate activists for Vermont wetlands restoration

By Allyson Finch Wilson – NBC News – July 23, 2023

The storms that slammed parts of Vermont last week with more than 8 inches of rain and led to widespread flooding have invigorated calls from local environmentalists to restore wetlands they say can provide environmentally friendly protection for communities across the state. A proposal introduced in the Legislature this year calls for expanded protections, enhancement and growth of wetlands areas to produce a net gain of wetlands acreage. [Read more.](#)

WA: Dozens of Western Pond turtles at Woodland Park Zoo to be released into protected wetlands

KOMO News – July 27, 2023

The Woodland Park Zoo and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists (WDFW) are preparing more than 35 Western Pond turtles for release in the wild. As part of the Western Pond Turtle Recovery Project, the juvenile turtles will be released in August to protect wetlands in the state. [Read more.](#)

WI: Magnolia Springs wetland restoration plan approved

By Scott De Laruelle – Stoughton News – Courier Hub – July 13, 2023

The Stoughton City Council approved spending \$3,500 on a wetland and woodland restoration plan for the Magnolia Springs development at its Tuesday, July 11 meeting. The development contains around 5.5 acres of parkland in the northeast corner of the property, including existing woodland, wetlands and a pond, which were the main reason the site was selected for the park. [Read more.](#)

WY: A boon for ducks, wastewater plant's new wetlands will be monitored for water quality impacts

By Billy Arnold – Jackson Hole News & Guide – August 2, 2023

Chris Hildebrandt, a biologist turned fundraiser with Ducks Unlimited, thinks the new, nutrient guzzling wetlands downstream of the Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plant are hard to beat. In his mind, they're a boon for wildlife — and people. "It's not just for the ducks," said Hildebrandt, the wetland- and waterfowl-focused nonprofit's director of development. "It's for a bunch of other species, and for us too." [Read more.](#)

New NAWM Tribal Membership Rate

The NAWM Board of Directors voted on July 18th, 2023, to offer a new discounted membership rate for Tribes. For the purposes of NAWM's membership program, eligible Tribal members are those who are either members of or employed by an American Indian Tribe or Alaska Native agency. The Tribal membership rate will be \$30/year – this discounted rate is available for individuals only and cannot be used in addition to NAWM's group rate discounts.

[NAWM's Bylaws](#) have been revised and the new [Tribal membership](#) rate is now in effect.

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MEMBERSHIP

NAWM has a long history of blazing trails in advocating for sound wetland science and sensible water policy. By joining NAWM, your membership carries many benefits including our Members' Webinar Series, Federal Policy Tracker, opportunities for involvement on committees, and exclusive publications.

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Your private donations directly support NAWM's (501(c)(3) nonprofit) ability to respond to time-sensitive issues as they arise and allow us to provide information, expert analysis, and recommendations regarding the impacts of potential policy and law on wetland protection programs and efforts. You may also opt to support the Jon A. Kusler Student Scholarship.

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H **MARSH** is a one-year mentoring program for students, early career professionals, and people transitioning between careers to network, gain experience, and receive one-on-one coaching to support their growth as wetland professionals.



**Mentee Applications open
September 6th**

More information.

Hot Topics Webinar

2023 MAWWG-NEBAWWG Webinar Series #1 Coastal Conservation Highlights

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 - 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET

Presenters:



Mary Phipps-Dickerson

Maryland Department of
the Environment



Scott Jackson

University of Massachusetts
Amherst



Molly Mitchell

Virginia Institute of Marine
Science

[More Information](#)

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Photo Credit: Elisabeth Stimmel, Utah Geological Survey

Recorded Hot Topics Webinar

Celebrating the Endangered Species Act at 50 and the Importance of Conserving Wetlands and Wetland-dependent Species

Held Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Presenters:

- **Martha Balis-Larsen**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Elizabeth Holmes Gaar**, NOAA
- **Kara Moore-O'Leary**, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Aimee Weldon**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[View Recording](#)

Photo Credit: Jim Pendergast, Retired EPA

Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinar

Canadian Wetland Inventory Activities in the Prairie and Boreal Regions of Canada

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Presenters:

Lyle Boychuk, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Rebecca Edwards, Ducks Unlimited Canada

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs

Thursday, September 21, 2023

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans for Your Tribal Wetland Program

Thursday, November 2, 2023

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT

[Register](#)

A **Certificate of Attendance** to be used toward Continuing Education Credits is available when participating in NAWM's live webinars. All NAWM members receive free Certificates of Attendance for webinars. Non-Members who request a certificate will be charged a processing fee of \$25.00. All Certificates must be claimed no later than 60 days from the live presentation. Certificates are not available for viewing recorded webinars. [More information can be found here.](#) [Membership information can be found here.](#)

Photo Credit: Elisabeth Cianciola, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game

Recorded Members' Only Webinar Series

Modeling Resilience in Coastal Wetlands

Held Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Presenters:



Kelly Van Baalen
Climate Central



Kyle Runion
The University of Texas
Marine Science Institute

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Photo Credit: Matt Schweisberg, Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC

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Wetland Science News

How beavers are helping restore wetlands and create buffers against wildfires

NPR – July 31, 2023

Some experts now see beavers — nature’s helpers — as their dams can mitigate the effects of drought and wildfires. Beavers are doing their part to mitigate climate change. They help ease the effects of drought and wildfires by damming up streams and forming ponds. [Read more.](#)

Atlantic Ocean currents system could collapse this century from climate change: study

By Azck Budryk – The Hill – July 25, 2023

A major Atlantic current could collapse by the middle of the century as a result of climate change, prompting extreme cold in Europe and sea level rise along the eastern coast of the U.S., according to a study published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications. Researchers from the University of Copenhagen’s Niels Bohr Institute used statistical modeling and over a century of ocean temperature data to predict that, under current greenhouse gas emissions, the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) will collapse between 2025 and 2095. [Read more.](#)

Pollution timebombs: Contaminated wetlands are ticking towards ignition

By Colin McCarter and Mike Waddington – The Conservation – July 16, 2023

Wetlands across the globe have long served as natural repositories for humanity’s toxic legacy, absorbing and retaining hundreds to thousands of years’ worth of pollution. These swampy vaults have quietly been trapping air and water pollution for thousands of years, protecting the world from some of the worst effects of lead, mercury, copper, nickel and other poisonous materials. Now, however, a combination of human disruptions and ever increasing wildfires threaten to open these vaults, unleashing their long dormant toxic contents upon the world. [Read more.](#)

Scientists are learning more about the most endangered, and cutest, turtle in North America

By Roxy Todd – Radio WVTF – July 12, 2023

Bog turtles are the tiniest turtle in North America, and also the most endangered, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering adding southern populations of Bog Turtles to the list of federally protected endangered species. [Read more.](#)

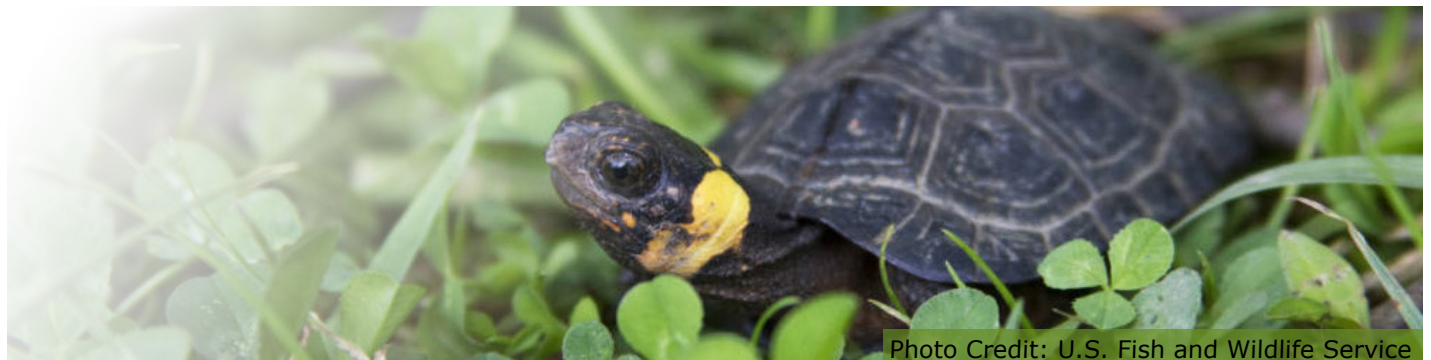


Photo Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NAWM'S Wetlands One-Stop Mapping

National Data Sets & Information

LLWW Date & Information

LLWW Classification

LLWW Reports

Wetland Functional Assessments

Funding for Wetland Mapping

Wetland Mapping Consortium

[View Updated Webpages](#)

Photo Credit: Andy Robertson, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, GeoSpatial Services

NAWM Learning Options Available

We have three online training modules readily available to you:



The recordings are free to view, anytime/anywhere. There is an option to take a quiz to test your knowledge and earn a Certificate of Completion. NAWM Members may access this free membership benefit by logging on to your [Membership Portal](#). Non-members may also access the quizzes on a fee basis.

Our fourth training series - [USDA-NRCS Conservation Planners Training Webinar](#) - is available to view and build knowledge. The quiz/certificate options for this series will be added at a later date.



Resources and Publications

Human alterations of the global floodplains 1992–2019

By Adnan Rajib, Qianjin Zheng, Charles R. Lane, et. al. – Scientific Data – July 28, 2023
Floodplains provide critical ecosystem services; however, loss of natural floodplain functions caused by human alterations increase flood risks and lead to massive loss of life and property. Despite recent calls for improved floodplain protection and management, a comprehensive, global-scale assessment quantifying human floodplain alterations does not exist. We developed the first publicly available global dataset that quantifies human alterations in 15 million km² floodplains along 520 major river basins during the recent 27 years (1992–2019) at 250-m resolution. To maximize the reuse of our dataset and advance the open science of human floodplain alteration, we developed three web-based programming tools supported with tutorials and step-by-step audiovisual instructions. Our data reveal a significant loss of natural floodplains worldwide with 460,000 km² of new agricultural and 140,000 km² of new developed areas between 1992 and 2019. This dataset offers critical new insights into how floodplains are being destroyed, which will help decision-makers to reinforce strategies to conserve and restore floodplain functions and habitat. [Read more.](#)

Scientists develop tool to predict dam removal costs by analyzing 55 years of past removals

Bioengineer – July 25, 2023

Scientists analyzed more than 650 dam removal projects over 55 years in the United States totaling \$1.52 billion inflation-adjusted dollars to develop a tool to better estimate the cost of future dam removals. The analysis arrives at a time of increasing awareness of the disruptive impact dams can have on ecosystems, while thousands of dams are increasingly being removed because they are aging, unsafe, no longer serving their original purpose or in need of costly repairs and maintenance. [Read more.](#)

Degradation of floodplain integrity within the contiguous United States

By Rya Morrison, Kira Simonson, Ryan McManamay, et. al. – Scientific Data – June 15, 2023
Despite the numerous hydrological, geological, and ecological benefits produced by floodplain landscapes, floodplains continue to be degraded by human activities at a much higher rate than other landscape types. This large-scale landscape modification has been widely recognized, yet a comprehensive, national dataset quantifying the degree to which human activities are responsible for this degradation has not previously been evaluated. In this research, we analyze floodplain integrity for the contiguous United States by spatially quantifying the impact of anthropogenic stressors on almost 80,000 floodplain units. We demonstrate the prevalence of human modifications through widely available geospatial datasets, which we use to quantify indicators of floodplain integrity for five essential floodplain functions of flood attenuation, groundwater storage, habitat provision, sediment regulation, and organics and solute regulation. Our results show that floodplain degradation is spatially heterogeneous and that the integrity of nearly 70% of floodplains in the United States is poor. We highlight that quantifying the integrity of spatially explicit floodplain elements can allow for restoration efforts to be targeted to the areas in most desperate need of preservation. [Read more.](#)

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Photo Credit: Matt Schweisberg, Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC

Wetland Photos



We are always looking for new wetland photos. If you'd like to share your wetland views in our publications and social streams, [submit your photo\(s\) here.](#)

Photo Credit: Paul Anderson, University of Washington

Potpourri

More than 1m acres of Indigenous land flooded by dams, new study finds

By Nina Lakhani – The Guardian – August 9, 203

More than a million acres of tribal land – an area larger than the state of Rhode Island – have been flooded by dams, compounding centuries of land seizures and forced displacement by settler colonials and the US government, new research has found. Land has always been central to Indigenous culture, sovereignty and prosperity, while land dispossession has been a mainstay strategy used to divide and disempower communities, by depriving Indigenous people of clean water, traditional food sources, spiritual connections and economic opportunities. The study, published in the journal [Environmental Research Letters](#), is the first attempt to calculate the amount of land lost by Indigenous Americans due to the construction of dams that re-engineered America's rivers and lakes to store, divert and control waterways. [Read more.](#)

How The Blackfeet Brought Buffalo Back To The Land

By Roque Planas – Huffpost – August 7, 203

A generation ago, this scene would have been hard to imagine. Two centuries of pillaging by European settlers left bison nearly extinct by the 1880s. Private ranches fenced in almost all the survivors, transforming the buffalo from America's most iconic wild ungulate into an afterthought for the livestock industry. The Blackfeet Nation has spent more than a decade trying to change that, spearheading one of the most successful efforts to free wild buffalo back on their historical lands. Now, the hunt and collective butchering mark the climax of Iinnii Days, a three-day festival celebrating all things "iinnii," the Blackfoot term for the animal known in English as "bison" or "buffalo." [Read more.](#)

FEMA funds first-of-its-kind effort to rebuild Puerto Rican coral reefs

By Erin Blakemore – The Washington Post – July 29, 203

Hurricanes, earthquakes and an outbreak of a fast-spreading coral disease have wreaked havoc on the coral reefs that protect Puerto Rico's shores in recent years. Now, the federal government has for the first time allocated disaster relief funding to help rebuild coral reefs in San Juan Bay. In June, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that it had allocated \$3 million for the first phase of a \$38.6 million initiative to restore the bay's coral reef barrier, which acts as a natural breakwater that defends the communities around the bay from coastal flooding. The reef has recently eroded, leaving the three-mile bay area vulnerable to flooding and large storm surges. [Read more.](#)

A River Runs above Us

By Serena Renner – Hakai Magazine – July 18, 203

In mid-November 2021, a great storm begins brewing in the central Pacific Ocean north of Hawai'i. Especially warm water, heated by the sun, steams off the sea surface and funnels into the sky. A tendril of this floating moisture sweeps eastward across the ocean. It rides the winds for a day until it reaches the coasts of British Columbia and Washington State. There, the storm hits air turbulence, which pushes it into position—straight over British Columbia's Fraser River valley. [Read more.](#)

NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS ALLIANCE (NFFA)

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including coastal areas. As a founding member of the NFFA, the National Association of Wetland Managers hosted meetings, workshops, and webinars for the NFFA from 2011-2022. At the end of 2022, NAWM handed over coordination responsibilities for the NFFA to [American Rivers](#).

On February 16th, 2023, leaders from NAWM and American Rivers held a webinar to update and renew the affiliation, share findings from the NFFA & Wetland Mapping Consortium report, National Action Plan to Protect and Restore Floodplains, and share information on future NFFA activities. American Rivers will be hosting a new NFFA webpage on their website soon. In the meantime, we have an [updated webpage](#) that includes the current information.

Funding Opportunities

[Inflation Reduction Act: NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

NOAA; Apply by August 21, 2023; Funding No.: NOAA-NOS-OCM-2023-2008068

[Nontidal Wetlands Awards Program](#)

Maryland Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust; Apply by September 14, 2023

[NAWCA 2024 US Small Grants](#)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Apply by October 12, 2023; Funding No.: F24AS00012

[Tribal Climate Resilience Annual Awards Program](#)

Bureau of Indian Affairs; Apply by October 13, 2023

[WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

Bureau of Reclamation; Apply by December 5, 2023; Funding No.: R23AS00362

[Wetland General Permit Surcharge Fee Project Funding](#)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Apply by December 15, 2023

[The Wetland Foundation Conference and Travel Grants](#)

Apply by December 18, 2023

Calendar of Events

WEBINARS

August 2023

August 22, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers Hot Topics Webinar: 2023 MAWWG-NEBAWWG Webinar Series: #1 Coastal Conservation Highlights
August 24, 2023 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EDT	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Webinar: Virtual Wetland Plants Talk
August 24, 2023 2:00 p.m. EDT	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Webinar: Informing Turtle Conservation in the Northeast by Thinking Bigger in Space and Time
August 30, 2023 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: Wetland Mapping Consortium Webinar: Canadian Wetland Inventory Activities in the Prairie and Boreal Regions of Canada

September 2023

September 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. EDT	NAISMA Webinar: Reviewing the Impacts of Climate Change on Biological Control Agents: Identifying Research Priorities and Knowledge Gaps
September 21, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers: Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs
September 22, 2023 11:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Coffee Break: Getting the most out of chemical control of wetland invasive plants with herbicide-additive systems

October 2023

October 13, 2023 11:30 a.m. EDT	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Wetland Coffee Break: Wetland bryophytes
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November 2023

November 2, 2023 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EDT	National Association of Wetland Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinar: Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs
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CONFERENCES/EVENTS

August 2023

August 26, 2023 Boothbay, ME	Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: See Change: Climate Impacts Around Us Tour
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September 2023

September 12-15, 2023 Kalamazoo, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Conference: Visions for the Future
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September 13, 2023 New Gloucester, ME	Maine Association of Wetland Scientists: 2023 Natural Resources Workshop
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September 16, 2023 Fredericksburg, VA	Friends of the Rappahannock: Riverfest
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September 17-24, 2023 New York, NY	Climate Group: Climate Week NYC
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October 2023

October 3-5, 2023 Oregon, OH	2023 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting
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October 11-13, 2023 Lake Arrowhead, CA	California Lake Management Society (CALMS) 38th Annual Conference
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October 12-13, 2023 Cleveland, OH	Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition: Great Lakes Conference
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October 15-18, 2023 Corpus Christi, TX	Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 77th Annual Conference
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October 16-19, 2023 Lincoln, NE	North American Invasive Species Management Association 31st Annual Conference: Foundations for Success
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October 18, 2023 Binghamton University Vestal, NY	Upper Susquehanna Coalition: 2023 Watershed Forum
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October 19-22, 2023 Cape May, NJ	New Jersey Audubon: Cape May Fall Festival: So. Many. Birds.
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October 24-25, 2023 Galveston, TX	Restore America's Estuaries: 2023 Living Shorelines Workshop
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October 27, 2023 Las Vegas, NV	Clark County Wetlands Park: Haunt the Wetlands
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November 2023

November 2, 2023 Virtual	Natural Areas Association: 2023 Natural Areas Virtual Conference
November 2-4, 2023 La Crosse, WI	2023 Midwest Environmental Education Conference
November 6-8, 2023 Cary, NC	American Water Resources Association: 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference
November 6-9, 2023 Minneapolis, MN	NEIWPC: National Nonpoint Source Workshop
November 14-16, 2023 Tucson, AZ	US Water Alliance: One Water Summit

February 2024

February 6-7, 2024 Wilmington, DE	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control: Delaware Wetlands Conference
February 20-22, 2024 Greenbay, WI	Wisconsin Wetlands Association: Wetland Science Conference

May 2024

May 13-16, 2024 Grand Rapids, MI	River Network: River Rally
May 20-24, 2024 Windsor, Ontario, Canada	IAGLR 67th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research
May 29-June 1, 2024 San Diego, CA	Ducks Unlimited 87th National Convention

June 2024

June 18-21, 2024 Shepherdstown, WV	National Association of Wetland Managers: 2024 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting
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November 2024

November 12-14, 2024 Duluth, MN	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference
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Photo Credit: John McShane, Retired EPA

TRAINING COURSES

August 2023

August 21-24, 2023 Aliquippa, PA	Swamp School: Wetland Delineation Training <i>NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.</i>
August 21-25, 2023 Fergus Falls, MN	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Course: Wetland Assessment, Restoration and Management
August 22-23, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: Basic Wetland Delineation
August 23-24, 2023 Lansing, MI	Michigan Wetlands Association Training: Wetland Shrub Identification
August 24-25, 2023 Logan, UT	Utah State University Course: Field Botany: Wetland and riparian plants

September 2023

September 6-7, 2023 Norman, OK	South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Training: Harmful Algal Bloom Training
September 11-12, 2023 San Diego, CA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Riparian Habitat Restoration for the Arid Southwest
September 11, 13 & 15, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Hydric Soils
September 11-15, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: Basic Wetland Delineation
September 11- October 6, 2023 Online	South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Training: Managing for a Changing Climate: Brief Introduction to Climate Change
September 21-22, 2023 Charleston, SC	Duncan & Duncan West Course: Identification of Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes <i>NAWM members receive a 15% Discount.</i>
September 26-28, 2023 Whitefish, MT	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Wetland Delineation with Emphasis on Soils and Hydrology
September 28-29, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Introduction to Wetland Identification

October 2023

October 2-3, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: Evaluating Hydric Soils in the Field
October 2-5, 2023 Raleigh, NC	Swamp School: Wetland Delineation Training <i>NAWM members receive a 10% Discount.</i>
October 5, 2023 - Online In person Field Trip: October 10-13, 2023 Basking Ridge, NJ Cranbury, NJ	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Methodology for Delineating Wetlands
October 16-November 10, 2023 Online	South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Training: Managing for a Changing Climate: Deeper Dive into Climate Modeling
October 23-25, 2023 Sulphur, OK	South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Training: Climate Change Adaptation for Tribes and Tribal Partners
October 24, 2023 Padilla Bay Reserve Mt. Vernon, WA	Washington State Department of Ecology Training: Using Field Indicators for Hydric Soils
October 25-27, 2023 Online	Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: Wetlands: Science and Regulatory Management

November 2023

November 6-7, 2023 Online	Northwest Environmental Training Center Course: Habitat Site Restoration
November 16, 2023 Bellingham, WA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Demystifying Wetland and In-Water Permitting in Washington State

December 2023

December 2 and 16, 2023 Portsmouth, NH	University of New Hampshire Workshop: Winter Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination
December 4, 5, 7, & 8, 2023 Online	Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Course: Wetland Construction: Principles, Planning, and Design
December 4-7, 2023 San Diego, CA	Wetland Training Institute, Inc. Course: Federal Wetland/Waters Regulatory Policy
December 6-8, 2023 St. Michaels, MD	Environmental Concern Course: Winter Woody Plant ID
December 18-21, 2023 Tampa, FL	Richard Chinn Environmental Training, Inc. Course: Wetland Delineation Training

Wetland News Digest

The National Association of Wetland Managers' *Wetland News Digest* (WND) is a monthly compilation of wetland-related stories and announcements submitted by readers and gleaned from listservs, press releases and news sources from throughout the United States. WND chronicles the legislative, national, state and tribal news relevant to wetland science, policy, practice and law. It also links to new publications, tools and resources available to wetland professionals as well as events and training opportunities for those working in water resources and related fields. *Wetland News Digest* (formerly "Wetland Breaking News") has been published for over twenty years and NAWM has been a nationally recognized resource for information on wetland science and policy since 1983. The items presented in *Wetland News Digest* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or of the National Association of Wetland Managers.



Photo Credit: John McShane, Retired EPA

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