



National Association of Wetland Managers

NAWM Resources to Support State and Tribal Wetland Programs

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SEPTEMBER 1, 2026



National Association of Wetland Managers

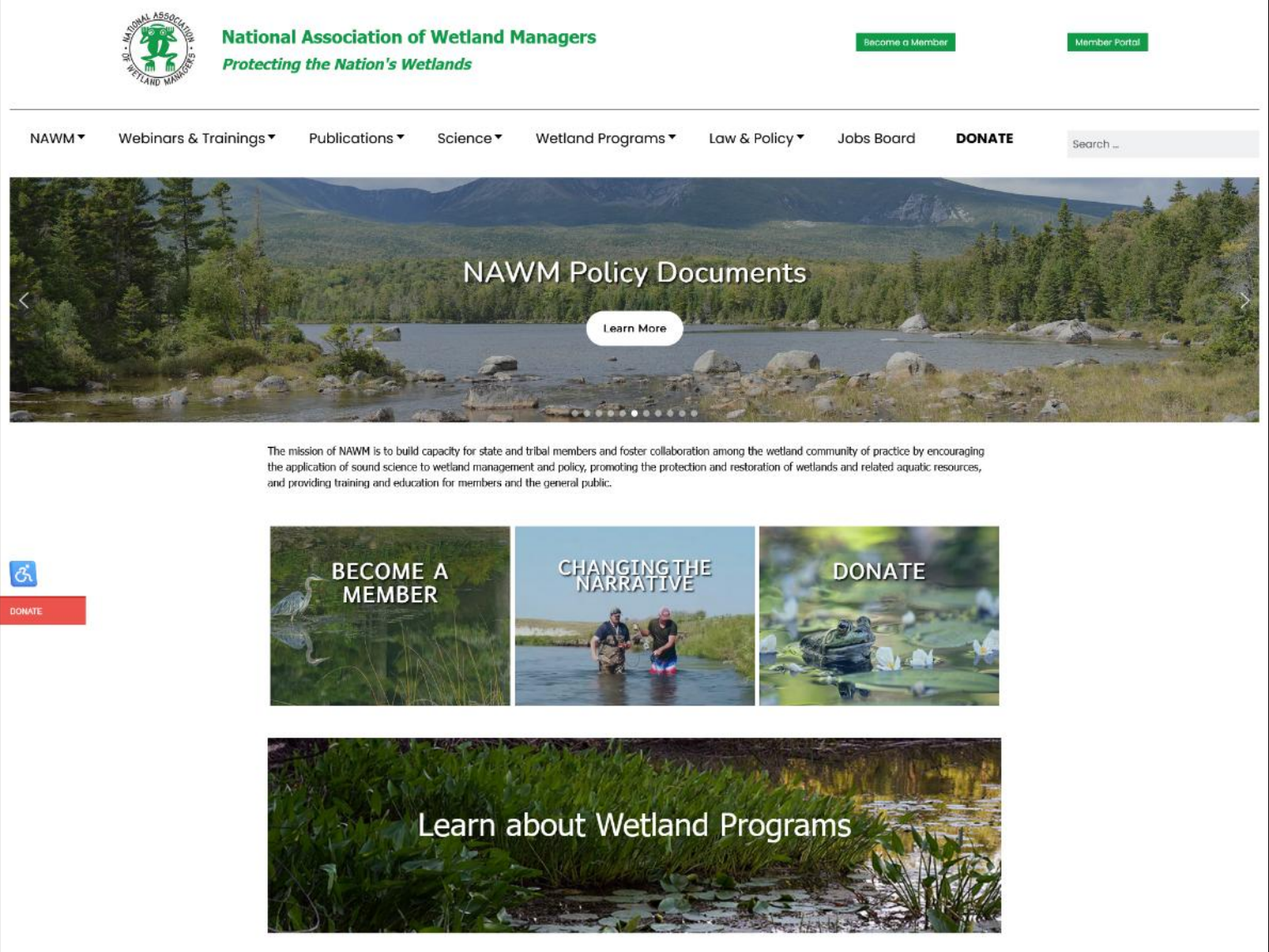


The mission of NAWM is to build capacity for state and Tribal members and foster collaboration among the wetland community of practice by encouraging the application of sound science to wetland management and policy, promoting the protection and restoration of wetlands and related aquatic resources, and providing training and education for members and the general public.

NAWM RESOURCES

Access
Information about
NAWM Webinars
and More

www.nawm.org



The screenshot shows the NAWM website homepage. At the top is the NAWM logo, a green frog inside a circular seal with the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WETLAND MANAGERS". To the right of the logo is the text "National Association of Wetland Managers" and "Protecting the Nation's Wetlands". Further right are two green buttons: "Become a Member" and "Member Portal". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "NAWM", "Webinars & Trainings", "Publications", "Science", "Wetland Programs", "Law & Policy", "Jobs Board", and "DONATE". A search bar is on the right. The main content area features a large banner image of a wetland landscape with the text "NAWM Policy Documents" and a "Learn More" button. Below the banner is a paragraph about the mission of NAWM. To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a blue accessibility icon and a red "DONATE" button. Below the mission statement are three promotional tiles: "BECOME A MEMBER" with a heron image, "CHANGING THE NARRATIVE" with a photo of two people in a wetland, and "DONATE" with a frog image. At the bottom is a large image of a wetland with the text "Learn about Wetland Programs".

National Association of Wetland Managers
Protecting the Nation's Wetlands

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NAWM Policy Documents

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[Learn about Wetland Programs](#)

Wetland Program Plans (WPPs)

WPPs articulate wetland program goals and provide a blueprint for achieving those goals.

WPPs:

- Should be tailored to the unique opportunities and challenges that occur within a particular state, tribe, or territory
- Include both broad-based and specific actions, with timeframes
- Reflect EPA's CEF to varying degrees
- Are encouraged but not required by EPA
- Should be updated at least every six years



Benefits of a WPP

A WPP provides a roadmap that explains the goals of the wetland program and specific steps needed to get there.

WPPs developed through a collaborative process often result in numerous benefits, such as:

- Greater confidence when identifying priority actions;
- New and stronger partnerships enhanced by a collaborative planning process; and
- Additional support for wetland programs.

WPDG RFAs include two tracks:

- Track One is for Tribes, states, and local governments that have or are developing/refining a Wetlands Program Plan
- Track Two is open to intertribal consortia and states, as well as local governments, interstate agencies, and eligible colleges and universities that are agencies of a state government.





Wetland Program Plans Handbook

A resource to assist states and tribes in developing strategic approaches to achieve comprehensive Wetland Programs



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Protecting Waters and Wetlands in Indian Country: A Guide for Developing Tribal Wetland Management Programs

December 2022
EPA 840B21005



EPA launched its ESTP Initiative in 2007, with a goal to accelerate wetland program development on a national scale. Core Elements Framework was established in 2008.

Since the 2013 Wetland Program Plan Handbook was published, **74 Wetland Program Plans** have been developed or updated

Protecting Waters and Wetlands in Indian Country: A Guide for Developing Tribal Wetland Management Programs released in 2022.

In 2023, EPA reorganized and updated the CEF to reflect current policies and recent experiences.



Wetland Program Plans Handbook



*An updated resource to assist states
in developing strategic approaches
for comprehensive wetland programs*

June 2026



National Association of Wetland Managers

Updated WPP Handbook now
available on NAWM's website

Available at https://nawm.org/pdf/lib/publications/wetland_program_plans_handbook_2026.pdf



WPP Handbook Highlights

The CEF is very flexible. State WPPs can incorporate all or a subset of core elements, with some adding additional elements that are key to local needs.

There's no single starting point when developing state wetland programs.
Begin anywhere!



WPP Handbook Highlights: Monitoring & Assessment

- Design considerations
- Common issues and challenges
- Potential actions a state might consider when developing and implementing a monitoring and assessment program
- Regional and national monitoring workgroups

WPP Handbook Highlights: Regulatory Activities

- Pros and cons of state regulatory programs
- Considerations in designing a regulatory program
- Options for scope of regulatory programs (extent of resource protection; level of state responsibility)
- Techniques for leveraging protection through cooperation with other programs



- **Section 401 Water Quality Certification**



- **Development of Wetland Specific Water Quality Standards**



- **Development and Promulgation of State or Local Regulations**



- **Coordination of State/Federal Permitting with Corps through Joint Application and/or Joint Public Notice**



- **Programmatic General Permit (PGP) issued by Corps, Shifting Review Responsibility to the State**



- **Adding Categories of Activities to the PGP**



- **Assumption of 404 Program by the State**

WPP Handbook Highlights: Voluntary Restoration and Protection

- Approaches states have taken to identify potential state roles and activities in voluntary restoration and protection
- Common issues and challenges
- Techniques for creating coalitions of partners and interest groups
- Effective technical assistance
- Evaluation and reporting results

WPP Handbook Highlights: Water Quality Standards for Wetlands

- Five key steps EPA has identified for developing wetland standards
- Approaches in state WPPs for wetland-specific designated uses, narrative and numeric criteria to support those wetland uses
- Common issues and challenges
- Ways to incorporate wetland standards into decision-making



WPP Handbook Highlights: Additional WPP Components

- Public education and outreach
- Sustainable financing
- Cultural knowledge and wetland programs
- Changing environmental conditions



Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin

WPP Handbook Highlights: Cross-Cutting Wetland Program Considerations

- Integrating wetland programs with other state initiatives
- Developing partnerships
- Long-term planning including training new staff
- Updating a WPP



Photo by Dean Pennala in Michigan

State Wetland Program Summaries



National Association of Wetland Managers
Protecting the Nation's Wetlands

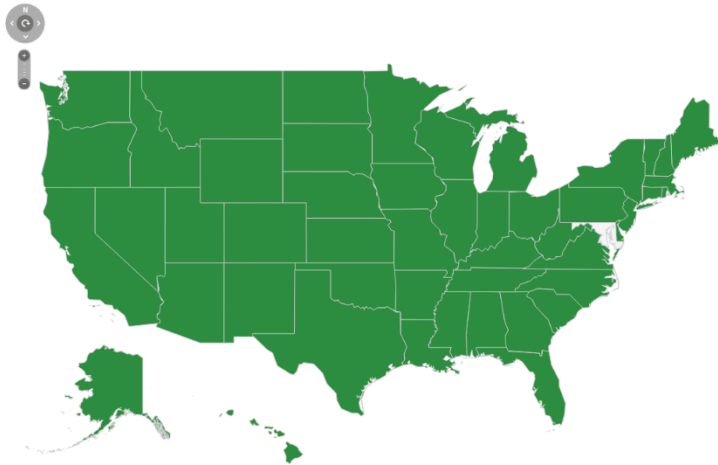
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State Program Summaries

The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) conducted a study of state-level wetland work in all fifty states. NAWM's national study was designed to: 1) assess status and trends; 2) identify models and lessons learned; and 3) document information and program development needs. Information gathered for each state included a focus on status of work towards each of EPA's four Core Elements. Data collection was completed for a snapshot of the year 2014.

Please click on a state below to view the State Summaries.



Available at <https://nawm.org/wetland-programs/state-wetland-programs/state-program-summaries.html>



State Wetland Program Summaries

2015

Oregon State Wetland Program Summary



[Click Here to Skip to Oregon's Information about Wetland:](#)

- [Regulation](#)
- [Monitoring & Assessment](#)
- [Water Quality Standards](#)
- [Voluntary Restoration](#)
- [Education and Outreach](#)
- [Integration with Other Programs](#)

Photo Title: Wood River Wetland; Photo Credit: Kurt Carpenter, USGS

Section A. Quick View

Description of State's Wetlands

Oregon has mostly wet meadows and wet prairies, as well as a lot of seasonal wetlands. The state's diverse wetlands can be classified into 15 generalized types, including alkaline wetlands, aquatic beds, fens, forested wetlands, freshwater marshes, freshwater tidal wetlands, salt marshes and brackish marshes, serpentine fens, shrub swamps and shrub riparian, snowbed depressions, spay zones, springs, vernal pools, wet meadows and wet prairies. A large percentage of these areas are in agricultural production.

State Definition of Wetlands

Oregon uses a state definition identical to the federal definition of wetlands (ORS.196.800(16)).

Historic Wetland Loss/Gain

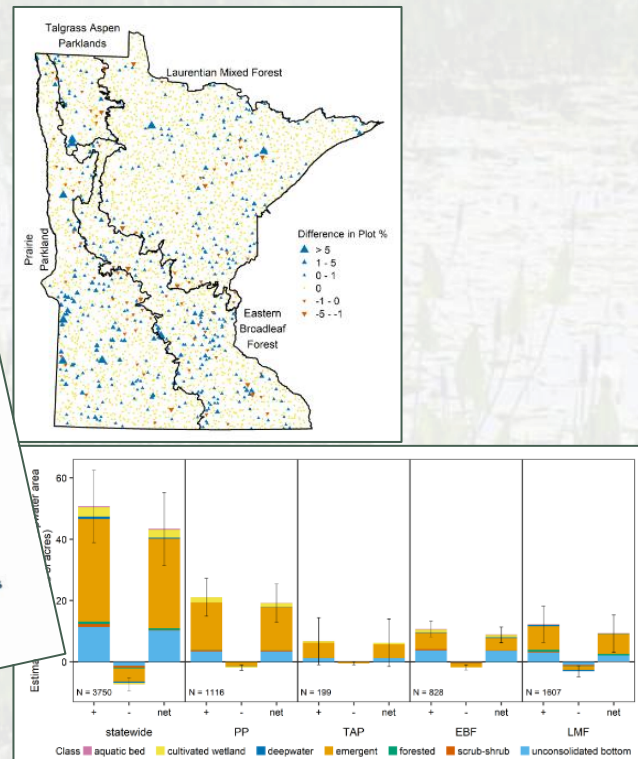
Original Wetland Acreage	Remaining Wetland Acreage	Acreage Lost	% Lost
2,262,000	1,393,900	868,100	38%

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service (Dahl, 1989)

Many updates since 2015!

- No longer pursuing assumption of CWA 404 program
- Developed a Stream Function Assessment Protocol
- Refinement of Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment protocol
- Built up mitigation program, including refining Aquatic Resources Mitigation Framework
- Updated and enhanced map viewers and online tools

Monitoring and Assessment



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Wisconsin - Minnesota Wetland Functional Assessment Initiative

Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking

Wisconsin - Minnesota Wetland Functional Assessment Initiative

404 Assumption

Minnesota Stream Quantification Tool and Debit Calculator

Waters of the U.S.

The Wisconsin - Minnesota Wetland Functional Assessment Initiative is an effort to develop wetland functional assessment tools that can be used in Wisconsin and Minnesota to assist in wetland regulatory implementation and for other wetland conservation and planning purposes as applicable.

Progress

- [Memorandum of Understanding between Wisconsin DNR and BWSR](#) completed and steering committee of representatives from the Wisconsin Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and St. Paul District Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) formed in fall 2020.
- Goals and objectives defined in February 2021 [Steering Committee Document No. 1](#).
- Received Wetland Program Development Grant from EPA Region 5 in summer 2021.
- Technical advisory teams for each of 5 functional groups established in summer 2021. An informational webinar for [Technical Team members](#) was held on September 21, 2021.
- Consultant (Santec) hired through RFP bid process in January 2022 to assist with effort.
- Technical advisory team meetings held summer/fall 2022.
- Field testing prototype method occurred in fall 2023 and spring 2024.
- Initial draft and public notice [hearer](#).

Other Information

This webpage will be used to post draft documents for peer review as they are developed.

Project Leads

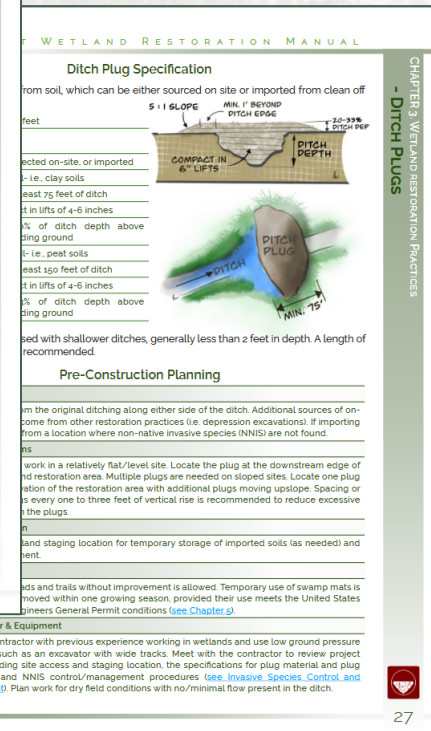
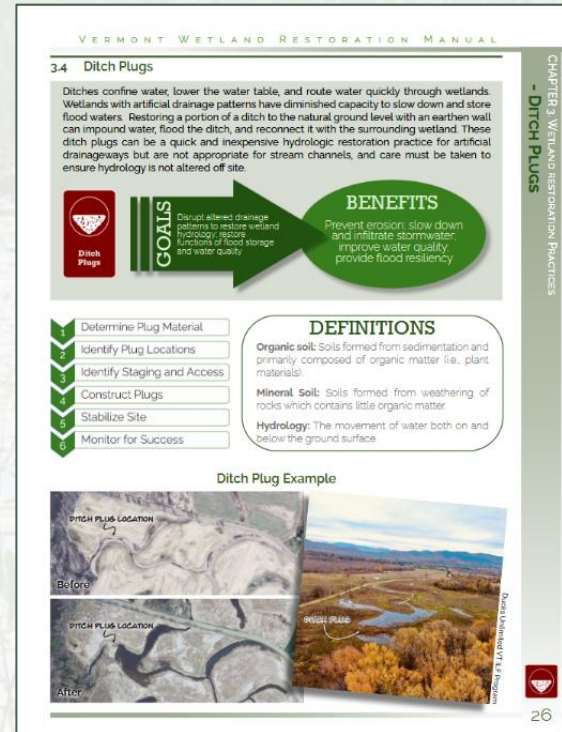
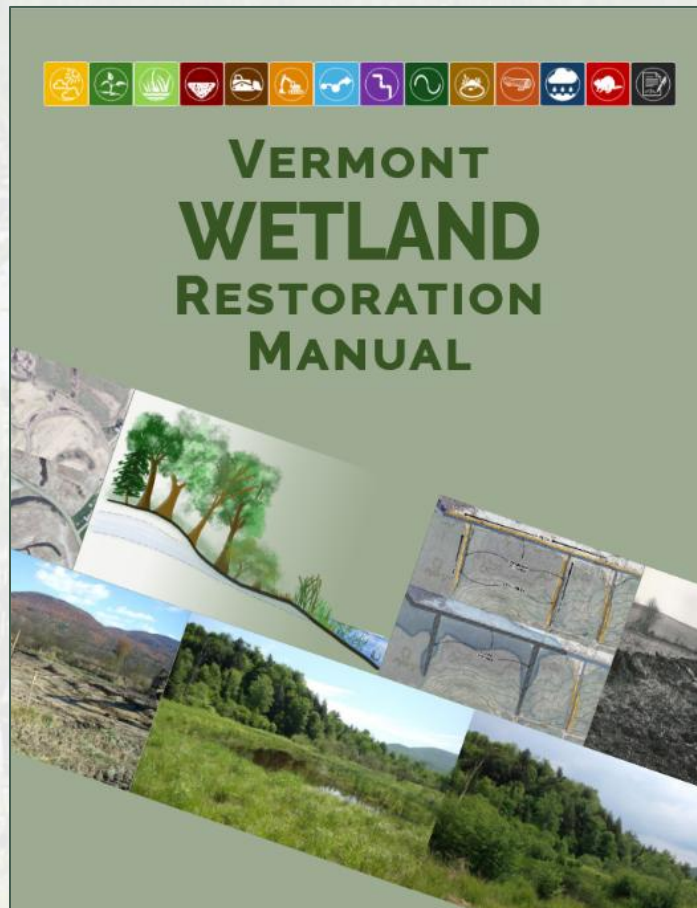
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Available at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/wetland-functional-assessment>

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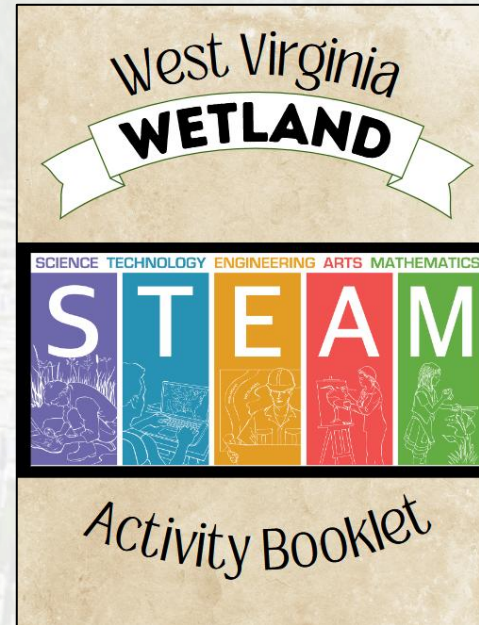
Voluntary Restoration and Protection



Available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/protect/restore>



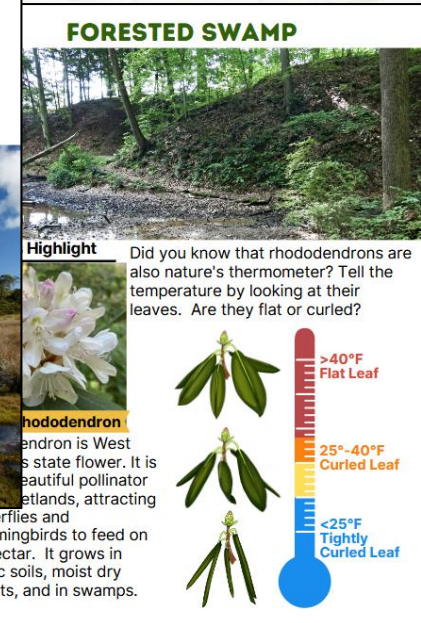
Education and Outreach



INTRODUCING WETLANDS

What is a wetland?

A wetland is an area that is flooded or saturated with water at least part of the growing season, resulting in unique soils and specially adapted wetland plants and animals. Common wetland habitats in West Virginia include forested swamps, shrub swamps, emergent wetlands, aquatic beds, fens, and open ponds.



Available at <https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/getinvolved/Pages/Wetland-Resources-Guide.aspx>



Coming Soon:

- **Updated 50 State Wetland Program Summaries**
- **New Status and Trends of State Wetland Programs Report** including a comparative analysis of how state programs have changed since 2014



Keep up with Policy Changes

NAWM's monthly note to states and tribes provides a summary of the latest policy updates for wetland program managers.

Monthly policy note will be a member-only benefit beginning January 2027.

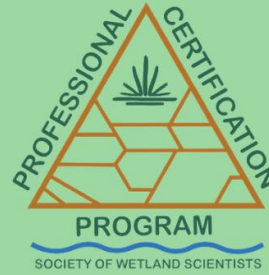
NAWM Trainings and Technical Assistance

- State and Tribal Wetland Meetings and Trainings
 - Regional Wetland Meetings/Trainings
 - Region 5 Tribal Wetlands Working Group
 - Tribal Clean Water Act Trainings
- Beaver-Related Restoration Webinar Series and Resource Guide
- Delaware Freshwater Wetlands Program Support
- Toolkit for Local Government Wetland Protections





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WETLAND
SCIENTISTS



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RESOURCE & SUPPORT HUB



**Mentors needed! Application
deadline extended to Sept. 14**

*Step up to help guide the
next generations of
wetland professionals!*

Mentee applications will open
in September 2026
Program runs Jan-Dec 2027



Thank You!

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