



Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc.

CURRENT RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Recent Publications and Reports

Challenges & Solutions in Coastal Wetlands: Findings, Gaps & Priorities (October 2016)

This white paper is divided into three topic areas addressing major threats to coastal wildlife. The three subject matter areas include: (1) wetland protection and management; (2) wetland restoration; and (3) natural coastal defenses. This paper is the final product of a one-year grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program and is intended to identify gaps and priorities that can be addressed in future years by the Association of State Wetland Managers and other organizations. Our goal for this project was to identify specific actions likely to reduce coastal wetland losses, improve wetland health, and increase coastal wetland acreage to support vital habitat and ecosystem services for coastal wildlife.

Governmental Liability and Climate Change: Selected Issues for Wetland and Floodplain Managers (April 2016)

This paper is one of several by the author to help government wetland and floodplain managers understand their potential legal liability for failing to consider climate change in their programs or for incorporating strengthened flood loss reduction standards reflecting climate change in their zoning, building codes, subdivision and other regulations.

Legal Issues in Upgrading Flood Maps to Reflect Climate Change, Other Changed Conditions (April 2016)

Governments will, over time, need to upgrade flood hazard maps to reflect climate change, urbanization, erosion and sedimentation and other watershed changes. Will governments face legal problems with such upgrading? How can governments avoid legal problems?

Definition of Wetland, Floodplain, Riparian “Functions” and “Values” (April 2016)

State and federal wetland regulatory programs typically include an overall goal to prevent net loss of wetland “functions”, and “values”. See, examples of functions and values in Appendices A and C. However, there is only partial agreement among regulators and other wetland managers concerning the use of these terms. This paper explores the use of the terms “function” and “value” and makes suggestions for future use of these terms.

Protecting and Restoring Riparian Areas (March 2016)

This paper briefly examines the functions and values of “riparian” areas. It suggests some priority measures states, local governments, federal agencies, and not for profit organizations can take to better protect and restore riparian areas.

Model “Riparian” Protection Ordinance (March 2016)

The model ordinance provided in this paper is designed to help local communities develop their own “riparian” ordinance and has been prepared as a “stand alone” ordinance. However critical provisions could be extracted for inclusion in broader ordinances.

Status and Trends Report on State Wetland Programs in the United States (October 2015)

ASWM’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 includes a focus on status of programmatic elements, focusing on EPA’s Core Elements Framework. In addition to the report, a clickable map on ASWM’s Wetland Program Webpage allows users to access individual state summaries for each of the 50 states.



Wetlands and Climate Change: Considerations for Wetland Program Managers (July 2015)

This paper explores the relationships between wetland management and climate mitigation and adaptation. These relationships are divided into three categories: the impacts of climate change on wetland ecosystems; the role of wetlands in mitigating the impact of climate change; and the role of wetlands in supporting adaptation to climate change impacts.

Uses of Wetland Monitoring and Assessment: Considerations for State and Tribal Programs (June 2015)

This report explores the various ways that states and tribes could make better use of existing monitoring and assessment methods to obtain science-based answers to wetland management problems. While it provides an overview of many common approaches to wetland monitoring, the focus is primarily on *why* these methods are selected for a given purpose.

Report on State Definitions, Jurisdiction and Mitigation Requirements in State Programs for Ephemeral, Intermittent and Perennial Streams in the United States (April 2014)

This report discusses the findings from ASWM's national study on stream identification, delineation and mitigation in the United States. The project interviewed state staff from 47 states and provides both a comparative analysis and information on individual states.

Ecosystem Service Valuation for Wetland Restoration: What It Is, How to Do It, and Best Practice Recommendations (2014)

This paper is intended to assist those interested in using ecosystem service valuation to promote wetland restoration by: explaining what ecosystem service valuation is; framing it within the history of wetland science and policy; identifying available methods and tools; offering examples of use through case studies of watershed and/or wetland restoration projects that have utilized ecosystem service valuation; and providing recommendations for using ecosystem service valuation within the context of wetland restoration.

Current Resources and Activities

Wetlands One-Stop Mapping – This section of our website provides comprehensive information and links to geospatial data on wetlands, soils and related information. It also includes important information about Federal mapping standards and a page dedicated to wetland mapping training with educational training videos. Included is a 2013 summary of the status of state wetland mapping efforts and examples of the long list of ways wetland maps are used to support decision making for agriculture, transportation planning wildlife conservation, wetland restoration, permitting and more.

Members' Wetland Webinar Series – ASWM hosts an exclusive wetland webinar series available to members only. Members may participate and also have access to recordings of past webinars, such as the recently held webinars on incorporating wetlands into watershed planning. These webinars offer our members the opportunity to listen and engage with wetland science, policy and legal experts, and learn from the experience of other wetland professionals throughout the nation. Monthly webinars cover science, legal and policy issues.

Wetland Mapping Consortium – The Association of State Wetland Managers is a founding member of the Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC), an interdisciplinary group of wetland scientists, mappers and wetland managers interested in mapping and monitoring wetlands with remotely sensed images and/or using the resultant products to better manage wetland resources. The WMC Steering Committee organizes bi-monthly webinars on topics of interest to the group. These webinars are open to anyone and are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. eastern time. Recorded past webinars are available on our website for free download.

Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance – ASWM is a founding member of the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA), an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including wetlands and coastlines. Members share information and may elect to coordinate actions on issues of interest, but the NFFA does not take formal positions on matters of national policy, guidance or legislation. The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) holds bimonthly events in a combined webinar and conference call format which are generally scheduled for 3:00 p.m. ET on the second Tuesday of each month. Recorded past webinars are available on our website for free download.

Forthcoming Publications and Reports

- Wetland Restoration: Contemporary Issues & Lessons Learned
- Success Recommendations for Wetland Education Curricula
- Best Practices for State Wetland Monitoring & Assessment Programs

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Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc.
32 Tandberg Trail, Suite 2A, Windham, ME 04062 207-892-3399 Fax: 207-892-3089
E-mail: laura@aswm.org Visit our website for updates: <http://aswm.org>