

LOUISIANA & THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

NOVEMBER 2013

Wetland Summary

Wetlands are a major source of income for the people of Louisiana, providing revenues from harvesting of fish and shellfish, trapping, and recreation. Most of the State's wetlands are freshwater swamps, but the area of coastal marsh is substantial: Louisiana's coastal marshes represent as much as 40 percent of the coastal marshes in the United States. Wetlands once covered more than one-half of the area that is now Louisiana, but wetland acreage has declined to less than one-third of the State's land surface over the last 200 years. The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Program implements specific projects to conserve, enhance, restore, and create coastal wetlands.

Distinctive Example of NWI Usage in Louisiana

In 2011, NWI maps were updated for three refuges in Louisiana with funds from the Refuge System Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program. The refuges were D'Arbonne, Black Bayou Lake, and Upper Ouchita NWRs, covering 300,000 acres. Additional Refuge System funding was received in FY 2011 to update 726,000 acres for the Cache River NWR in Arkansas. All of these refuges manage wetlands that support a variety of species, including waterfowl and other migratory birds. In FY 12, 11 million acres of wetland scalable data were generated in Arkansas and Louisiana that previously remained unmapped or no data existed.

Identified Uses of NWI In Louisiana



LEGEND

How the NWI has been used:

-  Agricultural Planning & Conservation
-  Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Planning
-  Development, Real Estate & Permitting Decisions
-  Energy Project Siting Decisions
-  Enforcement & Legal Defense
-  Hurricane, Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Planning
-  Military Installation Assessment
-  Transportation Planning
-  Water Quality & Watershed Management Projects
-  Wetland Restoration, Monitoring & Assessment
-  Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

For the most up-to-date wetland mapping information, please contact the state contact(s) listed below:

Karl Morgan, Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management

www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=85&ngid=5

