

MISSOURI & THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

OCTOBER 2013

Wetland Summary

Missouri's wetlands occupy 643,000 acres, about 1.4 percent of the State's area. Swamps and other forested wetlands, marshes and fens, and shrub swamps constitute most of the wetland acreage. Missouri's location on the Mississippi Flyway makes the State a favored wintering area for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and other birds, including bald eagles. Missouri has lost as much as 4.2 million acres (87 percent) of its original wetlands. Most wetland loss has been due to agricultural conversions, urban development, and flood control measures. The State developed a wetland-management plan to guide its efforts in the restoration and management of wetlands until the year 2000.

Distinctive Example of NWI Usage in Missouri

The Hine's Emerald Dragonfly is the only federally listed dragonfly protected under the Endangered Species Act. Part of the recovery plan was to conduct surveys in appropriate wetland habitat, mostly small fens crawfish burrows. Areas for surveys include states where the species currently exists, states where it existed historically, and neighboring states, 24 in total. At the end of the 2004 survey in Missouri, it was generally understood that all known high quality fens had been searched and that it was unlikely additional population sites would be discovered. In 2005, using National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) digital wetlands maps data for a 10-county area, the Columbia Missouri Field Office looked for unknown fens. With partner Missouri Department of Conservation running a GIS (geographic information system) analysis looking at NWI code PEMB (palustrine freshwater wetland with emergent vegetation and saturated soil), the Field Office was able to identify numerous potential sites with appropriate habitat that were unknown to conservation agencies in the state. LIDAR data is being collected in various parts of the state. The LIDAR data is being considered for use to enhance the NWI in Missouri. A status map of LIDAR production in Missouri is available from the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service at www.msdis.missouri.edu/data/lidar/.

Identified Uses of NWI In Missouri



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 contacts listed below:

Charles DuCharme, Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources; www.dnr.mo.gov

Frank Nelson, Missouri Dept. of Conservation; www.mdc.mo.gov

