



The National Wetland Inventory at 50!

National Association of Wetland Managers Webinar

June 24th, 2025



Congratulations!

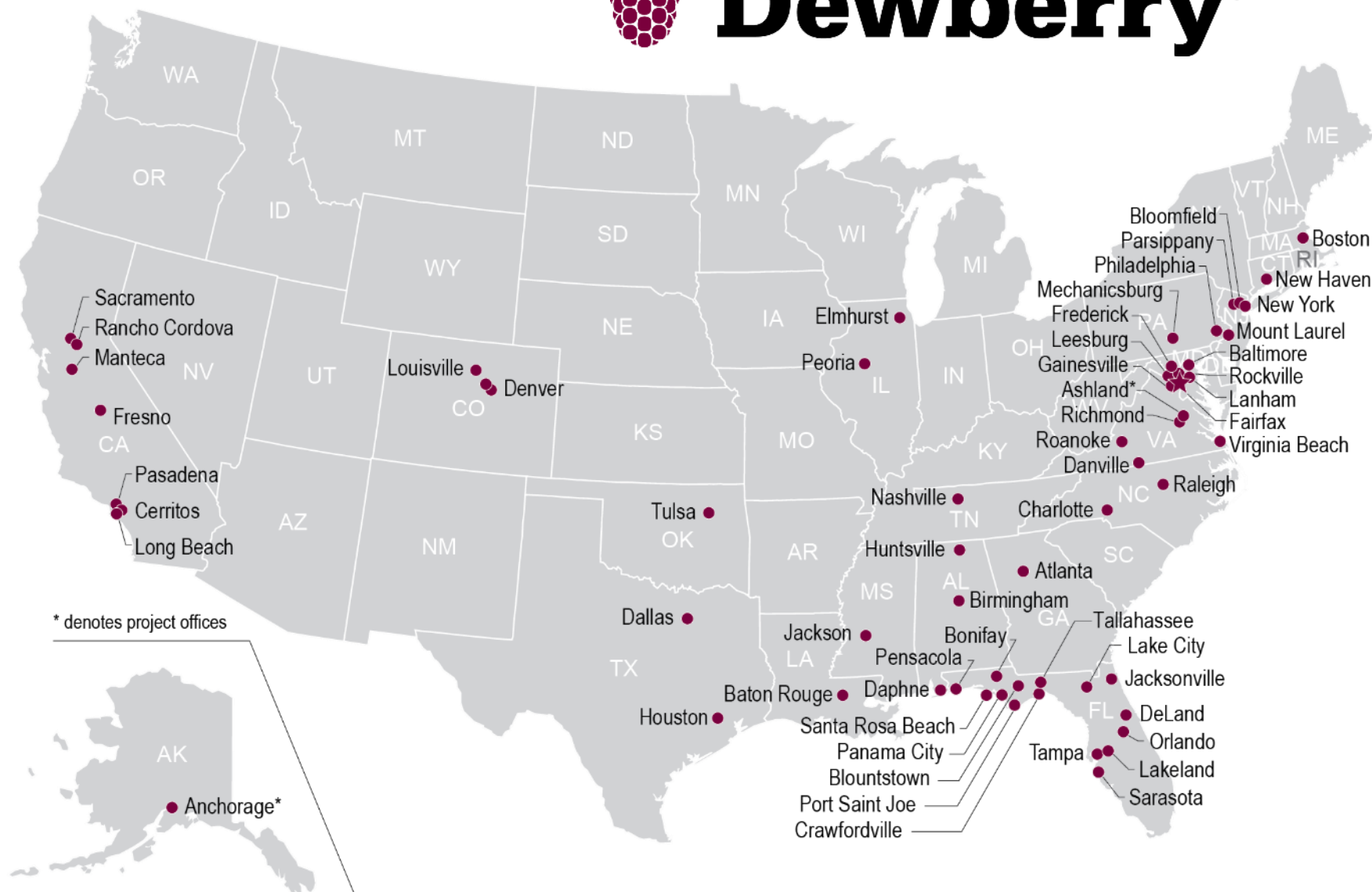
- 50 years of conservation
- 50 years of information
- 50 years of education
- 50 years of management
- 50 years of research
- 50 years of policy



helping clients build
and shape communities



Dewberry®



How do we use NWI data?

- **Land Use and Infrastructure Planning**

- Guides agriculture, transportation, and utility planning
- Early detection & avoidance of these areas saves tons of time & money
- Using wetlands as an indicator for animal habitat informs project design

- **Watershed & Floodplain Management**

- Enhances flood risk assessments in FEMA hazard mitigation projects

- **Storm & Surge Modeling**

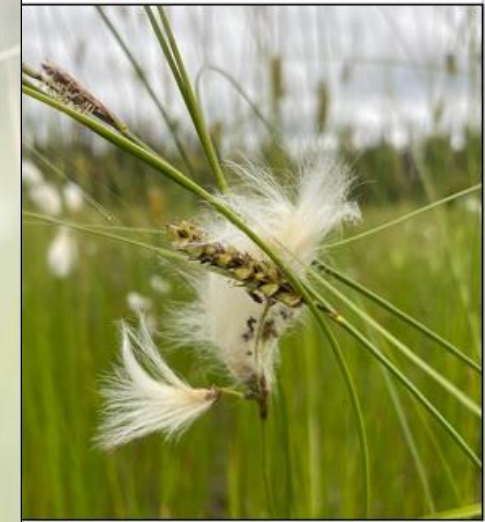
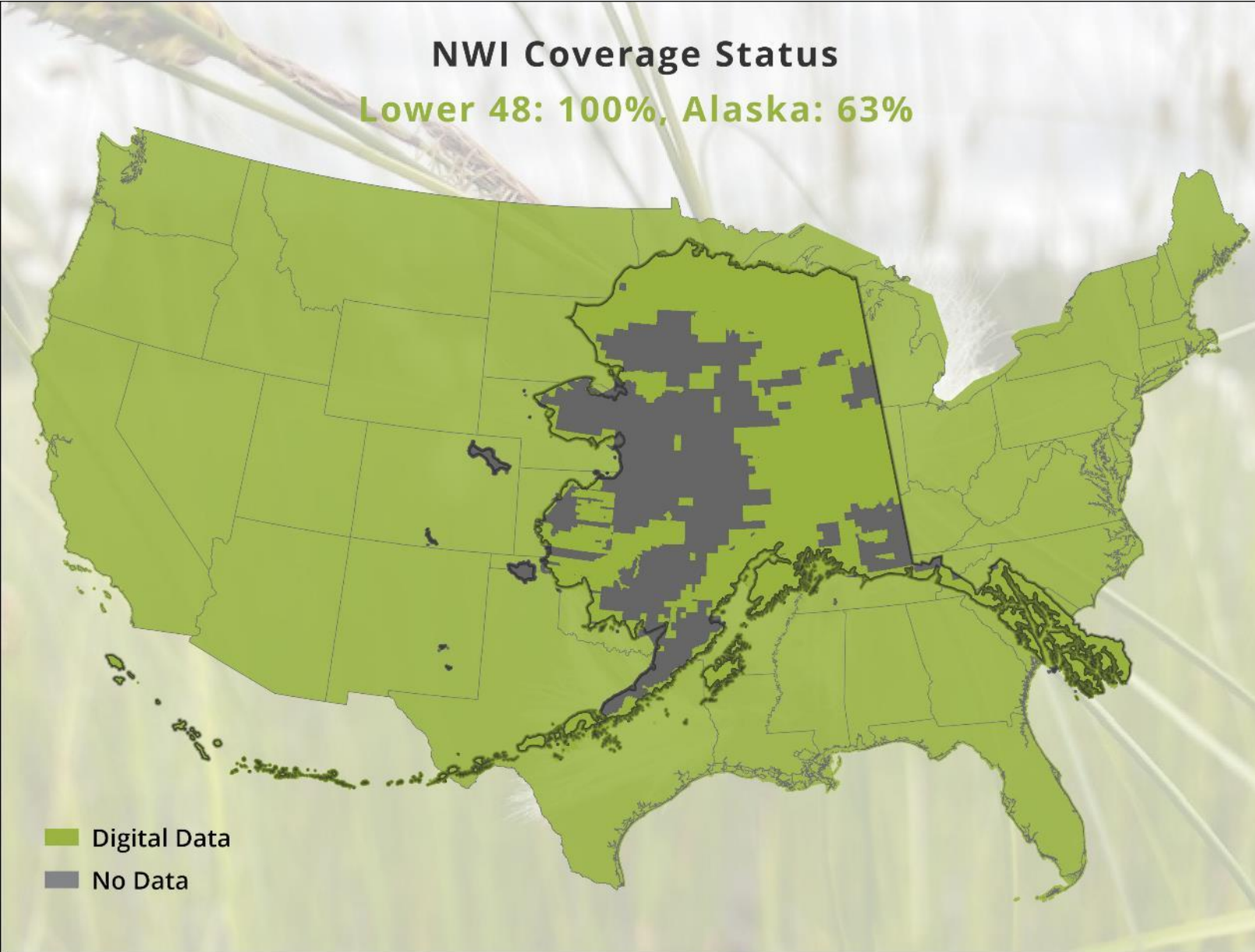
- How much precipitation / coastal surge can a landscape absorb?



What Makes NWI Data Unique?

- **Standardized Classification using the Cowardin System**
 - Wetland type, water regime, vegetation, substrate...etc.
 - Includes more detail than other land cover datasets
- **Provides Insight into Function & Ecology**
 - More than just the presence/absence of wetlands
- **Polygonal Geometry (not just points/pixels)**
 - Lends itself to area calculations for impact analysis or overlays
- **Professional Methods for Data Development**
 - High-resolution imagery interpretation + field verification






When New Industry Looks at Doing Business in Alaska, they ask ...

- **Where** are the...customers, fisheries, mineral deposits?
- **Who** owns the land?
- **Where** are the nearest roads/bridges/ports/rail/utilities?
- **What** permits are required for this area and type of project?

ALL these questions need to be EASILY answered, before they can secure investors and move to design phase.



Industry does a lot of **looking around** before they decide to invest in Alaska.

Let's make it easy for them to find the info they need!



Photos from Bering Glacier NWI/EDH Project



Thank you!

Phil Thiel pthiel@dewberry.com

Hillary Palmer hpalmer@dewberry.com