Ducks Unlimited



Jes Skillman



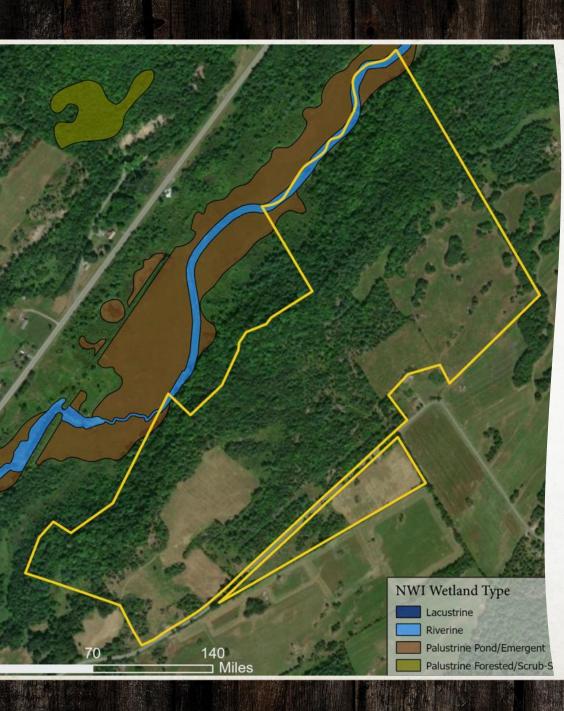




Conservation Through: 1938 Acres: 26,000 Acres Conserved (per 8,000 sq. km)

1 - 999

- 1,000 9,999
- 10,000 99,999
- 100,000 +



How DU Uses NWI

(some examples)

- Grant Proposals
- DU's International Conservation Priorities
- Status and Trends assess landscape status
- Guide Land Protection in other decision support tools (e.g. Montezuma, Hackmatack)



American Black Duck DUCKS Decision Support Tool

Prioritize landscape conservation for black ducks and other dabbling ducks within the black duck non-breeding range.



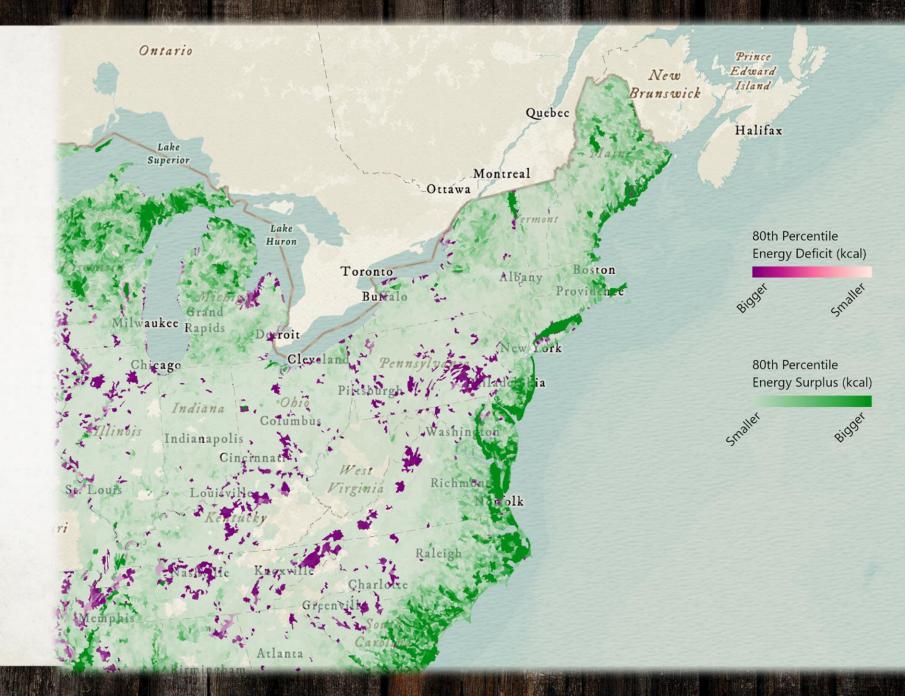
HOW?

Spatially model the bioenergetics of nine dabbling ducks



NWI used to model energy availability





DU National Wetlands Inventory Project Status Dashboard

Select a category

=



Project Status



Saint Mary's University of Minnesota: GeoSpatial Services



Andy Robertson



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory

Andy Robertson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota NAWM Wetland Mapping Consortium 06/24/2025





GeoSpatial Services – Saint Mary's



Who We Are

And integration of academic apprenticeship with focused professional development applying spatial technologies. Largest national producer of NWI over the past 20 years



New Mexico Wetland Jewels





What Are NM Wetland Jewels





- Comprised of either a single wetland or a complex of several wetlands occurring in a distinct geographic area.
- Provide several important ecological functions to the terrestrial and aquatic landscape as well as to downstream communities.
- A tool to build ecological and community resilience in the face of climate change.

Why Protect Wetland Jewels



Wetland Jewels are a keystone element of action to foster resilient, interconnected, landscape-scale ecological and community systems.

- Maintain stream flow essential for irrigation and wildlife
- Create habitat for wildlife & ranchland use
- Provide clean water for downstream communities
- Mitigate the risk of flooding
- Reduce climate impacts drought, earlier runoff, wildfire







Geospatialservices.org | Educating Our Future

An Adaptive Mapping Process

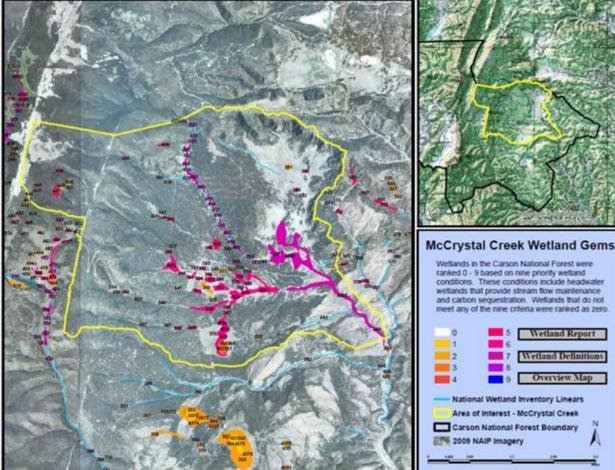


New mapping technologies are just one of the tools available with National Wetland Inventory data production

Mapping process key elements:

- Derived layers and surfaces (automation)
- Ancillary spatial datasets
- Productivity tools
- Collaboration and quality control





Stakeholder Engagement

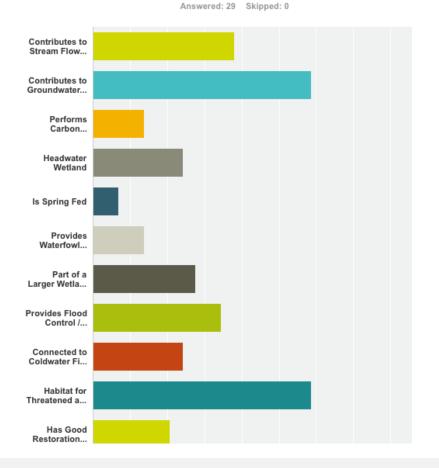
Facilitate stakeholder engagement meetings and outreach:

- Discussion and educational materials used to ensure understanding
- A Dot-Voting approach was used to gain consensus
- Online Survey Monkey and Spanish translation
- Results were tallied and presented for final consensus





What do you think are the most important functions/characteristics of wetlands in the Santa Fe National Forest? Please check your top 4 wetland characteristics.



Geospatialservices.org | Educating Our Future

Applications of Wetland Jewel Data



- Prioritize maintenance and restoration actions.
- Prohibit activities (motorized recreation, mining, new roads, transmission lines)
- Prioritize reclamation of non-system roads/trails
- Coordination with livestock grazing and identify opportunities to leverage Wetland Jewel protections to improve rangeland health and productivity.
- Develop, implement, and enforce amplified standards and guidelines.



Carson National Forest Wetland Jewels

Take time to click through the pages on the left (scroll down to see all 17 pages) and learn about the Wetland Jewels inside the Carson National Forest. Absorb the landscape through photos, explore the wetlands using interactive maps, and learn about why the Carson National Forest wetlands are a vital component to the surrounding ecosystem!

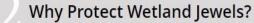


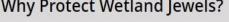
What are Wetland Jewels?

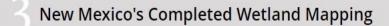
Wetland Jewels can be comprised of either a single wetland or a complex of several wetlands occurring in a discrete geographic area of national forest lands. These wetlands provide several important ecological functions to the terrestrial and aquatic landscape.

Due to their critically important ecological and community role, we have identified Wetland Jewels in the Carson National Forest to not only bring attention to their importance but to secure their long-term protection and restoration.

Ultimately, Wetland Jewels can be used as a tool to build ecological and community resilience in the face of climate change.

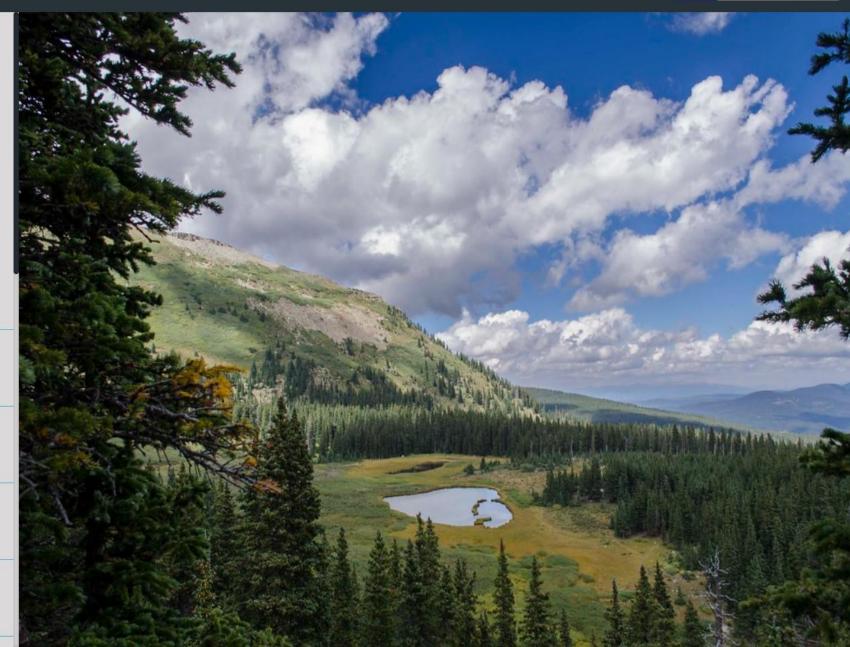






What are Priority Wetland Functions?

How Were Wetland Jewels Identified?



Carson National Forest Wetland Jewels

Take time to click through the pages on the left (scroll down to see all 17 pages) and learn about the Wetland Jewels inside the Carson National Forest. Absorb the landscape through photos, explore the wetlands using interactive maps, and learn about why the Carson National Forest wetlands are a vital component to the surrounding ecosystem!



Serpent Lake

Valle Vidal

Valle Vidal Area: 9,794.49 acres Total Wetland Area inside Valle Vidal: 761.37 acres

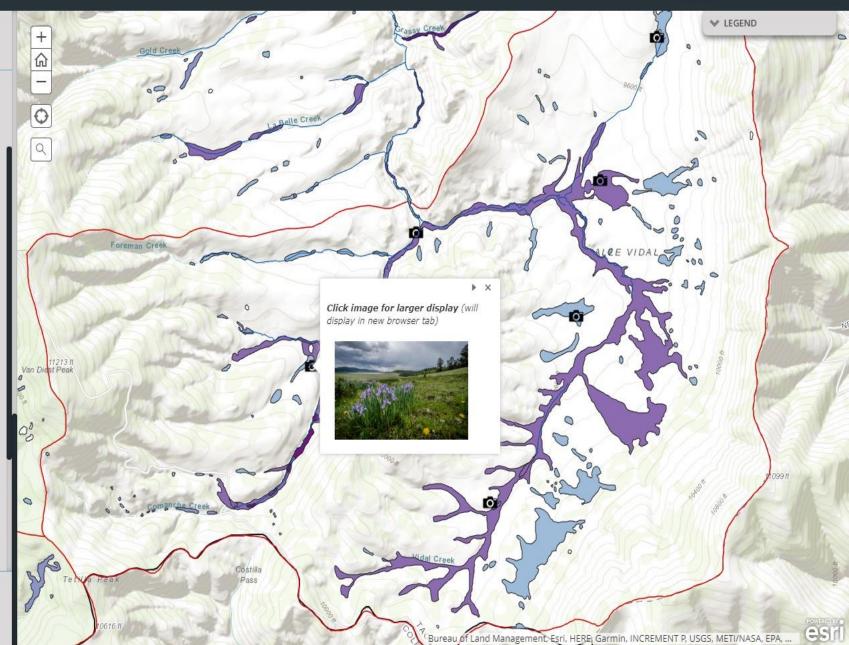
Click on a wetland to access its pop-up window for more information such as wetland classification and total functionality.

Several dense stands of decades-old aspen crown bold domes of rock overlooking the Valle Vidal AOI. The view looking south across the iris-dotted meadows are some of the highest peaks in New Mexico including snow-capped Wheeler and blue Touch-Me-Not, creating a stunning backdrop to this broad wet meadow. Ricegrass and grama grass on the edges of the meadow mix with penstemons, columbines, and paintbrush. Sedges, marsh marigold, yellow buttercup, and clover can all be found in the sponge-like meadows that flow towards Vidal Creek.

The Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest has been called the Yellowstone of the Southwest' due to its abundance of wildlife and the broad open meadows. Over 2,500 elk roam the area as do black bear, turkey, bobcat, mountain lion, and bison. Bird-life includes the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and dozens of other species that help make this a top bird-watching area. The Valle Vidal is also home to the endangered northern leopard frog and the rare Rio Grande cutthroat trout. There are several threatened or sensitive wildlife species found among this nearly 800-

17

Explore the Carson National Forest Wetland Jewels











"Dating back to the tribe's earliest years, environmental stewardship included wide-ranging efforts to protect, preserve, and conserve groundwater and surface

water resources."

"Our lives are aligned with the changing seasons"

"A culture that is intertwined with

its natural surroundings"



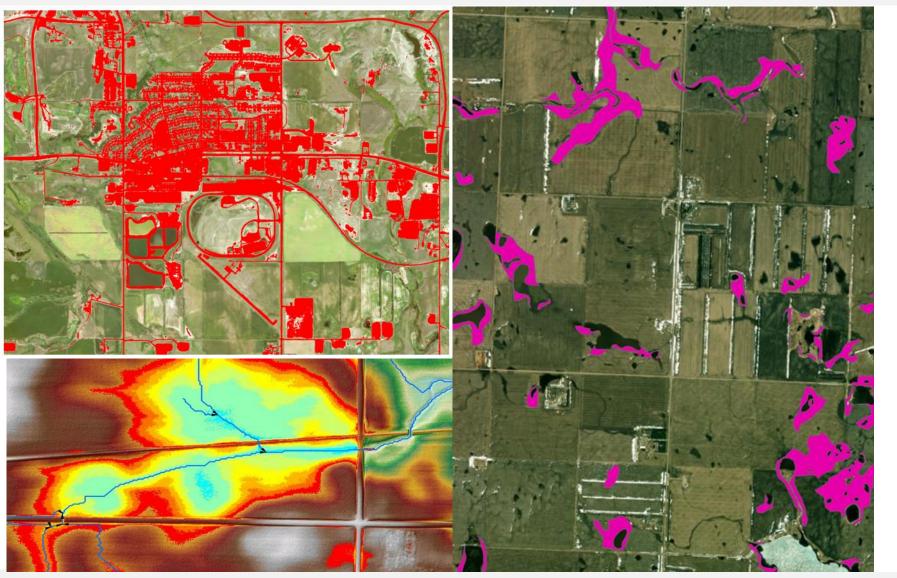












Uses of Plants by the Hidatsas of the Northern Plains

GILBERT LIVINGSTON WILSON Edited and annotated by Michael Scullin



University of Nebraska Press Lincoln & London





Contact

Andy Robertson Executive Director GeoSpatial Services Saint Mary's University of MN aroberts@smumn.edu 507-457-8746

The Pew Charitable Trusts



Alex Moya



Mike Wissner



Celebrating 50 Years of the National Wetlands Inventory Program The Pew Charitable Trusts



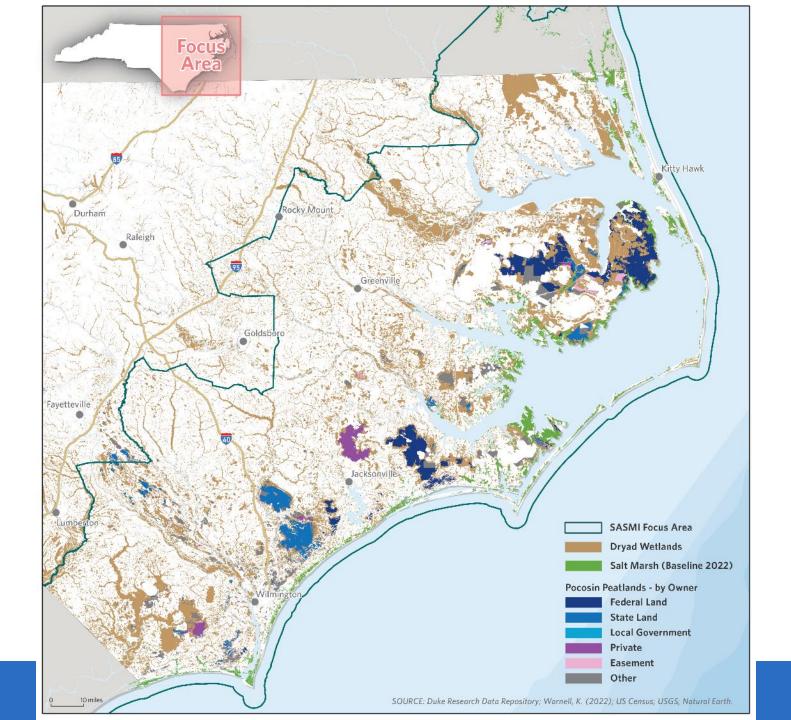
June 24, 2025

How Pew Uses the National Wetland Inventory

- U.S. Conservation program advances commonsense, collaborative solutions that account for the impacts of a changing environment on nature & communities
- We are a data-driven organization and rely on research and science to achieve our goals
- Protecting and restoring coastal wetlands & peatlands to curb carbon pollution, support coastal resilience
- "You manage what you measure" leveraging national data (NWI, CCAP) to help states understand coastal wetland and peatland extent as a basis for carbon estimates

U.S. peatlands mapping project – conservation & restoration hotspots
Understanding change: leveraging "Status & Trends" to advance policies and funding to

conserve at-risk wetlands (e.g., saltwater wetlands, forested tidal wetlands)



Pew

Dewberry



Phil Thiel



Hillary Palmer

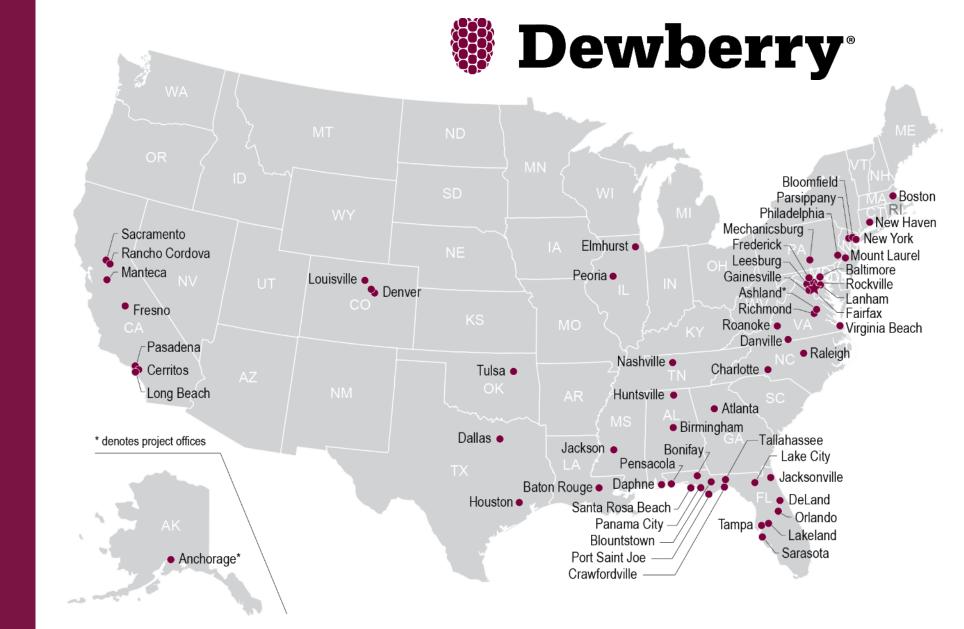




>55 LOCATIONS nationwide

Providing
ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION
ENVIRONMENTAL
GEOSPATIAL
services

helping clients build and shape communities



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?



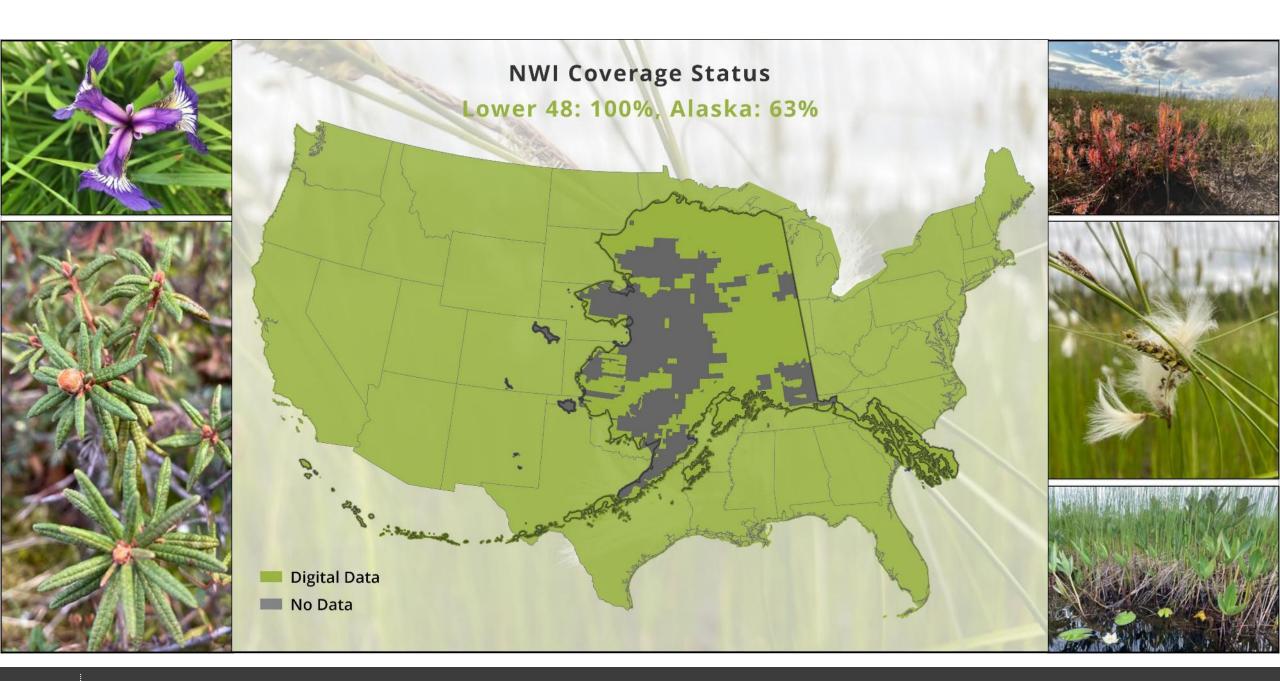
What Makes NWI Data Unique?

- 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.







Thank you!

Phil Thiel pthiel@dewberry.com

Hillary Palmer hpalmer@dewberry.com

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Mark Biddle



How Delaware Benefits from National Wetland Inventory Data



Mark Biddle, PWS

Environmental Program Manager Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



NAWM Webinar - Celebrating 50 years of NWI 6.24.2025

The National Wetlands Inventory Proves Valuable in Assessing Wetland Protection, Health, and Function in Delaware.

Three Examples of Use:

1. Periodic mapping and inventory including status and trends.

2. Comparing wetland health with functional prediction



3. Evaluating regulatory protection with changing federal jurisdiction.



Spotted Water Hemlock (Cicuta maculata) **B.Haywood**

Imagery: Only a snapshot in time – degree of wetness varies



NWI Version 2 methodology

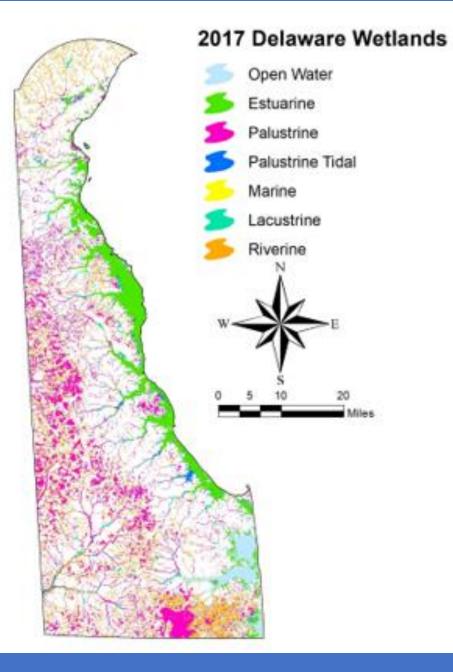
Mapped wetland and deepwater habitats as in past and applied Cowardin et al. (1979) to all polygonal features

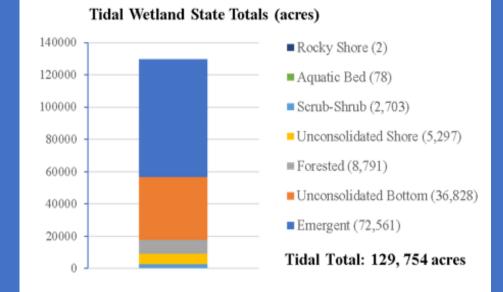
Incorporated hydrography data (NHD) into the mapping for a comprehensive data set of all wetlands and surface waters

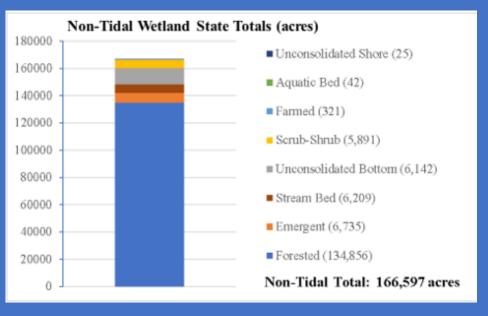
Hydrography data became separate polygons

Allows for more accurate adaptive management, geospatial summaries, and modeling









Assessing Wetland Loss, Gain, and Change 2007-2017 (acreage and function)

Mapping provides opportunity to track loss/gain/change over time for spatial extent and functional prediction

Delaware has three Status and Changes reports 1982-1992 (10 years) – 1,905 acres net vegetated loss 1992-2007 (15 years) -- 3,126 acres net vegetated loss 2007-2017 (10 years) – 3,011 acres net vegetated loss

Ability to attribute cause of loss/gain/change



- Have four statewide wetland mapping efforts (1982, 1992, 2007, 2017)
- Status and Changes reports
- Ability to track wetland acreage and change in type, gains and losses
- LLWW can assess at the landscape level the potential of wetlands to perform certain functions

Wetland Functional Analysis

Use of abiotic features to predict wetland functions

LLWW (Tiner, 2003) Landscape Position, Landform, Water Flow Path, Waterbody Type (derived from HGM classification)

First applied in Delaware as part of the 2007 statewide wetland mapping

Ability to predict at landscape level the potential for wetland types to perform 11 functions at a high or moderate level

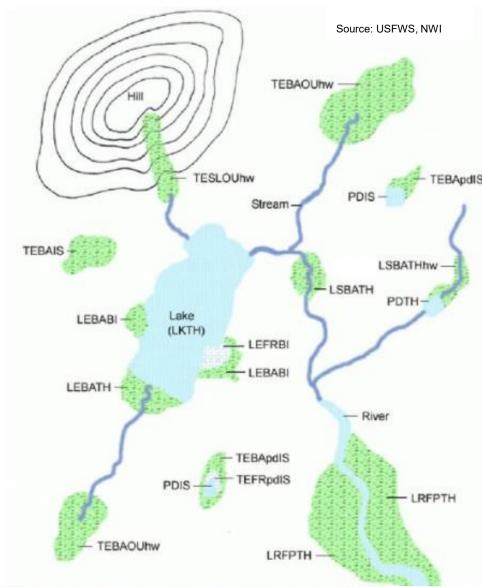


Figure 1. Application of LLWW descriptors to a region with nontidal wetlands. Landscape positions: LR – lotic river, LS – lotic stream, LE – lentic, and TE – terrene; Landforms: BA – basin, FR – fringe, FP – floodplain, SL – Slope; Water flow paths: OU – outflow, IS – isolated, TH – throughflow, BI – bidirectional-nontidal; other descriptors: pd – pond (association), hw – headwater; Waterbodies: PD – pond, LK – lake. Note: Landscape position can be added to lakes and ponds if desirable.

- What if we compared site-level functional condition to the landscape level prediction of functional condition?
- Delaware has completed site-level wetland condition assessments (by HGM type) for all watersheds statewide using HGM based methods (DECAP, DERAP).
- Wetland condition assessments evaluate levels of stressors and disturbance compared to a set of reference wetlands.
- Uses 5 functional categories to determine the Index of Wetland Condition (IWC) that shows how far removed a wetland is from the ability to perform certain functions.

unctional comparison	
<u>USFWS</u>	DNREC
Surface water detention]
Coastal storm surge detention	 Hydrology
Streamflow maintenance	J
Nutrient transformation	
Carbon sequestration	 Biogeochemistry
Sediment retention	
Shoreline stabilization	Plant community
Unique wetland plant community	
Stream shading	1
Waterfowl habitat	- Habitat
Other wildlife habitat	

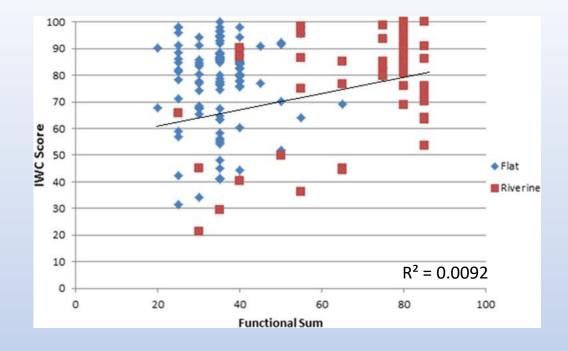
Landscape-level predicts function based on abiotic factors (LLWW) assigning a high or moderate category

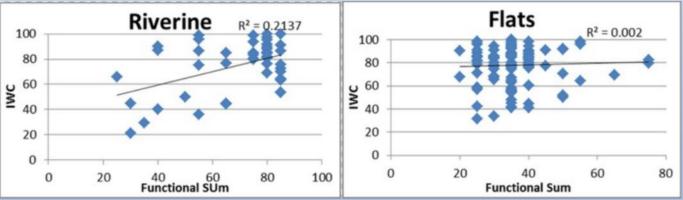
Site-level uses stressors and disturbance to determine function using wetland condition scoring

Comparing categorical rankings (landscape-level) to numeric rankings (site-level) is challenging

For numerical comparison purposes, landscape-level high were given a score of 10, and moderate 5

Allowed for summation of all predicted functions (functional sum) for comparison to site-level scores





** Lack of strong correlation reveals improvement needed In landscape level prediction, however, both methods can Inform the other going forward to improve accuracy.

Post-Sacket Analysis:

- Used NWI and NHD
- Removed any Estuarine or Marine, and all freshwater tidal from NWI data
- Buffered NHD at 1m for a conservative approach
- Established break points for NHD segments
- Further classified categories
 - Isolated NWI polygons
 - Connected NWI polygons
 - Perennial NHD segments (includes artificial and connector)
 - Intermittent polygons
 - Intermittent NHD segments (includes canal/ditch)

Example of grid ditches for drainage



Delaware's Landscape

Lowest lying state in the U.S. 90% Coastal Plain (remainder Piedmont) Large areas poorly and very poorly drained soils Extensive ditching primarily for agricultural drainage



Non-tidal Features

NWI polygons

- Isolated
- Perennial connected
- ☐ (incl. NHD artificial and connector)
- Intermittent not connected
 - (incl. NHD canal/ditch)

NHD segments

Perennial (incl. artificial and connector)

Intermittent (incl. canal/ditch)

** Post Sackett assessment predicted more than 70% of Delaware's nontidal wetlands are left without protection. Provides efficient and cost-friendly data to monitor and assess wetland extent and condition.

Allows for comparing wetland status and trends over time and plan for conservation or restoration efforts.

Supplies data and information enabling more accurate prediction of wetland function across the landscape.

Assists in determining potential changes to regulatory jurisdiction due to changing jurisdictional scope.

Thank you for the opportunity to present and celebrate NWI!

Mark Biddle, PWS Environmental Program Manager Delaware DNREC, Division of Watershed Stewardship Watershed Assessment Section 302-739-9939 <u>Mark.Biddle@delaware.gov</u>



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Missouri Department of Conservation



Frank Nelson



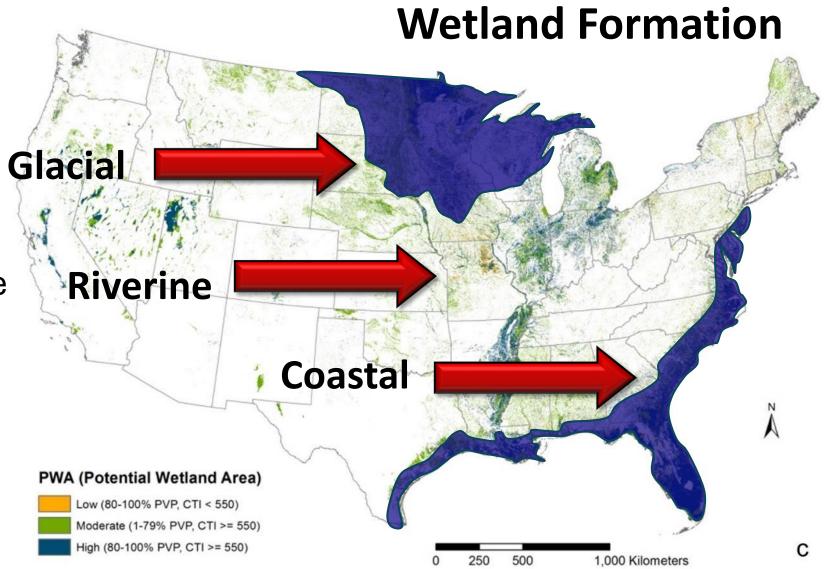
Missouri NWI Critical Linkages

Frank Nelson, Wetland Coordinator, Missouri Dept. of Conservation



Extent of Wetlands in the US

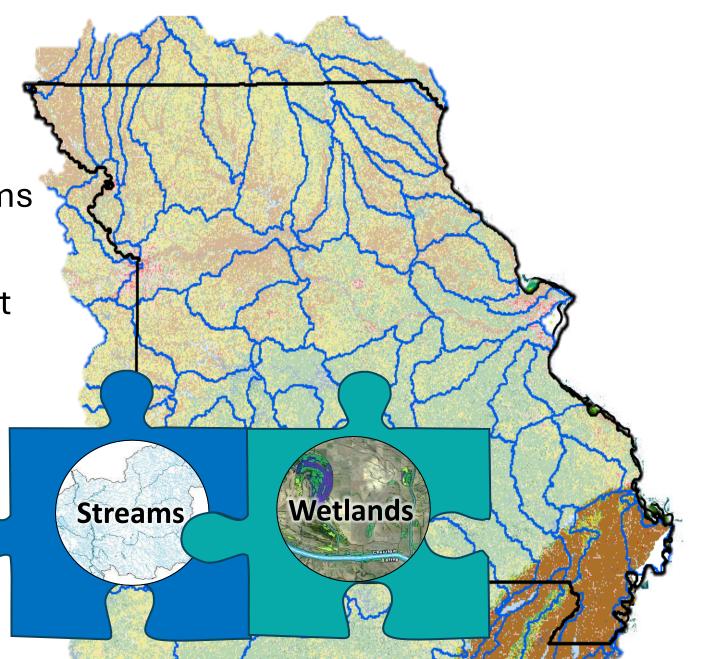
- Wetland extent varies across North America
- Missouri's wetlands shaped by fluvial/riverine processes



Horvath, E.K., Christensen, J.R., Mehaffey, M.H. and Neale, A.C., 2017. Building a potential wetland restoration indicator for the contiguous United States. Ecological indicators, 83,

Extent of Wetlands in Missouri

- Distribution of NWI follows Missouri's Rivers and Streams
- Many fall within the adjacent floodplain and alluvial soils
- And influenced by the land use in the surrounding watersheds



National Blue-Green Digital GIS Infrastructure Geospatial Workhorses across public and private sectors (NHD NWI

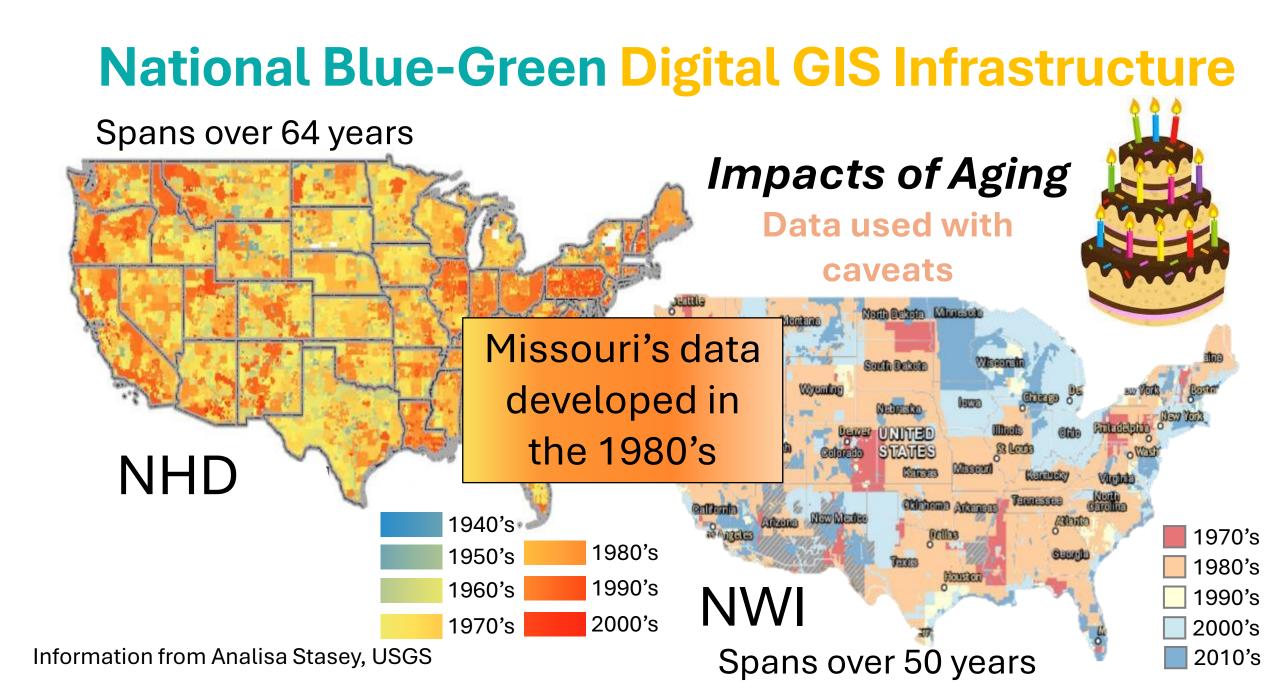
National Hydrography Dataset

USGS Map, Al Rea,

https://idwr.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/gis/20170309-Presentation-HydroTWG.pdf

National Wetlands Inventory

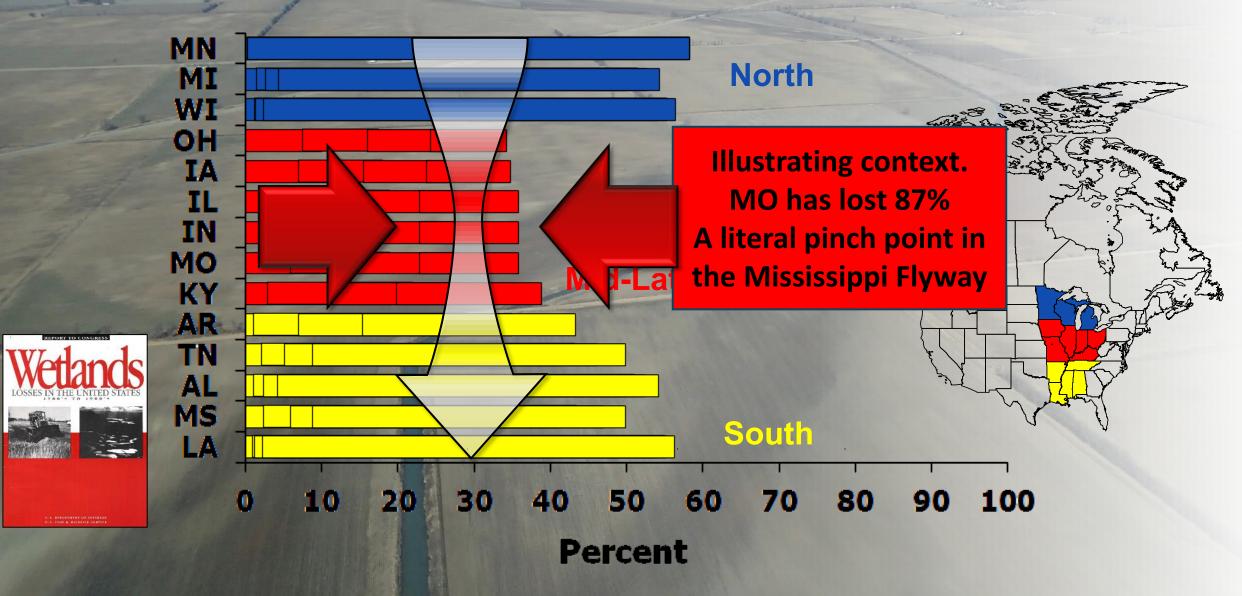
Aug. 2014



Wetland Loss

- Floodplains were streamlined
- Wetlands were drained and diminished in Missouri

National Status and Trends Reports

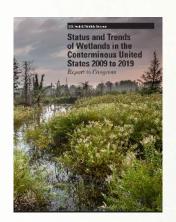


National Status and Trends Reports

- Tracks with observations in Missouri
 - National data comes in handy to cite
- Net wetland loss increased substantially (>50%) since 2009
 - Loss of forested wetlands
 - Increase in ponds

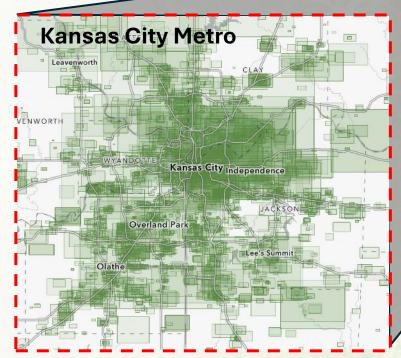


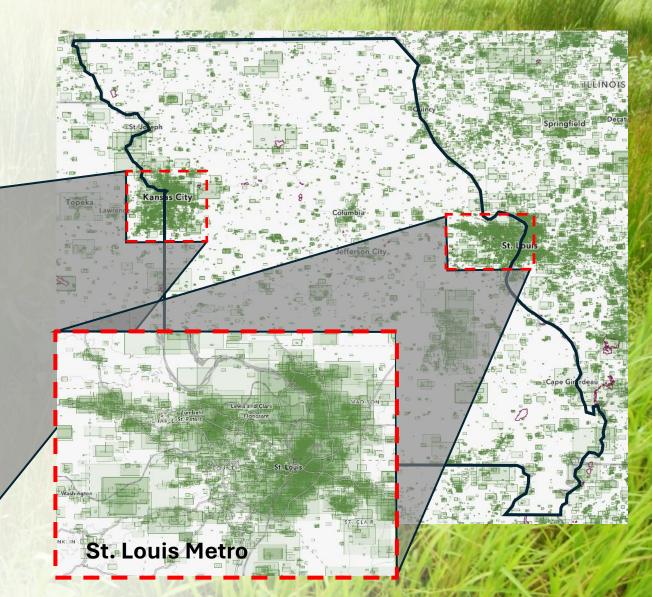




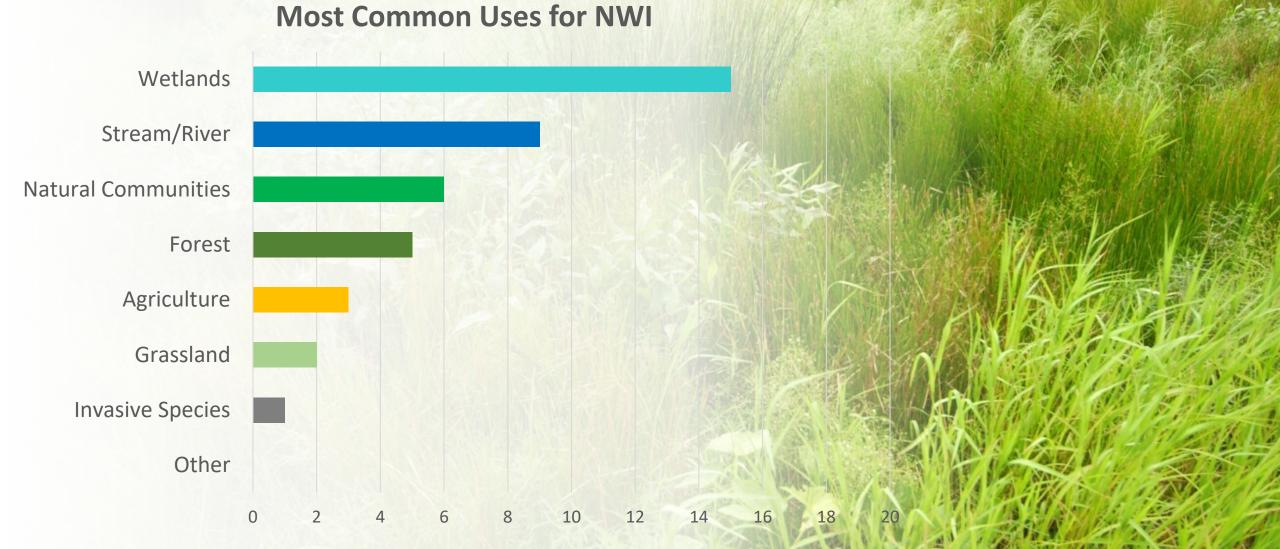
Use of NWI GIS data across Missouri

- Data frequently downloaded in and around urban centers
- Focus is on development and potential environmental impacts



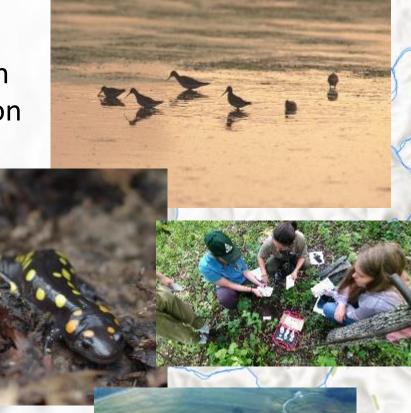


Use of NWI GIS data within MDC



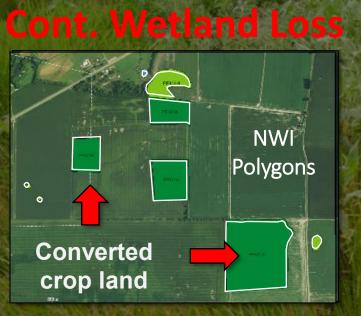
Current Uses For NWI within MDC

- Identify extent of known wetlands
 - To search for Species of Conservation of Concern
 - To search for unique wetlands and their condition
 - Potential fens as identified as PEMb
- Environmental review
- Research, monitoring, planning
- Wetland construction and management
- Wetland determinations
- Restoration



Changes and Uncertainty: Wetlands

Restored Wetlands



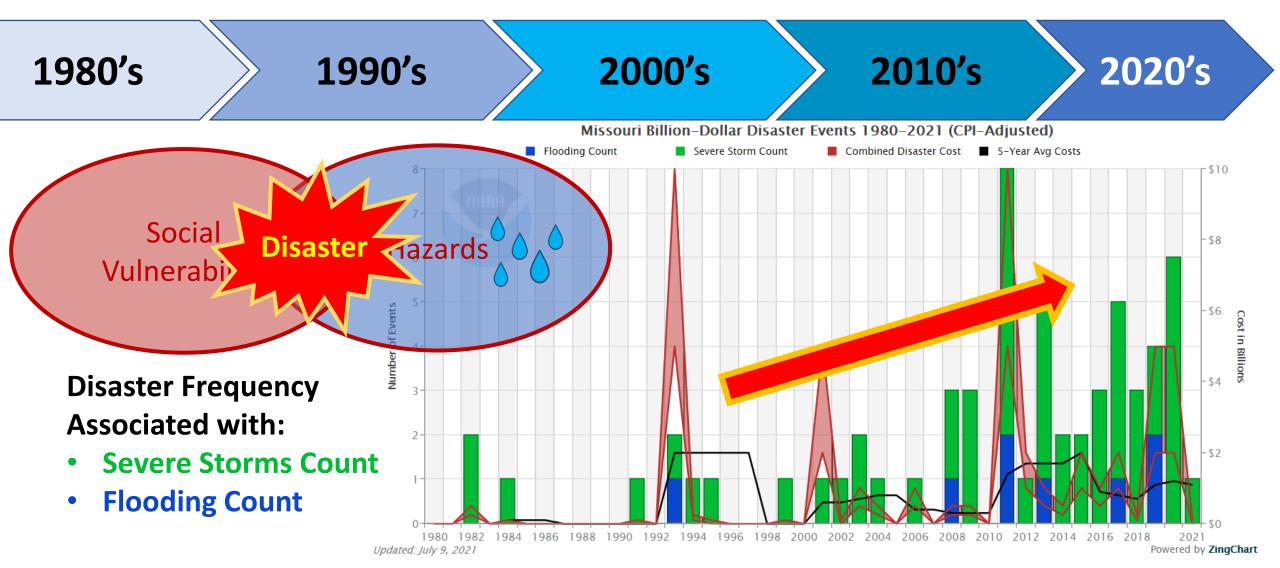




Fen

- How many wetlands exist in Missouri?
- What type?
- What has restoration potential?

Changes in Climate and Disaster Events



NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2021). https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/, DOI: 10.25921/9



Van Westen, C.J., 2013. Remote sensing and GIS for natural hazards assessment and disaster risk management. *Treatise on geomorphology*, 3, pp.259-298.

Changes and Uncertainty: Wetlands

 What was limiting us and our partners from prioritizing wetland conservation statewide?

- How many wetlands exist in Missouri?
- What type?
- What has restoration potential?

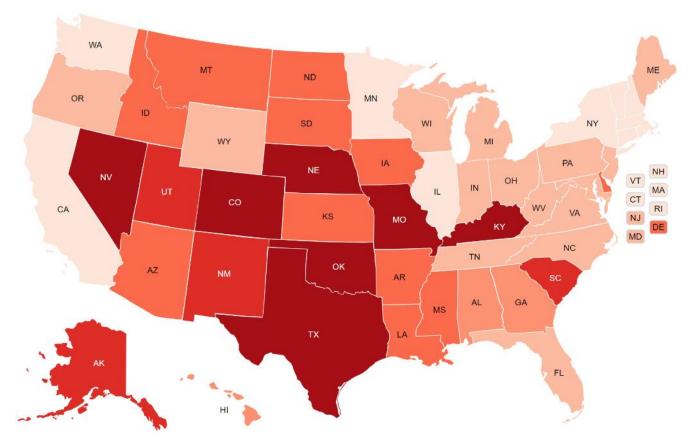


Need to update MO NWI

Wetlands and Streams Most in Danger After the U.S. Supreme Court's *Sackett v. EPA* Ruling

Changes to Legal Protections Increase Wetland Vulnerabilities

Missouri doesn't have state protections and has always deferred to federal protections



 Wetlands and streams most at risk of harmful development and pollution Wetlands and streams with some protections from harmful development and pollution →

Wetlands and Streams Most in Danger After the U.S. Supreme Court's Sackett v. EPA Ruling - Earthjustice

New Uses For updated NWI+

Future Applications

- Create a better/accurate baseline of wetlands in Missouri
- Use to prioritize Wetland Conservation:
 - Protection
 - Management
 - Enhancement
 - Rehabilitation
- Consider Nature-Based Solutions to reduce Flood Risks

Bridges, T. S., J. K. King, J. D. Simm, M. W. Beck, G. Collins, Q. Lodder, and R. K. Mohan, eds. 2021. Overview: International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

Updating MO's Stream and Wetland GIS Layers

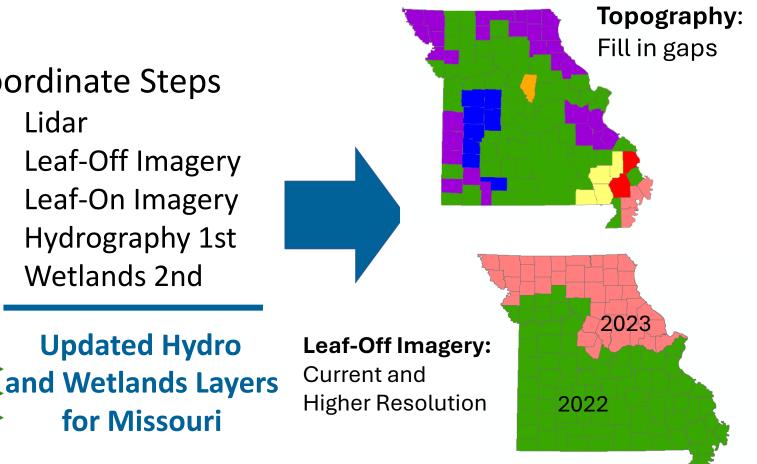
2020 Discussions Among Partners



Updating MO's Stream and Wetland GIS Layers

2022 Actions Among Partners

Acquire base layers:



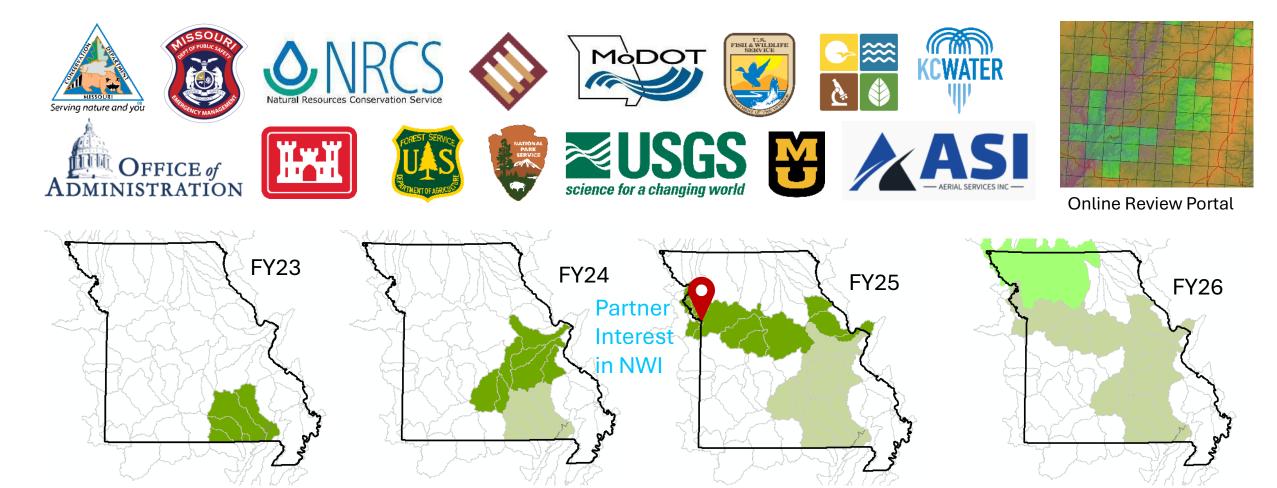
• Coordinate Steps

Lidar

- Leaf-Off Imagery
- Leaf-On Imagery
- Hydrography 1st
- Wetlands 2nd

Updating MO's Stream and Wetland GIS Layers

- NHD is now elevation derived hydrography (EDH) data
- As collaboration of agencies, incrementally working our way across Missouri



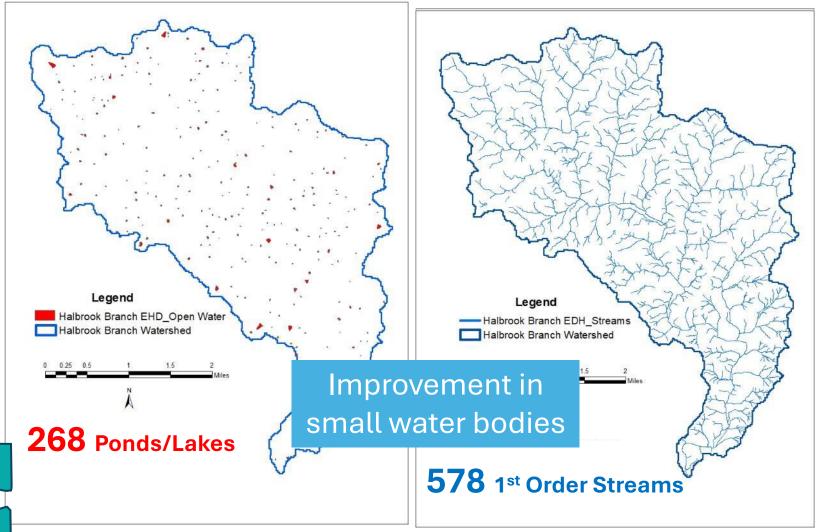
Updating MO's Stream and Wetland GIS Layers Updating EDH: Small Watershed Examples

Halbrook Branch: Small Watershed Dent Co.

Old NHD: 12 Open Water Bodies 18 1st Order Streams

EDH: 268 Open Water Bodies 578 1st Order Streams





Using EDH as Springboard into NWI+

• Just Beginning

Lidar

EDH

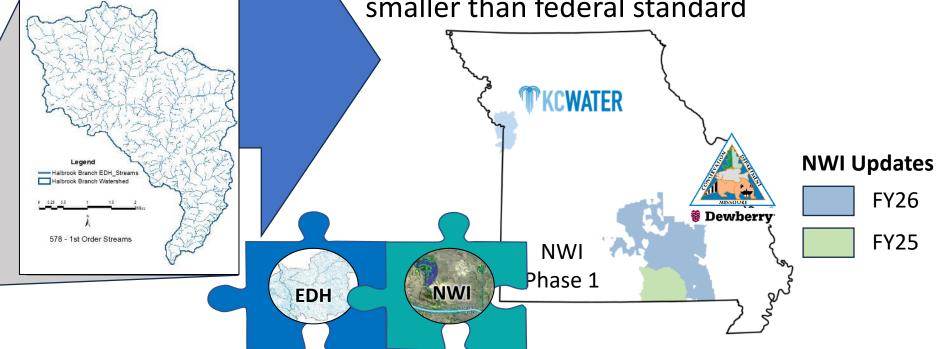
Phase 1

• MDC—State Funds

Imagery

• KC Water—EPA WPP Grant

- Efficiencies Using EDH Deliverables
 - Reduces double handling
 - Hydro-enforced DEM's
 - Stream flow network
 - Incorporation of pond polygons
 smaller than federal standard



Comparison of Old NWI to New NWI

• Pilot Area: 4 square miles, in the Ozarks near Thomasville



Emergent Wetland

Forested Wetland

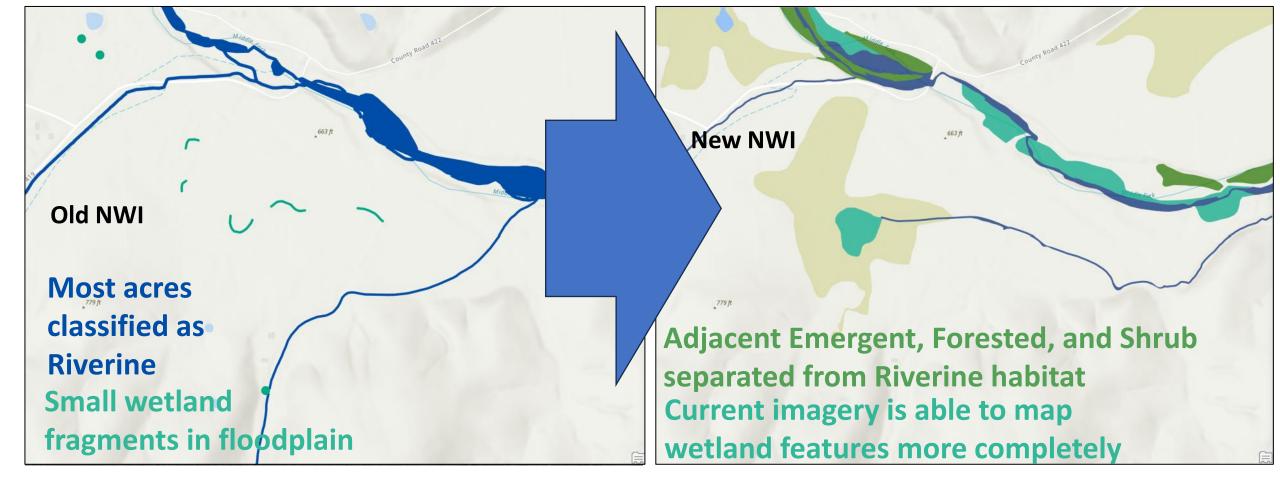
Pond

Riverine

Comparison of Old NWI to New NWI

• Pilot Area: 1 mile across, in the Ozarks near Thomasville





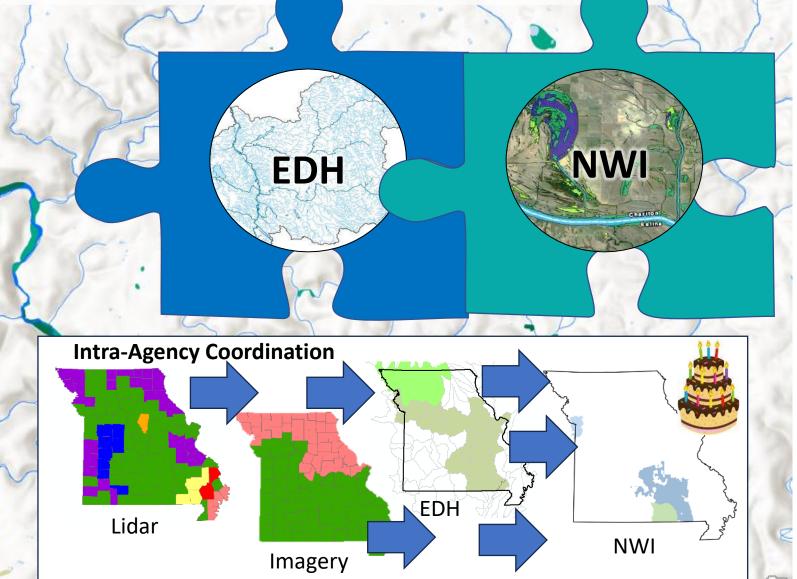
Updating MO's Stream and Wetland GIS Layers

NWI and other National GIS Data is Critical

 Serves an important role for multiple agencies and organizations

Integration is Necessary

 Focusing on a coordinated watershed approach for multiple GIS layers is and will benefit future wetland conservation



US Fish and Wildlife Service



Rachel Sullivan

Migratory Bird Program



North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)



National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Rachel Sullivan GIS/Data Steward for NAWCA & NMBCA Migratory Bird Program U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service June 24, 2025



PHOTO: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Russell Sage & Bodcau WMAs Wetland Enhancement , Louisiana



What is NAWCA?

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

- Competitive grant program
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- Public-private funding





NAWCA Accomplishments

- 3,300 projects
- 7,000 partners
- 32.6 million acres
- \$2.28 <u>billion Grant</u>
- \$4.53 <u>billion Match</u>

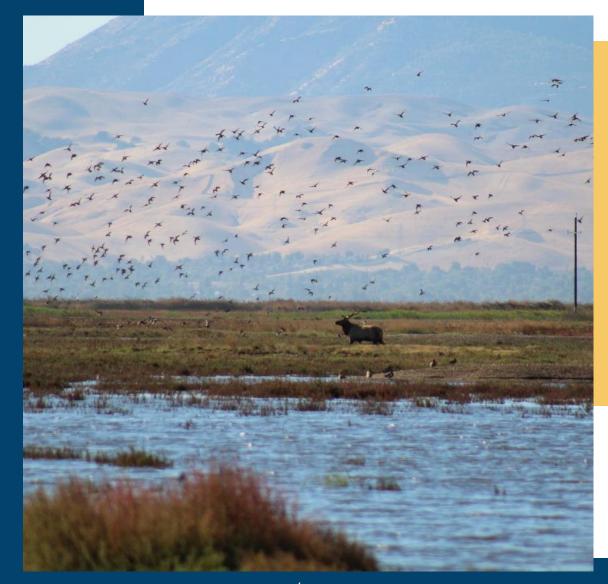


PHOTO: California Waterfowl Association/Zach Stratton California Central Valley Coastal Wetlands Project II, California



NAWCA & NWI

- NWI & Status & Trends data are used for every US NAWCA project!
- Technical Assessment Question (TAQ):
 - TAQ #4 How does the proposal relate to the national status and trends of wetlands types?
 - Worth up to 10 points out of 100
 - NAWCA applicants are encouraged to use:
 - NWI Wetlands Mapper

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- Downloads of the wetlands data
- Wetlands Web Mapping Services for ArcGIS

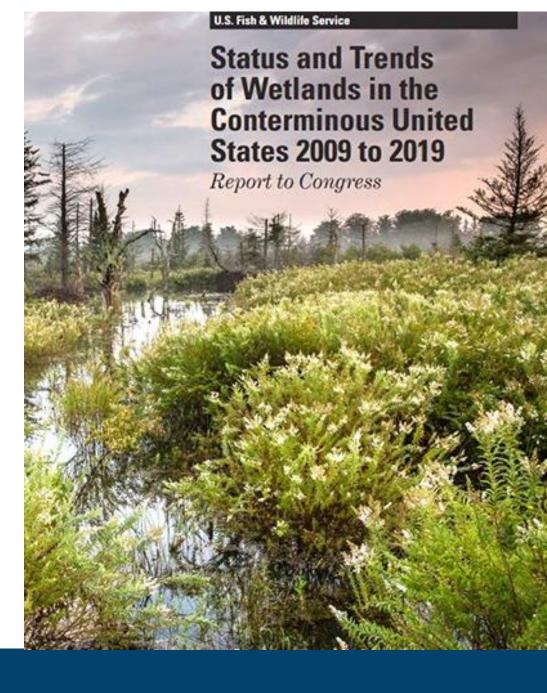
PHOTO: Ducks Unlimited Eastern South Dakota Wetlands VII, South Dakota



published TAQ #4 revisions

Status & Trends Report

Consultation with NWI staff after S&T is



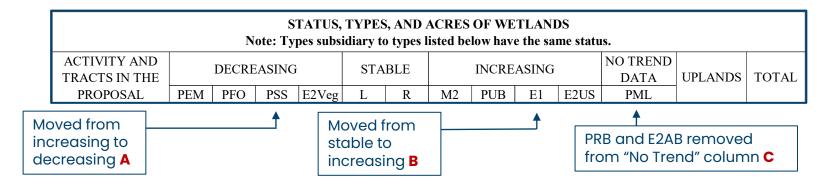
Updated TAQ #4

A: Palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS) moved from increasing to decreasing

- 2009-2019: Decreased by 96,500 ac
- Causes: Net loss to upland (e.g., human alteration) and change to palustrine forested wetland (e.g., natural succession)

B: Estuarine sub-tidal (E1) moved from stable to increasing

- 2009–2019: Increased by 56,000 ac
- Causes: Net gain from intertidal vegetated, i.e., mainly saltmarsh but also shrub (mangroves)
- Changes consistent with sea level rise



C: Palustrine rock bottom (PRB) and estuarine intertidal aquatic bed (E2AB) removed from table

- Types are relatively rare and not differentiated in Status and Trends study.
 - PRB is included in the PUB type.
 - E2AB is included in the E2US type.



Thank you!

My contact: Rachel_Sullivan@fws.gov

General NAWCA contact: dbhc@fws.gov

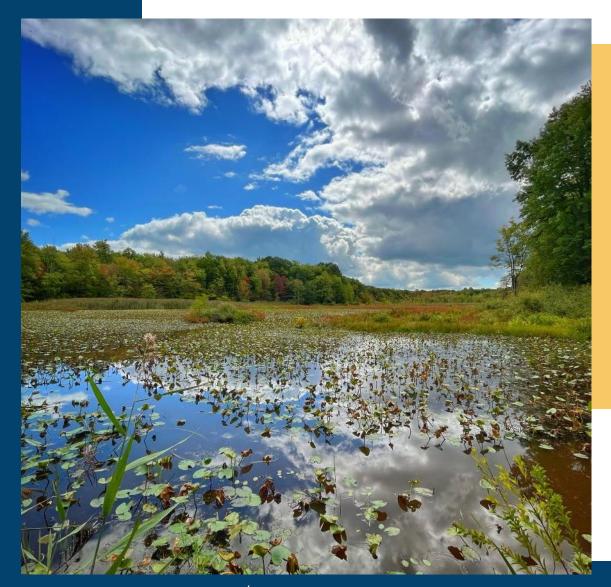
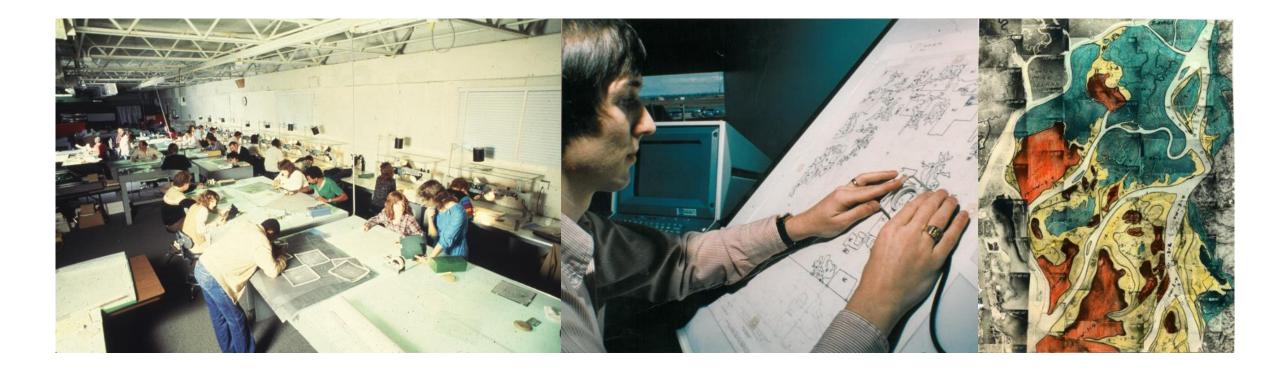


PHOTO: West Creek Conservancy/Brett Rodstrom Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands IV, Ohio





Questions?

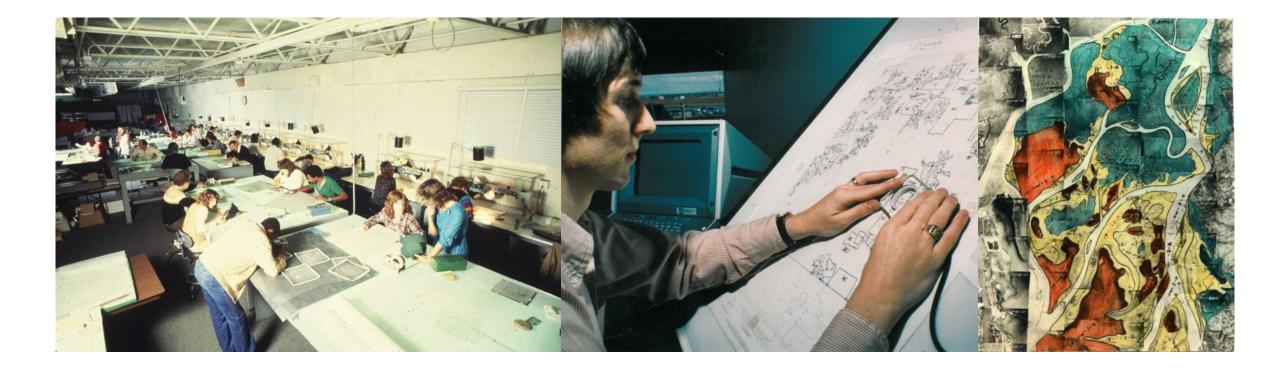




6/24/2025

NAWM WMC WEBINAR

Thank you NWI!





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