

Celebrating 50 years of Wetland Mapping and Monitoring: Key Advancements in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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For the past 50 years, the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI) has shaped the understanding and conservation of wetlands, while supporting the vitality of America's communities and economy. We think it's time to celebrate! In this talk we will explore how NWI has embraced strong partnerships to move from the hand-drawn, coarse-scale wetland maps of the past (anyone remember 1-800-USAMAPS?) to the easily accessible and searchable dataset of today (over 37 million polygons!). We will celebrate the many uses of NWI data from supporting habitat conservation to enabling strategic flood protection, as well as highlight NWI data updates nationwide. Finally, we will look towards the future of NWI, focusing on the impressive amount of mapping in Alaska, increased efforts to enhance interoperability of hydrography datasets, and continual adoption of new mapping technologies. Please join our talk to celebrate NWI's past, learn about key updates, and look towards NWI's future.