

# Executive Summary

On Earth Day 2004, President Bush celebrated the opportunity to move beyond the federal policy of “no net loss” of wetlands, and called for a new commitment to attain an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands in America.

As President Bush said last April, *“The old policy of wetlands was to limit the loss of wetlands. Today I’m going to announce a new policy and a new goal for our country: Instead of just limiting our losses, we will expand the wetlands of America.”*

President Bush set an aggressive goal to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years to increase overall wetland acres and quality. The President’s goal includes:

- Restoring and creating at least one million wetland acres;
- Improving or enhancing at least one million wetland acres;
- Protecting at least one million wetland acres.

This report is the first comprehensive look at progress toward the President’s goal. The Bush Administration, in partnership with states, communities, tribes, and private landowners, and with additional program funding, is on track to meet or exceed the President’s goal.

*Since April of 2004, 832,000 acres of wetlands have been restored, created, protected or improved.*

More specifically, over the past year:

- 328,000 acres were restored or created;
- 154,000 acres were improved;
- 350,000 acres were protected.

This report also highlights anticipated progress from April 2005 through the end of FY 2006, in which *the Bush Administration expects an additional 1.6 million acres to be restored, created, improved, or protected.*

To continue tracking wetlands progress, the Fish and Wildlife Service, at President Bush’s direction, has accelerated by five years completion of the next National Wetlands Inventory Status and Trends Report. Instead of the 2010 deadline, the Fish and Wildlife Service will complete the report by the end of 2005.



*“Wetlands have been called the nurseries of life, and their well-being is vital to the health of our environment.”*  
— President George W. Bush, Earth Day 2004