National Wetland Condition Assessment

Sampling Frame

National Water Resource Survey Schedule

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Lakes	Field	Lab, data	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab, data
Rivers	Design	Field	Lab, data	Report*	Research	Design	Field
Streams	Research	Design	Field	Lab, data	Report*	Research	Design
Coastal	Report	Research	Design	Field	Lab, data	Report	Research
Wetlands	Research	Research	Research	Design	Field	Lab,data	Report

* Rivers and Streams will released as one "Flowing Waters" Report in 2011

Survey Background

- 1,000 sample points nationally
- Provide States and Tribes \$8.4M in CWA 106 grants to participate
 - \$8,000 per site in lower 48
 - \$400K set aside for AK, HI, territories
- Money is allocated to states and tribes based on number of sampling sites that fall in jurisdiction



National Wetland Condition Assessment (2011)

Activities						
2007-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Research	Design	Field	Lab/Data	Report		
Scientific issues Policy issues Supplemental data analysis Methods refinement	Target population Indicators Field/ Lab practices Quality assurance plan	Training Site reconnaissance Sample collection Field quality assurance	Lab analysis Lab quality assurance Data entry Data quality assurance	Data analysis Presentations Peer review Final report		

National Wetland Condition Assessment

- First-ever assessment of baseline wetland condition
 - Eventually, track trends in wetland condition
 - Greater national focus on wetland quality
- Compliment FWS Status and Trends Report
 - Tracks trends in wetland acreage



Collaboration with FWS



- FWS Status and Trends reports document trends in wetlands acreage
- NWCA will evaluate the ambient condition of the nation's wetlands resources.
- EPA will collaborate with FWS in designing NWCA
 - ensure the national condition assessment most effectively complements the Service's Wetlands Status and Trends Study.
- Together these reports will offer the most comprehensive ecological evaluation

Sample Frame

- Sampling frame is needed to define the classes of wetlands that have a probability of being selected for sampling
- EPA Technical Design Team Consensus
 - U.S. FWS Status and Trends Plots
 - Potential Modifications
 - Intensify plot coverage
 - Supplemental aerial photography
- Technical Reasoning
 - 2 x 2 mi plots: acreage status and trends is known
 - Most contemporary, nationwide dataset (recent imagery)
 - Highest probability of actually being a wetland
- Policy Implications "Complement S&T"
 - Quantity and Quality of the nation's wetlands
 - Most comprehensive ecological evaluation of wetlands



Status and Trends 2005 Plot Locations



Table 1: Wetland and deepwater categories used in national status and trends update study (Dahl, 2005)

Attribute Code	Wetland Category
M2	Marine Intertidal
E2EM	Estuarine Intertidal Emergents
E2SS	Estuarine Intertidal Shrub/Scrub
E2US	Estuarine Intertidal Unconsolidated Shore
PFO	Palustrine Forested
PSS	Palustrine Shrub
PEM	Palustrine Emergents
PUS	Palustrine Unconsolidated Shore
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic Bed
Pf	Palustrine farmed
M1	Marine Subtidal
E1UB	Estuarine Subtidal
E2AB	Estuarine Aquatic Bed
RIV	Riverine (tidal or nontidal)
LAC	Lacustrine

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FWS Status and Trend Plots

