



The Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc.

"Dedicated to the Protection and Restoration of the Nation's Wetlands"

Executive Director
Jeanne Christie
2 Basin Road
Windham ME 04062
(207) 892-3399

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Associate Director
Jon A. Kusler, Esq.
1434 Helderberg Trail
Berne, NY 12023-9746
(518) 872-1804

Anthony A. Spicci, President
National State Geographic Information Council
2105 Laurel Bush Road, Suite 200
Bel Air, MD 21015

Chairman
Peg Bostwick
Land and Water Management Division
MI Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-3470

Dear President Spicci:

Vice Chairman
Lynda Saul
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality
1520 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-6652

The Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. (ASWM) endorses the National States Geographic Information Council's "Imagery for the Nation" initiative. ASWM supports the initiative in recognition of the critical role that accurate up-to-date imagery provides the public and private sector. Imagery in conjunction with the GIS systems it supports is essential to providing information to help guide the complex decisions that are undertaken on a daily basis by federal, state, and local governments as well as private and nonprofit organizations.

Secretary/Treasurer
David Davis
VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street, 9th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 698-5105

Currently multiple entities are purchasing digital imagery at varying scales on a piecemeal and duplicative basis; if it is being purchased at all. For example most wetland maps in the United States have not been updated since the original photography was taken in the 1970's and 1980's. Currently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives resources for mapping or re-mapping only 2% of the nation's wetlands each year. Imagery of wetlands and many other critical data layers will become increasingly out of date unless there is a sustained effort to make accurate, current imagery available and in the public domain. Individual units of government cannot bear the sustained costs of achieving this goal.

Members at Large

Richard Gitar
Fond du Lac Reservation

Maryann McGraw
NM Environment Dept.

Janet Morlan
OR Dept. of State Lands

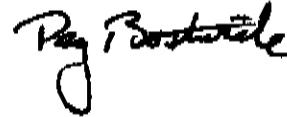
Alan Quackenbush
VT Dept. of Environmental
Conservation

James Stoutamire
FL Dept. of Environmental
Protection


If anything, the NSGIC initiative does not go far enough. Critical data layers such as wetlands and impervious surfaces require Color Infrared Aerial Photography (CIR) for interpreting and providing accurate reliable maps. This is part of the buy-up option outlined in the initiative. ASWM believes that there is a real need, not only for the imagery outlined in the initiative, but also for long term funding for CIR and perhaps other buy up components as well.

The Imagery for the Nation initiative is, from our standpoint a "bare bones" initiative, an important and necessary first step. We look forward to opportunities to further support the acquisition of imagery critical to the nation.

Sincerely



Peg Bostwick
ASWM Chairman



Lynda Saul
ASWM Vice Chairman



David Davis
ASWM Secretary/Treasurer