

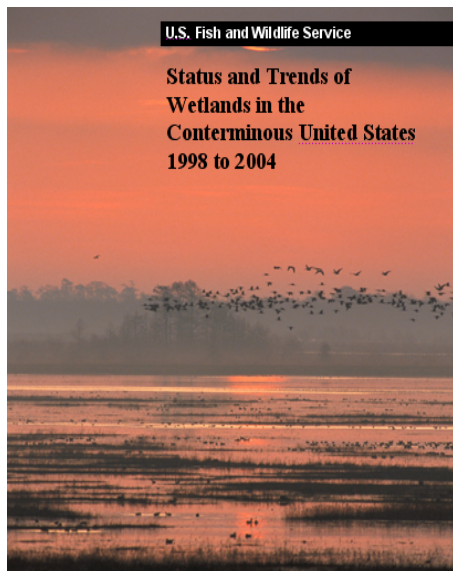


U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

National Standards and Support Team (NSST)

Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation

The National Standards and Support Team (NSST) is responsible for the development and application of all digital data functions relating to the Service's wetland maps and habitat data holdings. This includes developing and supporting technology infrastructure, operations, standards, specifications, and protocols. Ensuring product quality and modernizing components that will improve data integrity and quality is a priority for this Team. It provides the opportunity to develop capabilities to automate quality control reviews, produce product assessment tools, and provide analyses to support the Service.

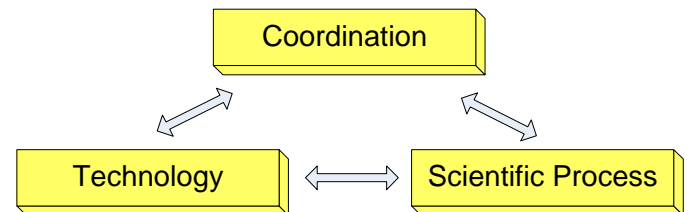


Team Make-Up

The NSST is composed of personnel that are “technical experts” in their fields. These include Wetlands Geodatabase Administration, Geographic Information Systems Analysts, Quality Assessment Specialists and Wetland trends and change detection. The NSST is co-located with the U.S. Geological Survey - Office of Water Information in Madison, WI, which is the location of the Service's Wetlands Master Geodatabase.

Areas of Emphasis for NSST Operations

There are three principle areas of emphasis for the NSST: Coordination (both internal and external), Technology and Scientific Processes.



Three interrelated areas of emphasis for NSST operations

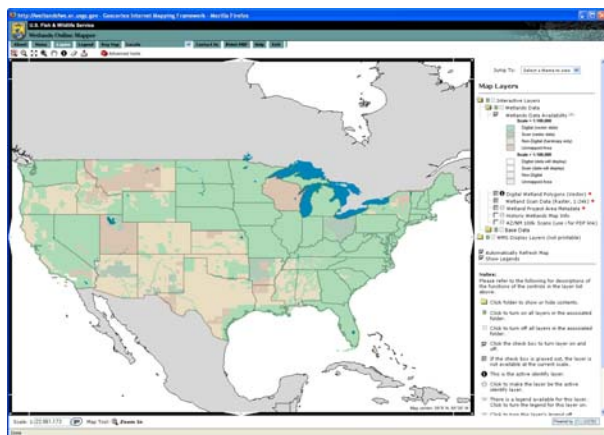
- 1) Coordination aspects include technical collaboration with key partners such as EPA, NOAA, USGS, ESRI and other federal and state agencies.
- 2) Technology related actions are application based and include:
 - Geospatial data technology and distribution (Geodatabases)
 - Web mapping interface, digital display and management (Mapper)
 - GIS applications and database management
 - Status and Trends operations
 - Image analysis and automation
 - Systems security, policy and guidance
- 3) Scientific Process actions include those tasks that require adherence to scientific principles, established policies, guidelines or directives. They include the following:
 - Quality control of data
 - Quality assessment of products
 - Standards and protocol development
 - Systems documentation and administration
 - Systems testing and applications
 - Training components
 - Data stewardship

Partnering with USGS

The Service has developed and maintains a close working relationship with the USGS Office of Water Information's Cartographic Applications and Processing Program. Through this partnership, USGS assists the Service with emerging technologies, geographic information science, database management and support. USGS continues to assist the Service with integrating updated information into the geodatabase, providing data summaries for special projects and technical assistance regarding data manipulation and verification. Through this collaboration, both agencies are able to share infrastructure and mutually benefit from developments in technology. As a result, investments in time and costs have been reduced.

Co-location of the NSST with USGS (Office of Water) builds on a crucial intergovernmental partnership. The Service recognized this as an important component of this organization and as a logical avenue to leverage technical expertise. The Department of Interior has also indicated the Service will continue to strengthen relationships with the USGS.

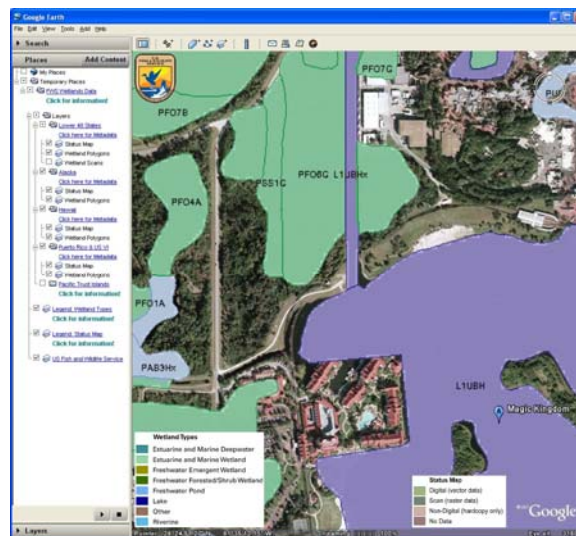
The current collaborative efforts involving the geospatial wetland data are ambitious and technologically advanced and include standardized map updating; creation of a wetlands relational database with temporal version capability; incorporation of non-digital data; and a true seamless data storage and retrieval system. These improved capabilities, coupled with enhanced access, help the Service realize the objectives of providing scientifically based applications for wetlands and water resource data.



Wetlands Mapper as a data discovery tool for users

Geospatial Data Development

The NSST has worked to modernize the wetlands geospatial data and services to meet demands of resource managers and other users. The Wetlands Geodatabase and Wetlands Mapper, an Internet discovery portal, provide technological tools that allow the integration of large relational databases with spatial information and map-like displays. The Wetlands Geodatabase, which houses all of the Service digital geospatial wetlands data, including digital data contributed by outside cooperators, forms the **Wetlands Spatial Data Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)**. This Wetlands layer is now available to all federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as the public, and is an important component of Department's Geospatial Blueprint, actively supporting the E-Government (E-Gov) initiative, *Geospatial One-Stop*, (<http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>) and *The National Map* (<http://nationalmap.gov/>).



Viewing Wetlands data layers with Google Earth

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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