

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation
Program Element: National Wetlands Inventory

		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	4,700	5,255	+73	-517	4,811	-444
	FTE	20	20	0	0	20	0

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for National Wetlands Inventory

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Wetland Mapping for Climate Change Planning	-492	0
• Travel Reduction	-17	0
• Contract Reduction	-8	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-517	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) is \$4,811,000 and 20 FTE, a net program decrease of \$517,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted.

Wetland Mapping for Climate Change Planning (-\$492,000)

Funding will be reduced for digital wetlands mapping by eliminating an unrequested increase. The Service will apply existing program capabilities to strategically engage in priority mapping projects that will be fewer in number, and will continue to fund the highest priority maps yielding information needed to address climate change issues. Program efforts to digitize and produce updated maps will continue and this digital data will be served over the Internet. The digital wetlands map layer for the nation is an ongoing project which will be continually updated as long as funding is provided.

Program Performance Change

Performance Goal	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Plan	2009 Base Budget (2008 Plan + Fixed Costs)	2009 President's Budget	Program Change Accruing in 2009	Program Change Accruing in Out years
Resource Protection - Landscapes and Watersheds								
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	0.5% (11 of 2,324)	2.9% (67 of 2,324)	2.4% (56 of 2,324)	0.8% (17 of 2,324)	0.8% (17 of 2,324)	0.9% (22 of 2,324)	0.2% (25.9%)	
Comments:	Performance will increase slightly as some 2008 projects are completed in FY2009.							
4.1.12 Cumulative % of acres with digital maps 10 years old or less	2.8% (1,846 of 65,562)	3.5% (81 of 2,324)	5.1% (118 of 2,324)	5.1% (119 of 2,324)	5.1% (119 of 2,324)	5.9% (138 of 2,324)	0.8% (15.7%)	

Program Overview

Wetlands are the cornerstone of one of the nation’s most ecologically and economically important ecosystems, which benefit fish, wildlife, and people. Emerging conservation issues such as climate change, sea-level rise, storm flooding, drought, infrastructure development, energy development and species and habitat declines, are driving the need for wetlands digital data in this geospatial age. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (EWRA) directs the Service to map our Nation’s wetlands and deepwater habitats and produce scientific reports on the status and trends of wetlands. The NWI has produced digital wetlands maps for about 57 percent of Nation and will complete the next national status and trends report in 2010. The Inventory provides federal, state, tribal, local governments and the public with contemporary map and scientific data that is widely used to help identify, conserve, and restore wetland resources across the American landscape.

This scientific wetlands program supports the DOI Resource Protection Goal of *Improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources*. Updated geospatial data produced by the Inventory, combined with other biological information, support the Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation approach and State Wildlife Action Plans by supplying digitally-mapped habitat and trend report data to help guide, prioritize, and assess species recovery, wildlife resource management, and wetland restoration in geographic focal areas.

The Service’s modernized Internet mapping services and state-of-the-art geospatial data continue to address growing demands for updated digital wetlands data and habitat assessments. The Inventory is responsible for producing and maintaining the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and is a major component of Department’s geospatial line of business portfolio and E-government through the *Geospatial One-Stop* initiative and *The National Map*. The economic vitality and quality of life in local communities is enhanced by the availability and use of nationally consistent digital wetland inventory map products as powerful tools to plan and fast-track needed development projects that minimize environmental impacts.

A diverse multitude of public agencies (e.g., Department of Homeland Security, the Army Corps of Engineers) and private sector businesses use and have incorporated this data layer into their geographic information systems. The Service’s digital wetlands data can also be viewed, using Google Earth™ imagery.

The Inventory is guided by a 2002 Strategic Plan that is the foundation of the program's priorities. This Plan supports the Department's *Resource Protection Goal* strategy to improve the scientific information base for resource management, technical assistance, and decision-making, and help to accomplish the President's Management Agenda, Wetlands Initiative, and E-Government initiatives. The Plan's three goals are:

- Strategic Mapping;
- Habitat Trend and Change Analyses; and
- Identification and Assessment of Threats to Aquatic Habitats.

The strategic outcome achieved by the Inventory is to provide real-time mission-critical habitat information in state-of-the-art digital formats to guide the conservation and stewardship of the Nation's wetlands and aquatic resources for the benefit of the American people. Program restructuring has aligned the Inventory to more efficiently and effectively support Service, Departmental, and national priorities.

Digital wetlands data comprise the foundation of geographically-targeted wetland assessment and change studies for coastal and other wetlands restoration, fisheries and migratory bird management, imperiled species recovery, Federal land planning and management, infrastructure development, and emergency preparedness.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- The Inventory completed program **restructuring** in FY2008 to fully align operations and resources with its strategic plan. Efforts to capitalize further on **changing technology in order to increase performance while reducing costs and fostering partnerships** will continue.
- The Inventory is exploring **innovative cost sharing strategies** to collaboratively fund and successfully complete **Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States: 2005 – 2009**, and will continue to pursue ways to facilitate and accelerate the completion of updated digital maps for the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.
- The Inventory participated in the 2006 Habitat Conservation **PART** (Program Assessment Rating Tool) review, and reports program mapping performance as a PART Efficiency Measure of "# of acres of lands digitally updated per million dollars expended."

2009 Program Performance

Updated digital data will be strategically produced in priority geographic focal areas. Although climate change and its effects on sea-level rise, energy development, species distribution and abundance, drought, and storm events will remain a focus of program direction, fewer mapping and partnership projects are expected to be completed by the Service to accomplish landscape-level biological and habitat conservation objectives. NWI will reduce its contribution of updated wetlands data to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The geospatial data handling and distribution capabilities of the Service will be maintained. The Program's PART efficiency measure of acres mapped per million dollars will decline at the request level due to redirecting available resources to conduct the 2010 national wetlands status and trends study.

In addition to continuing the analyses for the 2010 National Wetlands Status and Trends report to Congress, the Inventory will continue to coordinate and lead production of *Conserving America's Wetlands*, the President's report on federal agency progress to restore, improve and protect 3 million acres of wetlands. Service priorities for wetland conservation mapping and assessment reports will be addressed as resources permit, primarily in geographic focal areas to be affected by sea-level rise and

implications for federal lands and coastal community infrastructure; planning for strategic restoration of Gulf coast areas affected by subsidence and hurricanes; energy development in the West, Midwest, and Alaska. The Service estimates there will be seamless digital wetlands data available on-line for about 57 percent of the nation by FY 2010 to support real-time access for resource management and decision-making, an increase of 1 percent over FY 2008.

In FY 2009, the Service anticipates initiating priority projects to produce digital wetlands data for 17 million acres of landscapes and watersheds, down 5 million acres from the FY 2008 enacted level. However, planned FY 2009 mapping performance will go up as 5 million acres of priority project work funded in FY 2008 to address climate change for coastal watersheds, energy development, and drought-prone areas is completed. Thus, map updating performance is expected to decline to less than 1 percent of the nation for FY 2009 unless sufficient cooperator funding can be identified. Based upon this estimate, 215 million acres will remain unmapped in 2009.

The Inventory anticipates producing an estimated seven reports documenting the status and change in wetlands in key areas. In addition, the program will train outside organizations on the National Standards for wetlands classification and mapping, assist natural resource planners in using and analyzing wetlands digital data, and examine the utility of advances in science and technology to make wetlands mapping and data delivery more efficient and cost effective.

The FWS has developed and maintains a close working relationship with the USGS Office of Water Information's Cartographic Applications and Processing Program. The Service has co-located the National Standards and Support Team (NSST) with USGS to assist with emerging technologies, geographic information science, database management and support. The NSST will continue to deliver the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), already the largest polygonal natural resources database in the world, and respond to 44-million online requests. The number of customers and data contributors continues to grow as the Service adds additional areas of coverage to the Wetlands Mapper, and the program will emphasize cooperator coordination, quality control review, and data management.

NWI will continue to support, on a more limited basis, the nation's needs for updated digital data and analysis for use in emergency preparedness and restoration such as the aftermath of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and in support of strategic habitat conservation work by the Service in priority focus areas; recovering endangered species, fish, migratory birds, marine mammals, and other imperiled species; and planning for National Wildlife Refuges and other Federal lands.

Program Performance Overview

Performance Goal / Measure	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Actual	2008 Plan	2009 President's Budget	Change from 2008 Plan to 2009	Long-term 2012 Target
Resource Protection - Landscapes and Watersheds								
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS - annual (GPRA)	410,610	593,996	554,355	559,947	603,196	496,346	-106,850 (-17.7%)	596,645
CSF Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$19,580	unk	\$29,649	\$32,706	\$27,558	(\$5,148)	\$33,127
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$1,696	unk	\$1,456	\$1,491	\$1,526	\$36	\$1,526
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	unk	\$33	unk	\$53	\$54	\$56	\$1	\$56
Comments:	NWI does not contribute acres to CSF 4.1. The reason why CSF 4.1 is included is to indicate that the NWI program contributes \$1,526,000 to the total programmatic contribution of \$27,558, 000.							
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	0.5% (11 of 2,324)	2.9% (67 of 2,324)	1.3% (31 of 2,324)	2.4% (56 of 2,324)	0.8% (17 of 2,324)	0.9% (22 of 2,324)	0.2% (25.9%)	2.0% (46 of 2,324)
Comments:	Performance will increase slightly as some 2008 projects are completed in FY2009. However, wetlands mapping will decline by 5 million acres and the rate of updating will fall to less than 1 percent of the nation at the FY2009 request level.							
4.1.11 Cumulative % of acres with digital data available	unk	53.4% (1,240 of 2,324)	54.5% (1,266 of 2,324)	55.7% (1,294 of 2,324)	56.5% (1,313 of 2,324)	57.3% (1,333 of 2,324)	0.9% (1.5%)	60.0% (1,395 of 2,324)
4.1.12 Cumulative % of acres with digital maps 10 years old or less	2.8% (1,846 of 65,562)	3.5% (81 of 2,324)	4.0% (92 of 2,324)	5.1% (118 of 2,324)	5.1% (119 of 2,324)	5.9% (138 of 2,324)	0.8% (15.7%)	12.0% (279 of 2,324)
4.1.13 # of professionals trained by NWI	100	314	100	547	148	85	-63 (-42.6%)	100
Comments:	Wetlands training by the program will be reduced at the request level.							
4.1.14 # of scientific/technical reports produced for the nation by NWI	8	20	15	13	12	7	-5 (-41.7%)	10
Comments:	Available resources will be concentrated on the 2010 national wetlands status and trends study report.							
4.1.15 Acres of land digitally updated per million dollars expended (PART)	unk	16,278,782	6,219,458	15,981,037	7,780,000	6,910,000	-870,000 (-11.2%)	10,000,000

Unk – Unknown – The Habitat Conservation program does not have data for these items or it was not available in the past.

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