

PENNSYLVANIA & THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

SEPTEMBER 2013

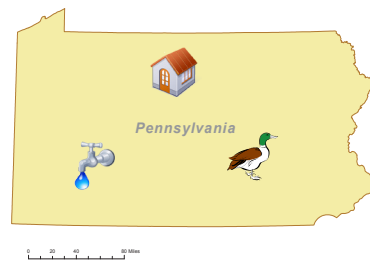
Wetland Summary

About 1.4 percent (404,000 acres) of Pennsylvania is covered by wetlands. Deciduous and forested wetlands are the most common types, followed by open water, marshes, shrub wetlands, and others. Wetlands are most densely distributed in the glaciated northwestern and northeastern parts of the State. Wetland area in Pennsylvania has decreased by more than one-half in the last 200 years. The primary causes of wetland loss or degradation have been conversion to cropland, channelization, forestry, mining, urban development, and the construction of ponds and impoundments. About 50 private conservancy organizations in the State work to protect and preserve natural lands, including wetlands, on a local level.

Distinctive Example of NWI Usage in Pennsylvania










The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Pittsburgh District) provided funding for NWI mapping in western Pennsylvania. Wetland maps have been updated a couple of times for the commonwealth's coastal zones (Delaware River and Lake Erie) with support from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Zone Program. Much of the digitizing of NWI maps was funded by EPA to complete data for the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the data layer for EPA's Region III. Wetland mapping in the Poconos was updated with 2002 imagery. The Service is working with the commonwealth on a proposal to update and enhance NWI data for its Lake Erie watershed. EPA has indicated that they would like the NWI data updated for all of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has included wetland mapping in its State Wildlife Action Plan.

Identified Uses of NWI In Pennsylvania



LEGEND

How the NWI has been used:

-  Agricultural Planning & Conservation
-  Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Planning
-  Development, Real Estate & Permitting Decisions
-  Energy Project Siting Decisions
-  Enforcement & Legal Defense
-  Hurricane, Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Planning
-  Military Installation Assessment
-  Transportation Planning
-  Water Quality & Watershed Management Projects
-  Wetland Restoration, Monitoring & Assessment
-  Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

For the most up-to-date wetland mapping information, please contact the state contact(s) listed below:

- Shelby Freyermuth, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands
- Sidney Freyermuth, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands
- Dave Goerman, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands
- www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/bureau_of_waterways_engineering_and_wetlands/11202

