



# NWI Standards & Dataset: A Cornerstone for Decision-Support

**Summary of Poll Results, Questions for Speakers, and Additional Discussion**



# Summary

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- NWI maps are used to support a wide array of management decisions, ranging from those pertaining to endangered species to construction of infrastructure. Stakeholders range from federal and state agencies, to NGOs and individuals.
- As the US FWS transitions from the National Wetland Inventory map producer to map stewards, your contribution to updating and otherwise improving NWI maps will be essential.



# Summary

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- In order to maintain the utility and integrity of NWI maps, updated or otherwise improved wetland maps must be contributed according to established standards.
- The US FWS, more specifically the National Standards and Support Team in Madison, WI will support the contribution process, but your feedback is needed for the NSST to best support your training, data transfer, and other needs.
- By answering our survey questions you are helping to provide these details.



# First and Second Questions

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- Are you aware that the FGDC Wetlands Mapping Standard must be used in all mapping projects that are funded in part through the federal government?
  - Yes – 55 %
  - No – 45 %
  
- Are you aware that the FGDC Wetlands Mapping Standard requires all wetlands AND surface waters should be mapped?
  - Yes – 42 %
  - No – 58 %



# Third Question

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- Would you or someone in your organization benefit from training in one or more of the following (check all that apply)?
  - Wetland & deep water habitat classification training using the Cowardin Classification – 54 %
  - How to apply NWI codes to the Cowardin Classification – 57 %
  - Image interpretation of wetlands & deep water habitat – 84 %
  - How to use the Wetlands Verification Toolset – 75 %
  - Technical editing and geospatial data creation techniques – 71 %



# Fourth Question

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- Would you or someone in your organization benefit from learning more about one or more of the following (check all that apply)?
  - Changes in the Cowardin Classification 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, released in 2013 – 68 %
  - Updated Data Collection Requirements Document released Aug. 2015 – 57 %
  - New Water Regimes, wetland modifiers and restrictions in Cowardin – 78 %
  - National Wetlands Inventory Version 2 – Surface Waters and Wetlands – 88 %



# Fifth Question

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- What would be the best way to provide training?
  - In a week long NWI wetland classification and mapping workshop? - 7 %
  - Online training? - 40 %
  - Online & in-field & classroom combined training? - 51 %
  - Other: - 1 %
    - Week long classroom and field
    - Online followed by field training



## Sixth Question

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- Any other questions, comments or training needs in regards to the NWI dataset, Wetland Mapping or Classification Standard?





# Discussion: Protocols

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- Questions can be asked or responses made via the question box (preferred method). If you would like to speak directly please virtually raise your hand and you will be unmuted.
  - Note: For your audio to work properly once unmuted you must speak through either your phone line or your computer microphone but not both. Phone line users must mute their computer audio to avoid feedback. Computer mic and speaker users should turn down the volume of their speakers when talking to avoid feedback.



# Audience Questions

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- Do you think that stewardship [of NWI maps] gives a more caring role? – Carl Dupoldt
  - Caring – perhaps more interactive role between NSST and stakeholders/map creators.
- Other questions



# Additional Question

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- Other than financial resources - what is the main obstacle to producing high quality wetland maps?
  - High quality aerial photography?
  - Other image types (e.g., lidar) or geospatial datasets?
  - Well trained staff?
  - Software access?



*Thank you!*

Your feedback is essential. Stay-tuned for additional training opportunities and other developments.

Please contact the National Standards and Support Team with questions or comments: [Wetlands\\_Team@fws.gov](mailto:Wetlands_Team@fws.gov)