

Ohio Wetland Data

Ohio's wetlands cover about 1.8 percent of the State. Swamps, wet prairies, coastal and embayment marshes, peatlands, and wetlands along stream margins and backwaters are the most common Ohio wetlands. Wetland area in Ohio has declined by 90 percent during the last 200 years, from about 5,000,000 acres to about 483,000 acres. Drainage of wetlands for agriculture has been the primary cause of wetland loss, but recreational use, fluctuating water levels, urban development, mining, logging, and fire also have contributed. Ohio designates all wetlands as State Resource Waters. As such, wetland water quality is protected from degradation that may interfere with designated uses.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory produced [quantity] digital data for Ohio with [] contributions from []. Using the FGDC Wetlands Data Standard, wetlands were classified by System, Subsystem, Class, water regime and special modifiers. Digital Wetlands Data are available for nearly a quarter of the State with additional data available on hard-copy maps and scanned data (pre-digitized, as of January 2006—may have been digitized since then). Sixty-five percent of the imagery data used to produce the wetland maps is over 20 years old. Color infrared imagery was used to make over half of the wetland maps (55%). Forty-five percent of the imagery used to make the wetland maps was at a scale of 1:80,000.

