Texas Wetland Data

Wetlands cover about 7.6 million acres of Texas, 4.4 percent of the State's area. The most extensive wetlands are the bottom-land hardwood forests and swamps of East Texas; the marshes, swamps, and tidal flats of the coast; and the playa lakes of the High Plains. Wetlands provide flood attenuation, bank stabilization, water-quality maintenance, fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. Commercial fisheries benefit directly from coastal wetlands. Texas has lost about one-half of its original wetlands as a result of agricultural conversions, overgrazing, urbanization, channelization, water-table declines, construction of navigation canals, and other causes.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory produced [quantity] digital data for Texas 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 13% of the State with additional hard-copy maps for 78% of the State. Three quarters of the imagery used to produce the wetland maps is over 20 years old with an additional 11% being more recent imagery. Color infrared imagery was used to make almost all (99.7%) of the wetland maps. More than half of the imagery was at a scale of 1:58,000.