

SSA 33

Wetlands

STATUS AND TRENDS



IN THE CONTERMINOUS
UNITED STATES
MID-1970's TO MID-1980's

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wetlands

STATUS AND TRENDS IN THE
CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES
MID-1970's TO MID-1980's

First Update of the National
Wetlands Status Report

1991

By

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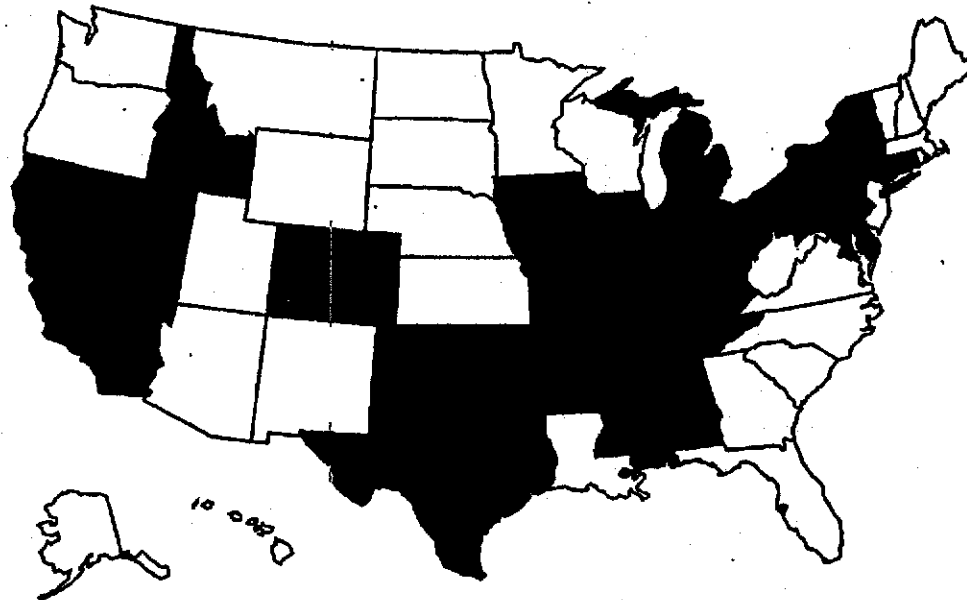
STATUS AND TRENDS OF WETLANDS

Wetland losses from the mid-1970's to the mid-1980's were more evenly distributed between agricultural land use and "other" land use (than from the 1950's to the mid-1970's). Conversions to agricultural land uses accounted for 54.0 percent of the losses while conversions to "other" land uses accounted for 41.0 percent of the losses. This is an appreciable change from trends observed in the earlier study in which agricultural conversion represented 87.0 percent of all wetland losses. A substantial portion of the increased importance of lands classified as "other" is attributable to wetlands that had been cleared and drained, but not yet put to an identifiable use. Conversions of wetlands to urban land uses accounted for about 5.0

percent of the wetlands loss. Overall, wetland acreage in the mid-1980's constituted 5.0 percent of the land area of the conterminous United States.

Since the mid-1980's, indications are that wetland losses are slowing. From 1987 to 1990, programs to restore wetlands under the 1985 Food Security Act have added about 90.0 thousand acres to the Nation's wetlands inventory (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1991). Other programs to protect wetlands, like the Swampbuster provision of the Food Security Act, have generated support for conserving wetlands. In addition, public education and extension efforts have helped heighten our Nation's awareness of the values of wetlands.

FIGURE 1. States that lost more than 50 percent of their wetlands between the 1780's and mid-1980's (Listed states shaded) (after Dahl 1990):



State	Percent Lost	State	Percent Lost
Alabama	50	Maryland	73
Arkansas	72	Michigan	50
California	91	Mississippi	59
Colorado	50	Missouri	87
Connecticut	74	Nevada	52
Delaware	54	New York	60
Idaho	56	Ohio	90
Illinois	85	Oklahoma	67
Indiana	87	Pennsylvania	56
Iowa	89	Tennessee	59
Kentucky	81	Texas	52