

TITLE: National Standards for Wetlands Mapping

DATE of PROPOSAL: February 2006

TYPE OF STANDARD PROPOSED: Classification Method Process Standard

SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION: Wetland Mapping Workgroup, within the FGDC Wetland Subcommittee

POINT of CONTACT:

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Proposal Objective:

The purpose of this proposal is to propose a new *National Standard for Wetlands Mapping*. This standard is based on the draft standard currently being used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI).

Scope:

The mapping standard being proposed would be used for all wetland mapping nationally including Federal Agencies, States, Tribes, especially if that mapping data will be uploaded into NWI/ the National Map as a data layer. Specifically, if Federal funding is involved, then use of the proposed Standard would be required. For all other efforts, use of the standard would be strongly encouraged.

Justification/Benefits:

There is currently no FGDC approved wetland mapping standard in place. Developing and approving a mapping standard for wetlands is the first step in being able to map all wetlands in the United States, down to the local level if possible and needed. Once wetlands are mapped, wetland loss and gain can be calculated; all work being done on a wetland, by multiple entities, can be geo-referenced; wetlands can be placed and managed in a watershed context and overlain with NHD on the National Map. Federal agencies alone, or in partnership with private state and local agencies, are currently working to map wetlands across the United States. Often these projects are federally funded in whole or in part. This standard will ensure that federally funded mapping will meet the Nation's needs while still allowing flexibility to meet local needs.

Development Approach: Produce a first working draft standard to be reviewed by August 2006, and delivery of a committee draft to the FGDC Standards Working Group in February 2007. EPA has a grant with Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) which will facilitate the review process with the states. The Standards workgroup has representation from the NaCo, ASWM, ECOS, ASIWPCA and will be contacting someone at BIA for a representative as well. The draft standard will be posted on the FGDC website: (Wetlands Subcommittee page @

<http://www.nwi.fws.gov/fgdcwet.html>). The draft proposal will be presented and discussed at the ASWM winter meeting, the NSGIC, and the NaCo winter meetings in Feb. and March 2006. These three winter meetings will present the opportunity to discuss the proposal with multiple stakeholders at the State, Tribal, and county level. In addition, we plan to contact different levels of state government (ie. GIOs, and staff and managers in Wetland programs) and reach out to groups like the Home Builders Association to facilitate the stakeholder input process.

Resources Required: This will be mostly in-kind from the Standard workgroup members.

Related Standards: The Proposed standard must mesh with National Hydrography Database (NHD), Nature Serve's *Coastal/Marine Systems of North America: Framework for an Ecological Classification Standard*, and the *Vegetation Classification Standard* (<http://biology.usgs.gov/fgdc.veg/>).

Other Targeted Authorization Bodies:

None