

5.5%

that's like 171,593 square miles depending on how good at math you are

of the contiguous United States is wetland – the marshes, swamps, bogs, and water-covered areas that **so many critters and creatures call home.**



To celebrate **American Wetlands Month**, here are six ways data keep our wetlands squishy and glorious for all to enjoy (human or animal).

FAS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

New America



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INNOVATION CENTER



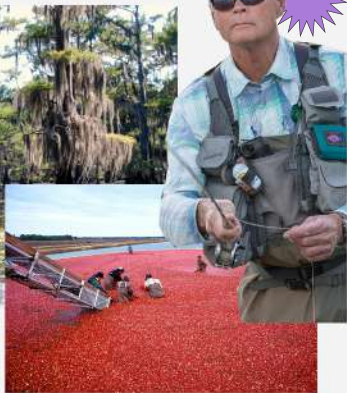
America's Essential Data

like my good friend the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)



Wetlands are good for more than their natural beauty (which they have in multitudes, naturally!).

They buffer our communities from flooding and erosion, slow the momentum of coastal storm surges, and filter pollution and impurities from the water we drink.



If we care about our homes, our communities, local economies, and the **wildlife we share our planet with, we must care about wetland data.**

Young explorers get to experience the beauty of spiny softshell turtles, longtail salamanders, and queen snakes, three of the many species protected because wildlife biologists used the **National Wetlands Inventory** to prioritize habitats for conservation.



unhand me!



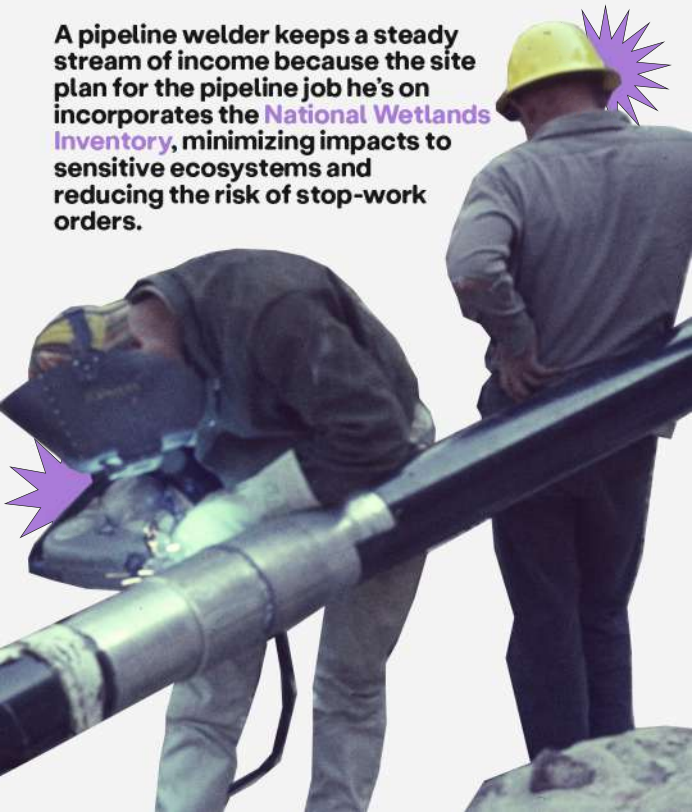
AND A HAPPY AMERICAN WETLANDS MONTH TO YOU TOO



you're probably wondering how i ended up here

A sportsman finds a new fishing hole using an app that incorporates accurate, up-to-date information from the [National Wetlands Inventory](#) so he can train the next generation of bassmasters.

A pipeline welder keeps a steady stream of income because the site plan for the pipeline job he's on incorporates the **National Wetlands Inventory**, minimizing impacts to sensitive ecosystems and reducing the risk of stop-work orders.



A craft brewery can count on clean water for their newest extra hoppy IPA because their water district uses the **National Wetlands Inventory** to conserve watersheds critical to keeping pollution out of the local supply.



do not try this at home, this bird is a trained professional

A Mississippi Delta duck club finds a prime location for waterfowl hunting because they use a hunting app layered with the [National Wetlands Inventory](#) to locate wetlands that concentrate birds during migration.



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A church hosts its annual lenten fish fry with fish caught from the local lake because the **National Wetlands Inventory helped state wetland managers restore wetlands, which reduced pollutants that previously rendered the fish inedible.**



the bad newts

More than half of wetlands in the lower 48 are already gone.

the good newts

The National Wetlands Inventory is an essential dataset for protecting what we have left.



learn more about
the value of
federal data@
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