

More Information on State Wetland Programs

Wetlands in the United States are regulated and protected through a variety of federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as through the actions and initiatives of governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, universities and schools, and citizens. The efforts of these groups are often intended to complement each other and many rely upon planning and science in their design and implementation. Other approaches to wetland protection are the result of circumstance and incremental program development that have evolved organically over time. State wetland programs are no exception, taking a variety of approaches to wetland regulation and protection.

ELI's study

ELI is currently conducting a multi-phased study designed to describe and analyze seven "core" components of state wetland programs: state laws, regulations, and programs; monitoring and assessment; restoration programs and activities; water quality standards; public-private partnerships; coordination among state and federal agencies; and education and outreach activities. Each phase of the study examines a cross-section of states representing various approaches to wetland protection and regulation, as well as geographic diversity.

- [State Wetland Program Evaluation: Phase I](#), released in 2005, includes profiles of Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington.
- [State Wetland Program Evaluation: Phase II](#), released in 2006, includes profiles of Florida, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- [State Wetland Program Evaluation: Phase III](#), released in 2007, includes profiles of Alabama, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming.
- [State Wetland Program Evaluation: Phase IV](#), anticipated for completion in 2007, will profile the remaining 13 states: Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

ELI also plans to conduct analysis and provide an overview of the status of and trends among all 50 state wetland programs in 2007-2008. Final reports will be posted on ELI's Wetlands Program webpage, as they are available, at: <http://www2.eli.org/research/wetlands.htm>. The study is made possible through support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ASWM's study

Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) is constructing a website providing information on the core wetland program elements for each of the fifty states. Completed state program summaries, posted in a standardized format that may be revised and expanded over time, can be found at <http://www.aswm.org/swp/statemainpage9.htm>.

Additional information from U.S. EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also provides information both about and for state wetland programs, including:

- State, tribal, and local initiatives: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/initiative/>;
- Landowner assistance and stewardship: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/landasst.html>;
- Water quality and 401 certification: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/waterquality/>;
- Monitoring and assessment: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/monitor/>; and
- Wetland programs across the country: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/regions.html>.