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# Wetlands Are Important

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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# WETLANDS

*we need 'em...*

Flooded Meadow



Photo by Ralph Tiner

Wooded Swamp



Photo by Ralph Tiner

Northern Bog



Photo by William Zinni

Salt Marsh



Photo by Ralph Tiner

THE RARE ONES



BEAUTY

CLEAN WATER



FOOD SOURCE

EROSION CONTROL



FLOOD PROTECTION

RECREATION



WILDLIFE HABITAT



Forested Bog



Photo by Ralph Tiner

Prairie Pothole



Photo by Ralph Tiner

Southern Swamp



Photo by Ralph Tiner

Inland Marsh

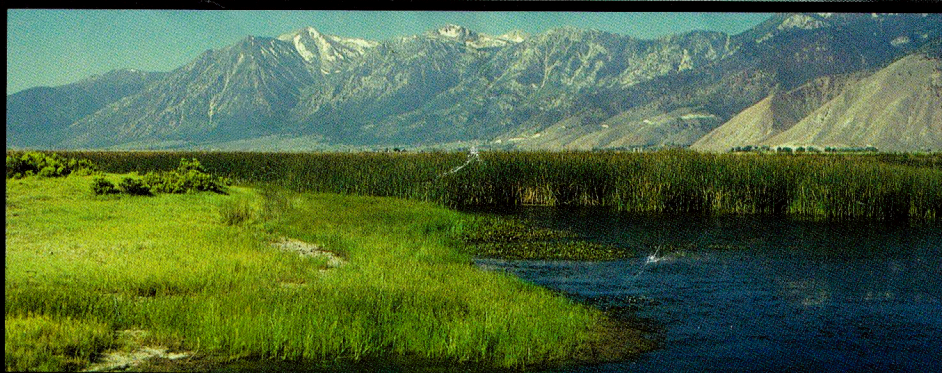


Photo by Ralph Tiner

## wet lands (-lanz). n. pl.

1. lands that are sometimes or always covered by shallow water or have saturated soils, and where plants adapted for life in wet conditions usually grow.
2. vital link between land and water.
3. areas that are valuable to YOU!



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North American Waterfowl Management Plan

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# Wildlife needs 'em too.

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Background photo by Mark Wilson

# WETLANDS *are important.*

## Disappearing Wetlands— Going, Going . . .

Since the early 1600s, we've lost about half of the wetlands in the "lower 48" States to agriculture and development.

We're still losing wetlands at a rate of more than 1,000 acres a day to development of various kinds. Wetlands are also threatened with pollution.



Photo by Ralph Tiner

## Erosion Control



Plants growing along rivers, lakes, and shorelines hold the soil, reducing loss from storm waves and flooding.



## Flood Protection

Wetlands temporarily hold flood waters, releasing them slowly to reduce loss of life and property.



Photo by Mark Wilson



## Home for the Rare Ones

Over one-third of our endangered species lives in or uses wetlands.

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat



Like prime farmlands, marshes produce abundant aquatic plant "crops," a rich bounty that supports an amazing array of wildlife, from bald eagles to moose to salamanders and striped bass.



Photo by Mark Wilson



## Food Source

Oysters, shrimp, bluefish, flounder... a \$10 billion yearly harvest that needs coastal marshes, as do valuable furbearers.



Photo by Jo Keller



Photo by Mark Wilson



## Recreation

Enjoy wildlife observation, photography, fishing, hunting, crabbing, hiking and boating.

## How Can I Help?

- Identify and conserve wetlands in your backyard and community.
- Become familiar with wetland laws and be a "wetland watchdog."
- Teach young people about wetlands.
- Support local, State, and national conservation groups that protect wetlands.
- Buy Federal and State Duck Stamps; they help buy and protect wetlands.

To order maps of wetlands in your neighborhood, call 1-800-USA-MAPS.



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