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Towards Creating a National Reference Wetlands Registry

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ABSTRACT

Local and regional reference wetlands networks have proven to be extremely valuable in supporting wetland assessment, planning, and monitoring. By establishing a national Reference Wetlands Registry (RWR), we can leverage existing regional and national programs to provide broad access to information on reference wetlands around the country. Such a registry would facilitate data-sharing that is critical for evaluating national trends and policies. Large-scale assessments across broad (continental-scale) gradients are also important to help understand shifts in wetland conditions associated with impacts such as urban and energy development and climate change. Regions looking to develop or expand reference networks will benefit from being able to look at data and distributions from across the country to inform their decisions.

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