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WETLANDS FACT SHEET #29

EPA's Outreach Efforts

EPA's Wetlands Division marshals a variety of tools to protect wetlands effectively. One of the primary tools is outreach, including fostering public and private partnerships, providing technical assistance, and educating the public. The Wetlands Division and EPA's Regional Offices are actively involved in outreach initiatives that include:

- creating partnerships with the agricultural community, private landowners, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies;
- educating the public, children, and adults; and
- providing technical assistance to State and local governments as well as private, and non-profit organizations.

BACKGROUND

In order to increase long-term wetlands conservation and management, it is necessary to enhance public understanding of the value of wetlands as well as support innovative programs that encourage private, State and local actions to conserve wetlands.

OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- **EPA Wetlands Protection Hotline:** (1-800- 832-7828): A toll free telephone service, operated by a contractor to EPA, that is responsive to public interest, questions, and requests for information about wetlands.



In its first year of operation (March 1991-February 1992), the Hotline received and responded to over 14,100 calls, an average of more than 1,100 per month.

- **American Wetlands Month**—Across the country each May, Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private and non-profit organizations come together voluntarily to increase public awareness of the values and productivity of wetlands, encourage people to enjoy these resources, and to protect, recognize, enhance, commemorate, and restore our Nation's wetlands.

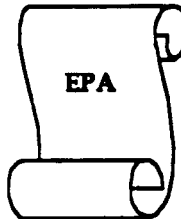


- **Audubon's America:** A program to protect, conserve, restore, enhance and interpret the natural and cultural resource values of the land and water areas in the 35 States where John James Audubon lived, traveled, wrote, painted, and observed. This will be accomplished by recognizing and establishing a system of connected public and privately owned natural areas in the mid-western and eastern United States.



- **Sponsorship of Workshops and Conferences:** EPA sponsors a variety of forums encouraging informed discussion on wetlands issues including State programs, wetlands and watershed management, categorization, mitigation, altered wetlands, and education.

- **Available Publications:** Private Landowner's Wetlands Assistance Guide; Agriculture and Wetlands: a Compilation of Factsheets; Beyond the Estuary: The Importance of Upstream Wetlands in Estuarine Processes; and America's Wetlands: Our Vital Link Between Land and Water.



For more information, contact the EPA Wetlands Hotline at 1-800-832-7828 *

* contractor operated

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