



29 EPA's Outreach Efforts

EPA's Wetlands Division uses various tools to protect wetlands effectively. One of the primary tools is outreach. The goal of outreach efforts is to increase long-term wetlands conservation and management. This goal can be accomplished by enhancing public understanding of the value of wetlands and supporting innovative programs that encourage private, State, and local actions to conserve wetlands. The Wetlands Division and EPA's Regional Offices are actively involved in outreach initiatives as outlined in this fact sheet.

Outreach activities include the following:

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

EPA's Wetlands Information Hotline (1-800-832-7828)

A toll-free telephone service, operated by a contractor to EPA, responds to public interest, questions, and requests for information about wetlands. From March 1993 to March 1994, the Hotline received and responded to 9,980 calls, or about 832 per month.



American Wetlands Month

Across the country each May, Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private and nonprofit 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 wetlands.

Audubon's America

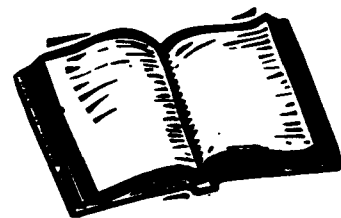
EPA supports this program to protect, conserve, restore, enhance, and interpret the natural and cultural resource values of the land and water areas where John James Audubon lived, traveled, wrote, painted, and observed. This will be accomplished by recognizing and establishing a system of connected public and privately owned natural areas in the midwestern and eastern United States.

Workshops and Conferences

EPA sponsors a variety of forums encouraging informed discussion of wetlands issues, including State programs, wetlands and watershed management, categorization, mitigation, altered wetlands, and education.

Publications

These include brochures and fact sheets for the public; teachers and students; landowners and farmers affected by the permitting process; State, Tribal, and local governments; and organizations interested in environmental issues. To date, much of the information has been provided in hard copy. Soon this information may be available on Internet.



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For more information, contact the EPA Wetlands Information Hotline at 1-800-832-7828 (contractor operated).

