

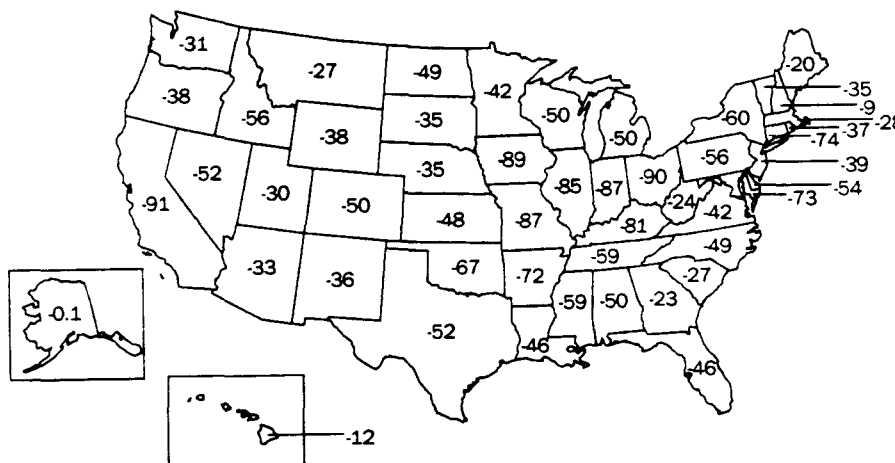


Facts about Wetlands

Over half (53%) of the wetlands in the lower 48 States were lost between the late 1700s and the mid-1980s. About 100 million acres of wetlands remain today in the lower 48 States, representing less than 5% of the land mass in the continental United States. (See map.)

Source: Dahl and Johnson. *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States*. USFWS, 1989.

Percentage of Wetlands Acreage Lost, 1780s-1980s



In Fiscal Year 1994, over 48,000 people applied to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for a Section 404 permit. Eighty-two percent of these applications were covered by general permits in an average time of 16 days. Less than ten percent of the applications were subject to the more detailed individual evaluation—which took an average of 127 days. Only 358, or 0.7 percent, of the permits were denied. In the 22-year history of the Section 404 program, EPA has vetoed only 11 permits.

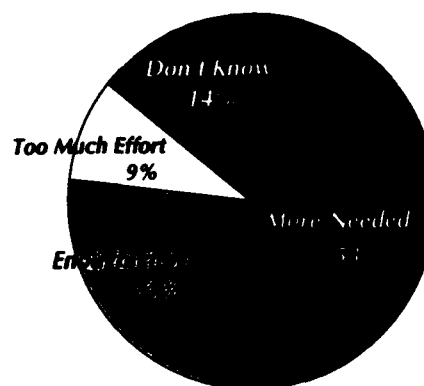
In short, almost all individuals who applied for a Section 404 permit in 1994 got their permits, and the average time for a decision was 27 days.

In addition, general permits cover an estimated 50,000 activities that do not require the public to notify the Corps at all.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Is Current Wetlands Protection Adequate?

In a 1994 survey, 53% of the respondent said they felt that more wetlands protection efforts were needed, 24% said current efforts struck the right balance, 9% said these efforts had gone too far, and 14% said they didn't know. Source: "Times Mirror Magazines National Environmental Forum Survey." 1994. Times Mirror Magazines/Roper Starch.



Twenty-two States have lost at least 50% of their original wetlands. Seven of those twenty-two States — California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, and Ohio — have lost more than 80% of their original wetlands. Source: Mitch and Gosselink. *Wetlands*. 2nd edition. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993.

From the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, wetlands were lost at an annual rate of 290,000 acres per year. Source: Dahl and Johnson. *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States, Mid-1970's to Mid-1980's*. USFWS, 1991.

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



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