Arkansas Wetland Data

About 8 percent of Arkansas is wetland. The most extensive areas are forested wetlands (swamps and bottom-land forests) along major rivers. Arkansas wetlands, especially those in the Mississippi River Valley, are a critical component of the series of wetlands along the Mississippi Flyway. Wetlands in the Cache-Lower White River system have been designated as one of nine "Wetlands of International Importance" in the United States. Arkansas has lost more wetland acres than any other inland State; most of the loss has been due to conversion to farmland. Arkansas has adopted a program that applies an antidegradation policy to substantial alteration of water bodies, including adjacent wetlands.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory produced [ ] digital data for Arkansas with [ ] contributions from [ ]. Using the FGDC Wetlands Data Standard, wetlands were classified by System, Subsystem, Class, water regime and special modifiers. Digital Wetlands Data are available for approximately 14.5% of the state. There are hard copy maps for an additional 66% of the state. Nearly eighty percent of the imagery data used to produce the maps is over 20 years old and about a fifth of the imagery is approximately twenty years old. Color infrared imagery was used to make 91% of the maps. Black and white imagery was used for an additional nine percent. The majority –74%-- of the imagery used to make the maps was at a scale of 1:58,000.