**Colorado Wetland Data**

Wetlands cover about 1 million acres of Colorado—1.5 percent of the State's area. Wetlands occur in all life and climatic zones, from the high mountains to the arid plains and plateaus. Wetland types in Colorado include forested wetlands, willow carrs, fens, marshes, alpine snow glades, and wet and salt meadows. Wetlands are vital to wildlife in the State, particularly in the arid regions. Colorado's wetland area has decreased by about one-half in the last two centuries, and losses are continuing due to a variety of land-development pressures; however, irrigation and changes in land-use practices have resulted in new wetlands, principally in the San Luis Valley and near Boulder.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory produced [ ] digital data for Colorado 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 nearly 11% of the State with additional hard-copy maps covering 89% of the State's wetlands. Ninety percent of the imagery used to produce the wetland maps is over 20 years old. Color infrared imagery was used to make 48% of the maps with the rest of the imagery in black & white. More than half of the imagery was at a scale of 1:80,000.