Minnesota Wetland Data

Minnesota has about 9.5 million acres of wetlands, about one-half the wetland acreage present in predevelopment times. Most wetland losses have been due to drainage for agriculture. Minnesota's wetlands are diverse, ranging from extensive northern peatlands to small prairie potholes. Minnesota has about 150,000 to 200,000 acres of wild rice beds. The centerpiece of Minnesota's efforts to protect wetlands is the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991, which sets a goal of no net wetland loss. The law fills the gap in wetland protection between larger, deepwater habitats that are already protected by Minnesota statute and agricultural wetlands that are addressed by the Federal "Swampbuster" provisions.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory produced digital data for Minnesota 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 almost the entire State. Most of the imagery data is over 20 years old. Color infrared imagery was used to produce 86% of the wetland maps with an additional 14.9% in black & white. Half of the imagery was at a scale of 1:65,000.