



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R3/NWRS/RD

MAY 19 2022

Mr. Tyler Schwartze
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Schwartze:

Thank you for your letter regarding updates to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) in Missouri. These are important datasets for conservation organizations and enthusiasts. I commend your efforts to find a collaborative solution to funding the improvements.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to identify National Wildlife Refuge System lands that are in need of high-resolution elevation datasets, for use in updating layers such as the NHD. While the Service is unable to directly contribute funds to your effort at this time, the information you've shared will help us better prioritize Service elevation needs in Missouri. We will aim to update some of these datasets on Missouri refuges through our ongoing partnership with the USGS.

In addition, the Service-run NWI Program will update approximately 567,000 acres of wetlands associated with NRDAR (Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration) sites in the state. The data will be added to the NWI wetlands mapper in approximately two years. Please contact the NWI manager for more information (jonathan_phinney@fws.gov).

The USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) is working with partners and collaborators nationally to obtain high quality topographic data. Data gathered through this program is used to update the NHD and can be used to improve other datasets, such as the NWI.

In addition, the state resource agencies can access funds to map wetlands through the EPA Wetlands Development Grant Program ([Wetland Program Development Grants and EPA Wetlands Grant Coordinators | US EPA](#)). NWI works with several states, tribes, and territories on updating the wetlands data through this funding source.

For the last several years, the USGS has offered an opportunity for stakeholders to request funding for data acquisition of priority areas through a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA).

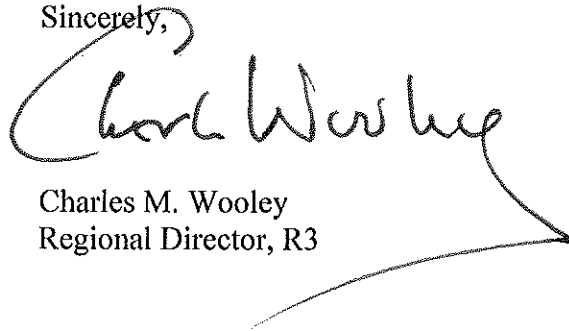
Mr. Tyler Schwartz

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This announcement may provide the Missouri coalition an opportunity to obtain some funding and additional products that would help achieve the goal of NHD and NWI updates. More information on the 3DEP BAA can be found here: <https://www.usgs.gov/3d-elevation-program/3dep-broad-agency-announcement-portal>.

Thank you for reaching out to the Service. If you have additional questions about the Service's data products or the BAA process, please contact Josh Eash at josh_eash@fws.gov or 612-240-8826.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles M. Wooley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn arrow shape that points to the right.

Charles M. Wooley
Regional Director, R3