

FACT SHEET



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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CONSERVING WETLANDS

Wetlands provide habitat for countless birds, amphibians, fish, insects, and other species. They also act as natural filters, cleansing pollutants from runoff. Unfortunately, since the 1600s, more than half of America's wetlands have been drained. Protecting those that remain is vital to safeguarding clean water and habitat. Through publications, videos, online resources, workshops, and technical assistance, the Izaak Walton League educates Americans about wetland ecology and provides them with the tools they need to conserve these valuable ecosystems.

EDUCATION

The League's Protect Our Wetlands program offers numerous publications, videos, and online resources to educate citizens about the importance of wetlands. We publish the Handbook for Wetlands Conservation and Sustainability, which explains wetland ecology, functions, and values and provides tips for organizing your community to monitor, conserve, and restore local wetlands. A companion video, Wetlands Stewardship: A Call to Action, is also available, highlighting wetland restoration activities in communities across the country.

On our Web site, citizens can learn about wetland conservation through Webcasts, fact sheets, and links to other resources. They can also read copies of our electronic newsletter, Wetland Sights & Sounds, which contains educational information on topics ranging from invasive species to global warming.

PROTECTION

Through workshops and technical assistance, the League puts the power of wetland protection directly into the hands of citizens. Our Wetlands Ecology and Stewardship Workshop teaches educators, business leaders, community planners, and other citizens what wetlands are, how they function, and why they are important. The participants spend time in the field monitoring hydrology, plants, soil, and surrounding land uses. Our Wetland Conservation and Policy Solutions Workshop focuses on current wetland conservation policy and how to advocate for better laws, draft and adopt model ordinances, and effectively read and comment on permit applications.

Nationally, the League works to ensure that laws like the Clean Water Act continue to protect wetlands, and that agencies have the resources they need to enforce wetland regulations. Through coalitions, media outreach, and direct lobbying, the League is making sure that wetlands receive the protection they need and deserve.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM AND OUR WORKSHOPS AND PUBLICATIONS

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