

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Soil and Plant Science Division

Soil Survey Region 11



## Digitization of Wetland Determinations in Illinois

### Purpose

NRCS resource analysts provide digitization of wetland determinations collected by resource soil scientists to maintain a current spatial record across Illinois.

### Background Information

Wetland determinations are critical to the NRCS mission of helping people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. Wetland determinations ensure that USDA farm program participants comply with the Food Security Act of 1985. Participants in USDA farm programs must request a certified wetland determination prior to land manipulation or land clearing.

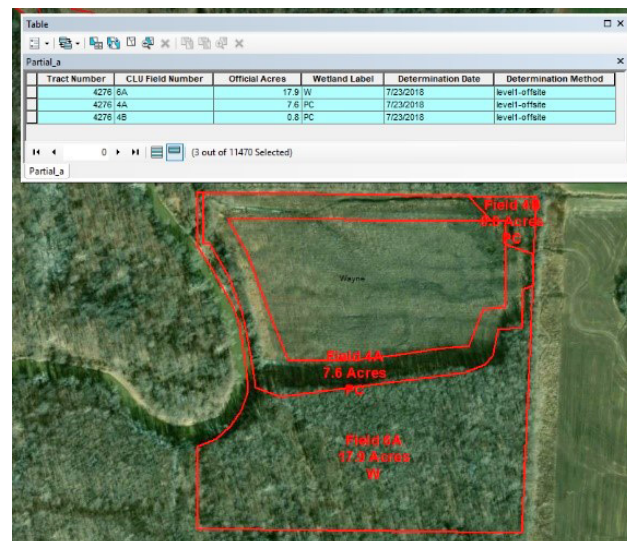
Jon Bathgate, resource analyst at the Marion, Illinois, soil survey office digitized wetland determinations for Bryan Fitch, resource soil scientist, at the Illinois Area 4 NRCS Office. The digitization of these wetland determinations provides a spatial record.

### Key Outcomes

A digital record of wetland determinations means NRCS conservation planners can easily verify that program participants are in compliance with the Food Security Act of 1985 and that proper documentation exists.

### Conclusions

Having a spatial record of wetland determinations enables NRCS resource soil scientists and soil conservationists to respond more quickly to requests from USDA program participants for a certified wetland determination.



A screenshot of a digitized wetland in ArcMap.

