How to use the Statewide Wetlands Inventory

The SWI web map is a valuable screening tool

This document explains how to use the SWI web map as a screening tool to determine if wetlands or waters may be on a property and describes possible or required next steps if the SWI mapping shows wetlands, waters or certain soils as present on the property.

How to begin

Start from the DSL Wetlands and Waters Inventories webpage, https://oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Pages/inventories-maps.aspx. Find information and documents about the SWI and Local Wetlands Inventories (LWIs), and the link to the SWI web map on this page. Once in the SWI web map, navigate to a location or a property using the search tool, mouse wheel or +/- buttons. Zoom in close enough to verify that all the resource maps, called layers, (wetlands, waters, and soils) are displayed. If any of the resource layers show features mapped on the property, then wetlands or waters may be present. If the web map is running slowly or not displaying well, try a different browser.

If the site is within an LWI study area, use the LWI features. For more information about the mapped features, scroll down on the DSL Inventories webpage to the Local Wetlands Inventory section. This section includes links to the LWI reports that contain descriptions of each feature, watershed, and the study methodology. There are also links to PDF maps and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) datasets for each LWI. Near the top of this section find the DSL LWI GIS data description for information on the LWI layers. DSL received an Environmental Protection Agency grant to digitize the LWI mapping so that we can now display the LWI wetlands and waters on the SWI web map.

Understand the limitations

The SWI web map includes mapping from different sources. These resource layers identify potential locations of wetlands, waters and certain soils associated with wetlands. Each layer has limitations and different levels of accuracy. For more details see the *SWI Map Layer Descriptions and Limitations* document to inform screening methods and reliability, https://oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/DSLSWILayerLimitations.pdf

Department of State Lands-approved wetland delineation and compensatory mitigation site mapping is part of the SWI, but it is not available yet in GIS format. To find out if these exist for the location, local planning offices and DSL have paper and pdf copies of delineation maps that may be requested from DSL by making a public records request: https://oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/public-records-requests.aspx

Next steps

Landowners, prospective landowners, realtors, etc. – Would you like more information about aquatic resources before you buy property, or begin a project in or near an SWI mapped area? DSL offers a free service, as capacity allows, to help you determine the potential need for DSL permitting. Submit a wetlands and waters determination request – form found here: https://forms.dsl.state.or.us/Forms/WetlandDetermination
Be sure to include details of proposed projects, if any. To fill out the form you will need the tax map and lot numbers. These can be found at the ORMAP map viewer; zoom to the property to find the numbers: https://ormap.net/gis/index.html. DSL will respond with information about resources on the property and next steps that may be needed for the project, if any.

Local Government planners or permitting staff

When the local office receives a permit application for a ground disturbing activity, the SWI is used to check if the proposed project area is within or partially within mapped wetlands, waters, or certain soil types. If the project overlaps or is near mapped resources, and the project includes ground-disturbing activities, send a *wetland land use notice* (WLUN) to DSL. (Find the "Assistance for Governments" URL below.) DSL will respond within 30 days to the local government staff member and the applicant. The response describes next steps that may be needed to proceed with the project, if any. This process informs all parties of any permitting needs.

- <u>Projects outside LWI study areas</u> -- Use all the SWI map layers together to screen for where a WLUN is required. If any SWI wetlands, waters or soils are mapped in the project area, submit a WLUN to DSL.

- <u>Projects within an LWI study area</u> – Within the study area the LWI mapping replaces the national SWI layers for WLUN screening. For more information about the LWI features and layers see the LWI section of the DSL Wetlands and Waters Inventories webpage https://oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Pages/inventories-maps.aspx

  When using LWI maps for WLUN screening, see the LWI approval date and the methodology limitations in the report. The maps for LWIs developed prior to 2001 did not include wetlands and waters less than 0.5 acre in size, and LWIs developed prior to 2009 have decreased boundary accuracy compared to recent LWI mapping. Consider adding a buffer of 30-50 feet around LWI mapped resources or include the SWI soils to compensate for the less accurate feature mapping. Choose and use a consistent screening method.

- Find more information about wetland land use notices, statutes, guidance for submittal and screening methods, and the online submittal form for local governments: https://oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Pages/local-gov-planning.aspx

- Also find information about developing LWIs for Goals 5 & 17, and related wetland planning.
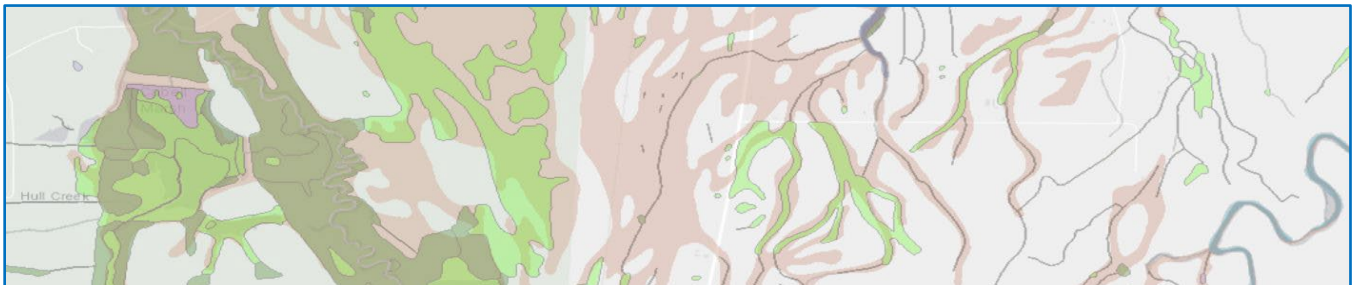
The Wetlands and Waters Inventories webpage has links to multiple useful documents

Description of the map sources (layers) displayed on the SWI web map and their limitations
https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/DSLSWILayerLimitations.pdf

Find quick tips and tools for navigating and using the web map. This also gives directions to add the internet map services that DSL publishes for the SWI web map in your own desktop GIS maps
https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/SWIQuickTips.pdf.

More information:

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Jevra.Brown@DSL.Oregon.gov
https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Pages/inventories-maps.aspx

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