

LOSS OF FORESTED WETLANDS - QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND MORE QUESTIONS

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The most recent study (2004 – 2009) on the Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the US indicates a connection between forested wetland loss and areas being used for silviculture. Many questions have been raised about this trend, including how the Status and Trends methodology identifies wetlands and wetland loss, how “minor drainage” is practiced on silvicultural lands, and why only some of the forested wetlands in silviculture become uplands. Watershed-scale pilot studies conducted as part of the National Ocean Policy’s Implementation Plan have revealed that local and regional changes in hydrology may play a role in the losses of forested wetlands, and that silviculture may be an intermediate phase in the loss of forested wetlands to development.

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