



DIGITAL COAST

CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

Land cover data and maps document how much of an area is covered by natural and man-made features, such as development, wetlands, and forests. These data products can be used to help address concerns related to urban growth, water quality, wetland loss, impacts from flooding and storm surges, and sea level rise. Having this information puts officials in a better position to plan and prioritize projects, and ultimately protect their coastal communities.

Of course, it's natural to wonder where to begin. To save coastal managers time and frustration, NOAA's Digital Coast [offers a multitude of resources](#) aimed at helping with every aspect of land cover analysis. These resources include the following:

- **Data.** The Digital Coast provides [high-resolution data](#) for smaller areas, [regional data](#) for all coastal areas, and [national land cover data](#).
- **Tools.** Included are interactive tools for exploring [coastal counties' land cover](#) and getting an easy-to-understand [snapshot of coastal data](#).
- **Information.** The site provides comprehensive [reports on land cover change](#) over time, and stories about how municipalities benefited from land cover analysis. A good example comes from a [Wisconsin county that used NOAA's data and assistance](#) to understand the effects of previous land use decisions and make more informed decisions going forward.

In short, we like to think that for every land cover need, we've got you covered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Herold".

Nate Herold
Physical Scientist
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Digital Coast Stories and Impacts

Data and Tools in Action

Facilitating Data Collection for Multiple Uses

Effective coastal planning takes high-quality data. Data gaps make it harder for coastal managers to characterize habitats, plan for storms, or track changes in water levels. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management offers [geospatial contract services](#) to help governmental entities easily acquire data from private companies. The Great Lakes [used this service](#) to fill data gaps in the Beaver Island Archipelago and Manitou Islands.

Providing Easy Access to Decades of Data

For ocean planners, utilizing a variety of data sets is only part of the equation. Access to environmental studies can save planners time and resources, but until recently, this information wasn't available through any data portal. Through a partnership between NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, ocean planners [can now](#)

Data

New and Updated Data Sets*

Elevation

- 2012 Central Coast
- 2013 Clackamol
- 2016 Florida
- 2014 Mississippi
- 2015 Mississippi
- 2012 Oregon
- 2013 Oregon
- 2016 Oregon
- 2012 Tillamook Yamhill
- 2015 Wisconsin
- 2016 Wisconsin

See a [full list](#) of the new and updated data, or [subscribe to the data updates newsletter](#).

*Some data sets do not cover the entire state.

Additional Updates

Prepare for Managing Visitor Use in the Off-Season

Getting visitors to reserves, parks, and sanctuaries is a priority for most managers. But those visitors can have harmful effects on the environment. Now that the visitor season has eased,

[geographically search](#) over five decades of study data through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System](#).

News from Our Coastal Colleagues

Guide Helps Communities Realize Full Potential of Floodplains

Besides reducing flood risks and losses, well-managed floodplains perform other beneficial functions that include maintaining habitat, enhancing water quality, and providing recreational opportunities. The Association of State Floodplain Managers and the Coastal States Organization teamed up to develop an interactive, online [Community Rating System \(CRS\) Green Guide](#), which highlights these benefits. This guide empowers communities to enhance their credits, encourages communities to join, and provides success stories and elementary and advanced information.

[host NOAA's training](#) at your facility and get ready for next year.

Be a Part of Improving the Digital Coast Website

The Digital Coast was just revamped, but we never stop trying to improve. Help us assess changes to the site. [Contact us](#) if you would like to participate in our usability testing.

Training Calendar

See what trainings are coming up in the [Training Calendar](#).



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Send your product, personnel, or event news to Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov. We'll include it in *Digital Coast Connections*, space permitting. For answers to additional questions, contact coastal.info@noaa.gov.

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