

# USGS National Hydrography Dataset Newsletter

Vol. 16, No. 1, January 2017

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## Thank You and Happy New Year!

*As 2017 begins, we would like to give a big “thank you” to all of you in the NHD/WBD world who steward, develop, use, improve, nurture, and QC the data, and for everything you do that supports hydrography mapping in the U.S. The NHD, NHDPlus and WBD products wouldn’t be possible without your dedication and hard work, and it is our pleasure at USGS to manage these datasets with such an amazing and committed community. Here’s to a great 2016, and a wonderful 2017 to come!*

*- The USGS NHD and WBD Teams*

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## Joint NHD and WBD Meeting Looks to the Future

*Contacts: Becci Anderson ([rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov)), Al Rea ([ahrea@usgs.gov](mailto:ahrea@usgs.gov)), Sue Buto ([sbuto@usgs.gov](mailto:sbuto@usgs.gov))*

The NHD Management Team and WBD Steering Committee held a joint meeting at USGS Headquarters from December 13-15, 2016. The meeting focused on a potential futures for national hydrography mapping in the U.S. The meeting included updates on the Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study (HRBS), stream classification, network generalization, and new systems and applications such as the Networked Linked Data Index (NLDI) and HydroLink, just to name a few. In breakout sessions, participants gave feedback on potential future directions for national hydrography mapping in the U.S., the needs and requirements of users into the future, and options on pathways to move the program forward. Thank you to the NHD Management Team, WBD Steering Committee, and other invited participants for their time and thoughtful participation.

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## Update on Mandatory Switch to HTTPS and Impact on NHD/WBD Tools

Contact: Tatyana Dimascio ([tdimascio@usgs.gov](mailto:tdimascio@usgs.gov))

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), under the Executive Office of the President, required that all publicly accessible Federal web services and websites only provide service through a secure connection, Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS), by December 31, 2016. USGS has been working to update the NHD/WBD Stewardship websites and tools to accommodate this requirement. However, there has been a transition period while the current sites and tools have been down and the new tools have in development and testing prior to release. For more information about the transition and tools, please visit the Hydrographic Data Community (HDC) (contact [danderson@usgs.gov](mailto:danderson@usgs.gov) for access) or contact your NGTOC Technical Point of Contact (for help locating your POC, contact [pjkimsey@usgs.gov](mailto:pjkimsey@usgs.gov)).

**The following tools were impacted by this transition:** NHD Update, GeoConflation (Step 6-9), Provisional Names, HEM, WBD Editor, and NHD Utilities (BuildFlow only) including reachcode allocation, GNIS names service, and QC (BuildFlow).

The current desktop editing tools are limited to pre-existing jobs and those jobs will be available for offline editing only. New jobs checked out from the Stewardship Website on December 20, 2016 and later **will only be compatible with new desktop tools**, which are being released as soon as they successfully go through testing:

**NHD Update Tool** - a new version of the tool that is HTTPS compliant is currently in testing. Please watch the HDC website for any status updates on the pending tool release or contact Kristiana Elite ([keelite@usgs.gov](mailto:keelite@usgs.gov)).

**GeoConflation** - new tools for conflation and NHD Utilities have been released in the HDC - GeoConflation Community as of 12/21/2016. The new tool (v3.0.2.0) has been tested on Steps 6-8 and the updated HTTPS/SSL connections are working as expected. For any questions related to GeoConflation tool, please contact David Anderson ([danderson@usgs.gov](mailto:danderson@usgs.gov)).

**HEM Tool 2.8.1.0** - released 12/22/2016. All versions of HEM are available on the HDC HEM Tools downloads page. This most recent version of HEM will soon be posted to the NHD core site <https://nhd.usgs.gov/tools.html>. For any questions related to HEM tool, please contact Michael Tinker ([mdtinker@usgs.gov](mailto:mdtinker@usgs.gov)).

**WBD Editor Tools 2.5.0.0** - released on 12/22/2016. You can find them on the Stewardship Website under your WBD Profile or the HDC. With these new tools, everything should be fully functional and you should be able to resume all editing. For questions regarding WBD, please contact Elizabeth Stevens-Klein ([estevens-klein@usgs.gov](mailto:estevens-klein@usgs.gov)).

**NHD Utilities (v3.0.4.0 for ArcGIS 10.3.1 and v2.2.4.0 for ArcGIS 10.2.2)** - updated NHD Utilities are being posted to the NHD core site (<https://nhd.usgs.gov/tools.html#NHDUtil>) as soon as possible and have been temporarily posted on the HDC - GeoConflation Community. Only the BuildFlow application (IN/OUT flow) was affected by the HTTPS switchover and is performing as expected after testing. For questions related to NHD Utilities, please contact David Anderson ([danderson@usgs.gov](mailto:danderson@usgs.gov)).

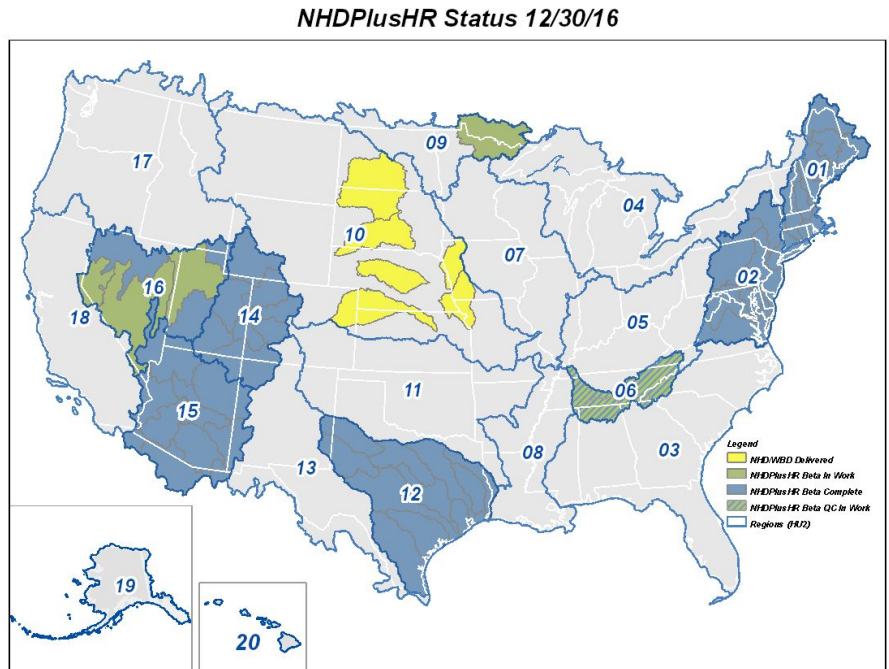
## NHDPlus High Resolution (NHDPlusHR) Updates

### NHDPlusHR Status

Contact: [Ellen Finelli](mailto:Ellen.Finelli@usgs.gov)  
([elfinelli@usgs.gov](mailto:elfinelli@usgs.gov))

The NHDPlusHR Beta production continues to move forward:

- Hydrologic Regions (HU2's) In Work: Region 09 - 0903 a Canadian / US NHDPlusHR Pilot.
- Hydrologic Regions (HU2's) Complete: 06, 12, 14, 15, 01, and 16 (*note: Hydrologic Region 16 was completed after the status graphic was created*).
- Hydrologic Regions (HU2's) Beta QC: Region 06, and soon 01.
- Data Availability: Hydrologic Region 06 data is currently being processed for distribution and will be available soon.

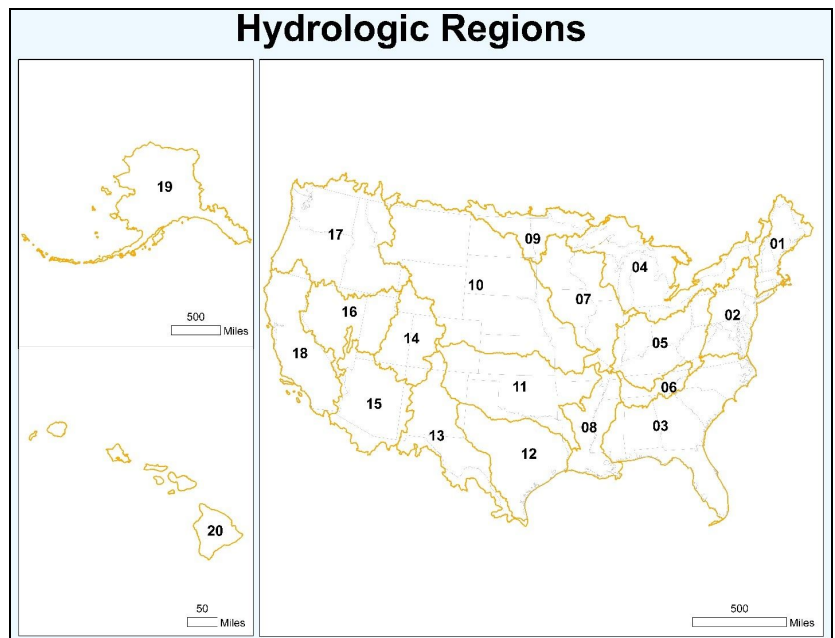


### NHDPlusHR Ingredient Dataset Update - Network Improvement

Contact: [Hannah Boggs](mailto:Hannah.Boggs@usgs.gov)  
([hboggs@usgs.gov](mailto:hboggs@usgs.gov))

The NGTOC continues its focus on the Network Improvement Project with the goal of identifying and correcting network and data quality issues existing in the high resolution NHD. One of the key drivers for this effort is the need to provide data ready to use for the production of NHDPlus High Resolution (NHDPlusHR). Coordination with appropriate NHD POC's will begin prior to review. Please see status information for details.

Network Improvement- Status (as of December 28, 2016):



- Network Improvement Work Completed
  - Regions-01, 02, 06, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 22
  - Subregions-0903
- Network Improvement Regions In Work
  - 05, 07, 09, 10, 11
- Planned Network Improvement Work
  - Regions-03
  - Subregions-0415, and 1902
- Network Improvement Regions Remaining
  - 04 (remainder), 08, 13, 17, 18, and 19 (remainder)

**Please Note:** For all regions listed above, all data will go through the QA/QC process as it becomes available.

## Calling All Alaska NHD Users!

Contact: Kristiana Elite ([keelite@usgs.gov](mailto:keelite@usgs.gov))

Due to the large amount of NHD data for the State of Alaska, the USGS has recently had difficulty generating the Alaska NHD state extract. The USGS is considering several options to remedy the situation and will discuss the issues on the next NHD Advisory Team Call on January 10, 2017.

For more information, please contact the NHD Technical Point of Contact for Alaska, Kristiana Elite ([keelite@usgs.gov](mailto:keelite@usgs.gov)). Contact Becci Anderson ([rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov)) to be added to the NHD Advisory Call email list.

## NHD Photo

This month's photo is of the Carson River at Silver Saddle Ranch in Nevada looking northwest toward Slide Mountain by Sue Buto.

We'd love to see photos of the hydrology near you or from your travels! Please send submissions to Becci Anderson ([rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov)).

Check out current and past photos at

[https://nhd.usgs.gov/photo\\_month.html](https://nhd.usgs.gov/photo_month.html)





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## NHD Quiz

Congratulations to **Meredith Carine** as the first to respond to last month's quiz with one of the possible correct answers! Thanks to the many others who also replied: Tom Denslinger, James Seay, Jim McDonald, John Kosovich, Jake Kleinknecht, Anna Nowack, Dave Hockman-Wert, Tommy Dewald, Calvin Meyer, and Lauren Lindsay.

The answer to the November quiz question - how many "Turkey Lakes" are there in the U.S.?- can be found from one of several sources such as the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the NHD, or NHDPlus. Within these, you can search multiple ways, each which leads to a slightly different answer. Here are some options:

- [GNIS search](#) *without* limiting Feature Class to "Lake": 15
- [GNIS search](#) *with* limiting Feature Class to "Lake": 11
- NHD High Resolution: 14
- NHDPlus Medium Resolution: 9

With the exception of the method limiting features to lakes, the other three answers all include one swamp feature in Marion County, Florida.

**January Quiz:** Santa left two of his faithful friends with the sleigh while he made a pit stop for cookies and cocoa at Powell's Books. When he returned, they were nowhere to be found. Can you guess the hydrologic feature they meandered off to? Looks like Santa took a long time with his snacks because they flew quite a long distance...

Send your answers with an email subject including the word "Quiz" to Becci Anderson ([rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov)). Happy hydro hunting in 2017!

*Thanks to USGS interns Lily Niknami and Alex Kaufman for writing this month's quiz!*



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**Thank you to the January 2017 USGS National Hydrography Dataset**

**Newsletter contributors:** Tatyana Dimascio, Kristiana Elite, Ellen Finelli, Hannah Boggs, Lily Niknami, Alex Kaufman, Al Rea, Sue Buto, and Becci Anderson.

## **Join Our Community!**

For more information, to sign up for the newsletter, or to contribute, please contact the newsletter editor Becci Anderson, USGS National Hydrography Co-Lead, at [rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov).

*Visit us anytime at [nhd.usgs.gov](http://nhd.usgs.gov)*

Editorial note:  
Newsletters will now arrive in the first week of their publication month. Because of this shift, it is necessary to skip publishing the December 2016 newsletter and instead move directly to the January 2017 issue.

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