



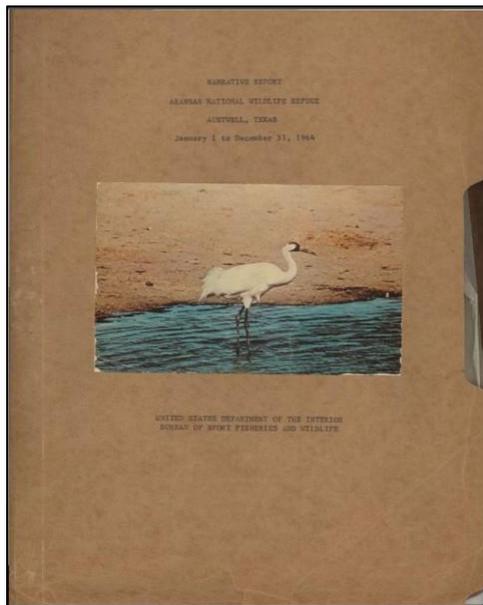
Fish & Wildlife Service Catalog (ServCat)

Natural Resource Program Center

The National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants. The Refuge System includes 560 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts.

Introduction

The Service Catalog, or ServCat, is an online application designed to centralize and preserve information about the Service or used by the Service. Historically important and management relevant documents- such as reports, management plans, geospatial data, and survey protocols- are now easily accessible. ServCat enables employees to discover information between programs, regions, and refuges, which promotes collaboration and minimizes redundancy across the Service.



Issue

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) field stations and offices have file cabinets and computer hard drives loaded with one-of-a-kind documents, such as unpublished reports and biological surveys. These documents are at risk for loss from fire or other natural disasters. Staff turnover is also common in the Service. During these times of transition, information can easily be misplaced, forgotten or destroyed. Information that is entered into ServCat will not be lost over time.

Collaboration via ServCat

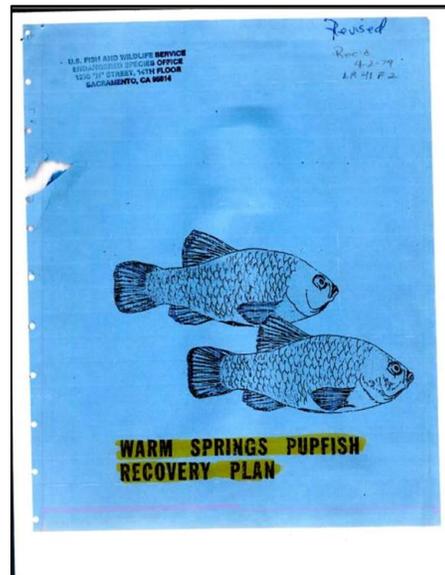
Public documents stored in ServCat are automatically harvested by Data.gov, where they can be discovered by the general public and other government agencies. This supports data

collaboration across disciplines and other agencies, helping to meet the goals of the President's Open Data Initiative, [Executive Order 12906](https://www.fws.gov/ExecutiveOrder12906).

Everyone can use ServCat to discover and access 'Public' FWS records. Furthermore, sponsored 'Partner' accounts grant non-FWS individuals elevated access to contribute to ServCat content.

Key Points

- Irreplaceable FWS information is centralized and preserved, for easy discoverability and accessibility.
- ServCat promotes collaboration within and outside of the FWS, reducing redundancy and aiding collaboration.
- Public documents and datasets can be found outside of ServCat, at Data.gov
- ServCat is designed to promote interoperability with other applications using Web Services.



For more information:

Richard Easterbrook
I&M GIS Team Leader
richard_easterbrook@fws.gov
(970) 266-2931

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/>

July 2016

