Purpose

Provide a status report on the condition and health of the wadeable streams of the US using a collaborative State effort.

Help build State capacity for monitoring and assessment.

Enhance efforts to examine comparability and support integration of State monitoring and assessment methods.

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For more information visit:
www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring
or contact:
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Wadeable Streams Assessment

The States Assess the Nation's Streams

The Wadeable Streams Assessment

- Is an ecological assessment of streams throughout the US
- Is a sample survey stratified by ecoregion (Level II) and adhering to a statistically valid design for extrapolation of condition throughout each ecoregion
- Is being conducted by the States using a common biologically-based protocol
- Provides a foundation for determining ecological condition
- Complements State monitoring programs

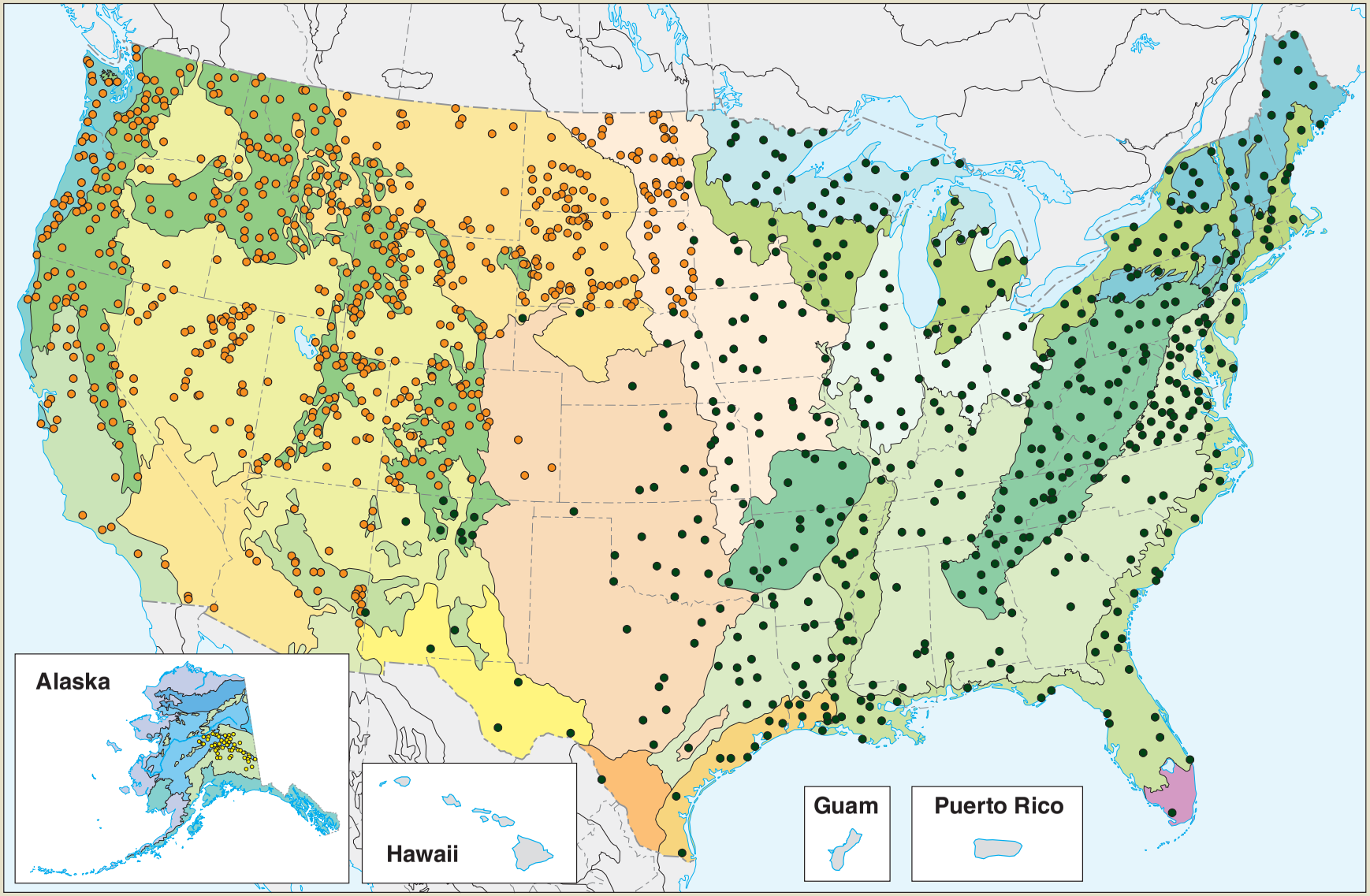
Key components of the Wadeable Streams Assessment

- Randomized design for sampling site selection
- Benthic macroinvertebrate collections
- Physical habitat assessment
- Water samples for selected chemical parameters
- Comprehensive quality assurance program
- Standardized data management system
- Analysis plan for an ecological assessment

Project enhancement

- Methods comparability and evaluations
- Use of States' reference sitesto anchor expectations
- Evaluate use of States' existing data to enhance WSA interpretation
- Additional assemblages in some States
- State scale network design

Sites for Wadeable Streams Assessment



- 5.2 Mixed Wood Shield
- 5.3 Atlantic Highlands
- 6.2 Western Cordillera
- 7.1 Marine West Coast Forest
- 8.1 Mixed Wood Plains
- 8.2 Central Plains
- 8.3 Southeastern Plains
- 8.4 Ozark, Ouachita-Appalachian Forests
- 8.5 Mississippi Alluvial / Southeast Coastal Plains
- 9.2 Temperate Prairies
- 9.3 West-Central Semi-Arid Prairies
- 9.4 South-Central Semi-Arid Prairies
- 9.5 Texas-Louisiana Coastal Plain
- 9.6 Tamaulipas-Texas Semi-Arid Plain
- 10.1 Western Interior Basins and Ranges
- 10.2 Sonoran and Mohave Deserts
- 10.4 Chihuahuan Desert
- 11.1 Mediterranean California
- 12.1 Western Sierra Madre Piedmont
- 13.1 Upper Gila Mountains
- 15.4 Everglades

- Sites to be sampled, 2004
- Sites sampled, 2000–2004
- Alaska Pilot Project

Ecoregions (North America Level II)