

# Indiana's Comprehensive State Resource Assessment Plan

## July 22, 2011

### NATIONAL State Resource Assessments – Indiana

Indiana completed the national requirements for the State Resource Assessments (SRA) on June 1, 2011.

All of Indiana's results of this initial national effort will be documented in the same format as the examples in *NRCS 2011 State Resource Assessment Project Initial Report (v2).pdf* (**currently on the Indiana SharePoint site**; Technology -> State Resource Assessment -> National Effort). The final document with all analyses will be posted to the eFOTG, Section II when completed, by **September 30, 2011 (completed – SZ)**.

### Indiana State Resource Assessments – Next Steps

Although the national SRA effort was worthwhile, there are additional activities that Indiana will perform to make the SRA pertinent and most valuable to NRCS, the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), other partners, and the public.

#### Partner Input and Buy-In

The deadline of the national effort did not allow NRCS Indiana to adequately communicate with our partners on the SRA. An exception to this is the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Forestry (DOF), who recently completed a Statewide Forest Resources Assessment. NRCS Indiana used many of the IDNR's analyses for the forestland resource assessments.

To adequately share our results, discuss the analysis methods used, and to get agreement on these and additional analyses, Shannon Zezula will coordinate meetings with interested partners. Meetings are currently scheduled for **August 15, 2011** and **August 22, 2011 (completed – SZ)**. Additional meetings will be held as needed to complete the full spectrum of resource concerns by land use for Indiana.

***It is expected that Indiana's complete SRA will be dynamic and new/additional/different analyses will occur as data become available.***

#### Data Analyses – Additional Resource Concerns and Existing Analyses

Due to limited data availability and time for the national effort, Indiana evaluated the resource concerns on the land uses where data were readily available and analyses relatively straightforward.

Indiana analyzed 31 resource concerns on various land uses for the national effort, but we identified an additional **25-30** resource concerns that can be analyzed given time, data, and analysis methods. For example, Soil Erosion – Concentrated Flow Erosion is a significant resource concern in Indiana but time did not allow for the detailed and comprehensive analysis it will take to assess this resource concern on cropland. Due to the workload the ICP invests in treating this resource concern on cropland, it will be a very valuable analysis to complete.

Similarly, many additional data sources are available that can be used to refine the existing analyses. For example, the data trends from Indiana's Tillage Transect and LiDAR data (when available) will help to refine both new and existing analyses.

The NRCS State Office will work with interested partners to identify data, develop analysis methods, identify priorities, and strive for a commitment to share in the work of data analysis for the remaining resource concerns and for refining existing analyses as part of the scheduled meetings described above by ***December 31, 2011***.

### Data Sharing

The national requirements specified that results were to be documented comprehensively by resource concern by land use. For example, the Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife resource concern was composed of multiple analyses by land use depending on the species of focus. Analyses were completed for bobwhite habitat, ruffed grouse habitat, copperbelly watersnake habitat, and waterfowl habitat. Some of these areas overlap geographically, while some are separated. Since the national effort required these to be combined, the individual analyses and methods of treating the lack of habitat is lost. To ensure the individual analyses that require different resource treatments are recognized, ***the final Indiana State Resource Assessment will provide the separated details of the analyses, as appropriate.***

The benefits of this method will be to recognize specific resource concerns that are geographically important; identify different suites of conservation efforts needed to address specific resource concerns; and to identify geographic areas where the same suites of conservation efforts may benefit multiple resource concerns.

***Once all of Indiana's resource concerns are analyzed, all of the resource concern data will be compared to identify areas of the state where multiple resource concerns and priorities can be addressed with the minimal amounts of conservation implementation.***

***Indiana's full State Resource Assessment will be completed by May 31, 2012.***

### Future Uses of Indiana's State Resource Assessments

Potential, expected uses of Indiana's Comprehensive State Resource Assessment include:

- Program priorities/ranking, including the FA Ranking efforts in the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative.
- Funding Pool distribution based on priority resource concerns instead of by simple land use distribution.
- Identifying geographic priority areas for existing and future Initiatives (i.e. – MRBI, GLRI, etc.)
- Prioritizing staffing needs and ensuring employees have the relevant skill sets to best address priority resource concerns (i.e. – Indiana's Staffing Tool; national Work Force Planning efforts; training needs inventories/IDPs; etc.)
- Estimating existing and planned resource treatments and subsequent workload and funding needs (i.e. – FY12 Funding Needs Assessment).