



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

December 1, 2011

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. 450-12-1

SUBJECT: TCH- FY11 State Resource Assessment (SRA) Efforts in Indiana

Purpose: To communicate Indiana's State Resource Assessment effort in FY11

Expiration Date: September 30, 2012

National Bulletin (NB) 290-11-1 required states to conduct a State Resource Assessment to "provide a science-based, qualitative and quantitative picture of the extent and geographic distribution of natural resource concerns within a State." This effort built on existing national geospatial data, as well as regional and State level data to provide a comprehensive picture of areas of concern within a state. National Bulletin 290-11-4 further explained the SRA will "...assist national, regional, and State leadership, including State Technical Committees, establish priorities to help achieve our natural resource objectives and improve the use of agency technical and financial resources."

The State Resource Assessments used the new list of resource concerns (released previously with NB 450-11-6) to identify which resource concerns, *by land use*, exist across the state.

States were to identify the following for at least one of the 9 major resource concern categories per land use, unless that resource concern was not applicable for that land use:

1. Potential at risk acres – land at risk or vulnerable to the resource concern.
2. Acres needing treatment – extent of the land that has not been treated for the resource concern according to Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) criteria.
3. Priority Rank – relative priority identified for the state.
4. Priority treatment acres – acres to be treated over the next three years (FY12-FY14).

Indiana assessed 16 unique resource concerns across the four land uses applicable to Indiana (crop, pasture, forest, associated agricultural land). A complete listing of the resource concerns by land use assessed in Indiana is in the attached document, *Resource Concerns by land use analyzed.pdf*.

Completed State Resource Assessment reports with maps, data, and the methods used to evaluate each resource concern by land use are available in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section II, State Resource Assessments.

The State Resource Assessment will provide both short-term and long-term benefits to Indiana NRCS and partners. For example:

- Results of the SRA data were used to support NRCS state budget requests for 2012. States determined the amount of FA and TA funding to request for the 2012 year based on SRAs.

- For Fiscal Year 2012, EQIP and WHIP ranking will reference the priority areas identified through the SRA and award additional points for applicants addressing these resource concerns. Details on this process will be distributed with programs ranking guidelines.
- Funding pool distribution across the state will rely on priority areas in addition to land use distribution.
- State-specific priorities in the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative's (CDSI's) planning and contracting tools will be based on SRA-type data analyses.
- Priority areas for future initiatives and programs can be analyzed from SRA data (i.e. Mississippi River Basin Initiative, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, etc.).
- Indiana Conservation Partnership programs and priorities can be established using similar data and analyses.
- Current and future workload, including the placement of staff, can be better aligned to address resource priorities.

Information analyzed through the SRA continues to be shared with our conservation partners through meetings and the FOTG reports for their use and to provide information on NRCS's priorities and how these align with other work going on across the state.

Indiana NRCS will continue to work with our partners to provide a more comprehensive product for use by NRCS as well as the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Additional details on future actions can be found in the attached document, *Indiana SRA Plan Details.docx*.

In Indiana, we are confident the existing and future SRA analyses will prove essential to address our most significant resource concerns. Additional analyses and tools will continue to be developed to assist in using SRA data at the state, watershed and county levels.

If you have questions concerning the State Resource Assessment please contact Shannon Zezula, State Resource Conservationist at 317-290-3200, ext. 388.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Attachments:
Resource Concerns by land use analyzed.pdf
Indiana SRA Plan Details.docx