



Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of Indiana's wetlands and wetland conservation efforts are critical to the success of the *Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan*. The "bottom-line" measurement of *IWCP* success is to be able to ask and answer, at any given point in time, the question: Are (have) the goal and objectives of the *IWCP* being (been) achieved?

The goal of the *IWCP* is to: Conserve Indiana's remaining wetland resources, as defined by acreage, type, and function, and restore and create wetlands where opportunities exist to increase the quality and quantity of wetland resources.

The inventory system identified in Objective 2.2 of the *Initiative* will provide the mechanism by which the goal can be measured.

Many of the objectives listed in the *Initiative* can be evaluated with a yes or no answer. For example, Objective 5.1 under the Acquisition component states "Identify long-term statewide wetland acquisition priorities." At any given time, an evaluator can state whether this has been accomplished or not, so a yes or no answer is the evaluation. Progress toward objectives such as these will be monitored by determining whether the actions identified for achieving the objectives have been or are being carried out.

Listed below are objectives for which specific monitoring or evaluation actions are recommended.

Objective 1.1 Increase the number of focus area projects in Indiana.

Evaluation Action: Keep a running list of focus area projects as part of the *Wetlands Focus Area Sourcebook*.

Objective 1.2 Increase the effectiveness of existing focus area projects.

Evaluation Action: Conduct periodic evaluations via group discussions and mail questionnaires as part of the statewide focus area project network.

Objective 3.1 Identify existing, effective incentives and specific additional incentives needed in Indiana.

Evaluation Action: Evaluation actions should be developed for any specific incentives that are recommended.

Objective 4.2 Identify existing, effective education efforts and specific additional education efforts that are needed in Indiana.

Evaluation Action: Evaluation actions should be developed for any specific education efforts that are recommended.

Evaluation Action: The public opinion survey conducted in 1995 should be conducted again in 2000.

Objective 4.3 Improve the accessibility of existing wetlands information to all interests.

Evaluation Action: Conduct periodic mail surveys and/or focus groups through organizations on the Wetlands Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Team.

"The Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan will not be put on a shelf. The DNR will take the lead in implementing it, working in close cooperation with local agencies, organizations, and individuals."
—Pat Ralston,
Director, Indiana Department
of Natural Resources