

# SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

IMPROVING IOWA'S WATER QUALITY IS MORE THAN A ONE-PERSON EFFORT.  
DNR, DSC AND NRCS ARE HERE TO HELP THROUGHOUT YOUR PROJECT.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

You can improve water quality – and we have the technology to help. That technology, from hand-held GIS (geographic information systems) units to individual assistance, is available from the DNR, DSC and NRCS. Conserve your project funds by working with us to answer your technical questions or to borrow new tools for field assessments.

DNR, DSC and NRCS can assist with assessments in the watershed, which help determine what the problems are and where they're coming from. These include stream, gully, land cover, livestock and other assessments. Watershed groups can borrow tools from the DNR, like tablet computers and hand-held GIS units, to complete these assessments.

### *Your partner in the field*

Technical assistance is more than just the newest tools. It's also the experience and guidance of regional coordinators, project officers and technical staff, who can work with you to decide which tools can help, teach you how to use them and help you manage the data once it's collected.

### *Stream assessment tools*

The stream assessment process known as RASCAL, or Rapid Assessment of Stream Conditions Along Length, can

help you assess problem areas in and near streams in your watershed.

To help with stream assessments, watershed projects can use hand-held GIS units to collect valuable information as you walk in or near the stream. With this data, you can identify priority areas for conservation practices.

### *Watershed land cover tools*

Knowing the current conditions on the landscape is just as valuable as knowing what's happening in a stream or river. Assessing watershed land cover can be a challenging task, but tablet computers can help ease the data collection process. With these computers, about the same size as a notebook, you can electronically enter land cover information directly into a GIS system right in the field.

During the assessment, you can mark the locations of existing conservation practices as well as gullies, potential problem areas and other points of interest. Knowing locations of existing practices allows for increased accuracy when determining soil erosion problems and siting conservation practices.

### *Sediment delivery calculator*

Watershed projects can also use the Sediment Delivery Calculator, a computer model that estimates how much sediment is reaching a lake or stream. The calculator can help staff develop a watershed plan and can assess the effectiveness of conservation practice options. In addition, you can use results to report project accomplishments to your community and funding agencies.

### *Energy savings tools*

Online tools can help you guide local farmers and landowners on how they can reduce their energy costs. The tools project energy savings based on management and operational changes and can be found at <http://energytools.sc.gov.usda.gov>

More information on technical assistance and tools is available from DNR project officers and DSC regional watershed coordinators, or contact Adam Kiel at [Adam.Kiel@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Adam.Kiel@dnr.iowa.gov).

