

**Leveraging our time and resources
to create and take advantage of
future opportunities . . .**

The Indiana Conservation Partnership has been working for two years now under the **20/20, Vision for the Future** strategic plan. The partners are using the plan to focus their efforts on increased conservation funding, an effective conservation delivery system, accountability and measurable results, developing strong leaders, using the best technology and sending a consistent and positive message about conservation in Indiana.



The partnership is sharing resources that range from office space and phones, to trucks and ATVs. Through our common standards, joint training and leveraging of dollars; our Conservation Implementation Teams pull together to put more practices on the land and deliver effective and efficient conservation.

By working collectively we best serve our common customers, the landowners of Indiana, and protect and improve Indiana's natural resources.



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** This report is a reflection of ICP Workgroup accomplishments over the past year. The ICP Partners implemented numerous programs and technical assistance above and beyond the Strategic Plan Workgroup activities.*

**Indiana
Conservation
Partnership**



**20/20
Strategic Update**

January 2009

ICP's Update of 2008 Strategic Accomplishments

Accountability

Utilize an integrated accountability system that tracks resource driven results.

- Geo-referenced conservation project tracking and inventory recording for CREP practices to provide accurate, site-specific information.
- The ICP continued to utilize the Conservation Implementation Team's workload tracking database as an accountability and communication tool.

Outreach

Provide a consistent & positive message describing the economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits of conservation.

- Supported Pathway to Water Quality (Served on steering committee, maintained Web site, assisted with volunteer sign-up, created maps).
- Continued marketing and promotion of the Leadership Institute.
- Promoted ISDA-DSC Photo Contest and utilized winning photos in ICP materials.
- Participated in Conservation Day at the Statehouse.
- Promoted 2008 Conservation Showcase Award winners.
- Updated and maintained ICP Web site (<http://www.iaswcd.org/icp/index.html>).

Funding

Establish a dedicated source of state funding with potential for growth based on need, accountability and performance.

- Over \$1.1 million obligated under CREP for 4,302 acres, an investment of \$256/acre. Over the life of each CREP contract USDA has obligated \$10.5 million for an average \$2,981/acre. This is a matching ratio of 11 to 1, federal to state.
- Clean Water Indiana funding provided \$356,525 to SWCDs for 77 Conservation Marketing Incentive Grants and 22 Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grants. Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance co-sponsored SWCD field days, adding nearly \$30,000 to Indiana's conservation efforts.
- Utilized \$74,043 through the Conservation Consulting Initiative to implement conservation measures on 49,362 acres along the Wabash River.

Delivery System

Establish an effective, locally-led conservation delivery system that addresses local resource needs through financial, technical and educational assistance.

- Over 18,000 conservation practices implemented by Conservation Implementation Teams and ICP staff.
- Updated and signed Cooperative Working Agreements in all 92 counties.
- Held listening sessions with ICP staff to develop job specifications/expectations related to ICP conservation positions.

Technology

Utilize the latest technology available to deliver and measure conservation.

- Completed hyperlinks on all the partners' websites to the ICP Web site (<http://www.iaswcd.org/icp/index.html>).
- Developed a Google search engine for "CONSERVATION" available on the ICP Web site.
- All partner employees obtained Background Investigations, and information was sent out for new employees to obtain Background Investigations.
- Shared information on the new Lincpass cards, which will be used by all partnership employees to access the USDA computer network.

Leadership Development

Elevate the significance of conservation in Indiana to attract and retain strong leadership.

- Supervisor Leadership Institute committee conducted four workshops around the state.
- District Visits Program Clean Water Indiana grant successfully completed. Three visits were held in 2008, bringing the total to 15 since 2005.
- Provided leadership training at the IASWCD Annual Conference.
- Drafted a "5 Star District Capacity" program and presented to the SSCB and at the IDEA fall conference.