

Watershed Central: An Integrated Watershed Assessment and Management Website

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ABSTRACT

EPA is presenting a web-based decision support system and tool box under development for watershed management called "Watershed Central." The web site will link to data, mapping applications, models, published resources, and other tools. The chief component now available is the Watershed Central Wiki. The wiki is being used to collaborate among the Watershed Central development teams, refine the information to be placed in the final web site, and collect and organize local watershed management knowledge.

KEYWORDS

Watershed management, web-based tools, water resources assessment, water quality analysis, collaboration, local watershed management

INTRODUCTION

A multi-office partnership at EPA, lead by the Office of Water (OW), Office of Research and Development (ORD, Office of Environmental Information (OEI), and Region 4 in Atlanta is developed an integrated computer-based framework for water quality planning and implementation. The goal is to enable watershed practitioners in states, local governments, and watershed organizations to access, organize, assess, integrate, and apply all relevant land/water-based and remotely sensed data, assessment tools, models, scenario builders, GIS systems, aquatic habitat frameworks, and other technologies that will enable them to identify and address watershed problems more efficiently and effectively than in the past. This system, which we refer to as Watershed Central, is necessary to help solve water quality problems in tens of thousands of waterbodies that currently are listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, as well as prevent new impairments

EPA has worked with county and city watershed planners, nonprofit watershed organizations, university research centers, and state and tribal water program managers to identify watershed management needs. The development team has also identified existing resources used by these organizations and provided by EPA and other federal agencies to assist watershed managers. Watershed Central organizes the most useful tools and information and provides them in a way that will help watershed managers save time and money in restoring and protecting their watersheds