

# VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

October 2012, Indiana

## Geography Student's Skills Used to Develop Watershed Management Plan

Sandra Smith is an exceptional Earth Team Volunteer in Indiana who assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with a number of tasks for the South Fork Wildcat Creek Watershed Management Project (SFWCP).

As a Geography student at the University of Arizona, one of Sandra's primary duties included learning and applying skills related to Geographic Information Systems and mapping.

Utilizing her knowledge and skills, Sandra assisted with the mapping of various hydrologic features, soil properties including hydric and highly erodible soil types, location data from volunteer-led windshield surveys, and assorted data from IDEM's Office of Land Quality for each of the 11 subwatersheds of the South Fork Wildcat Creek Watershed.

Sandra also helped staff in the field collecting water quality samples from across the watershed. These water quality samples were used to evaluate E.coli loadings across the drainage area.

By utilizing Sandra's talents, the SFWCP was able to produce a detailed Watershed Management Plan that identifies critical areas within the watershed to focus on. This plan will be used to obtain future funding for landowners living within the South Fork Wildcat Creek watershed. Funding will be used to install conservation practices within the watershed and aid in the improvement of South Fork Wildcat Creek and its many tributaries.



*Sandra Smith is a geography student at the University of Arizona. Smith applied her skills this summer as an Earth Team volunteer for NRCS in Clinton County, Indiana.*



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit [www.usda.nrcs.gov](http://www.usda.nrcs.gov).

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.