



# Community Conservation Assistance

## Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Approach to Update County Water Quality Strategy

**Objective: To provide a methodology for conducting a locally led, watershed based, conservation needs assessment that can be used by County Water Quality Coordinating Committees (CWQCC) to identify Nonpoint source pollution and other natural resource restoration and protection needs.**

1. CWQCC's prioritize their watershed needs watershed restoration and protection strategies (WRAPS) using the attached matrix as a guide. (Note: The matrix can also be used to prioritize sub-watersheds within a community.)
2. Key CWQCC members (SWCD, EMC, County Planning, County Health, USDA NRCS, regional DEC staff) fill in the attached "watershed assessment tool" that contains worksheets for identifying natural resource concerns for each land use within a priority watershed or sub-watershed.
3. Draft restoration and protection strategies prepared to address resource concerns in priority watersheds using the attached Catskill Creek template as an example.
4. Draft watershed strategies reviewed with CWQCC and adjacent counties to ensure completeness and to develop consensus on future actions needed.
5. Conduct rapid resource appraisal of the highest priority watershed to further identify resource concerns, define watershed objectives, and learn about the ecological, social, economic and political aspects of the watershed using USDA NRCS PPC #24 publication "Conducting Rapid Resource Appraisals of Watersheds" as a guide.
6. CWQCC then develops annual partnership work plan for addressing protection and restoration needs identified in each watershed strategy to enhance coordination of efforts between agencies, organizations, local governments and counties.
7. CWQCC provides annual report to county legislature on progress in addressing individual watershed needs.

**Suggested WRAPs Implementation Tools: AEM, CCAT, Home\*A\*Syst, etc.**