

Helping Patrons Better Understand Environmental Issues: An Introduction to On-Line Tools and Resources



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Session Description: A number of Internet resources are available that can help library patrons in Wisconsin better understand environmental issues facing their communities. They will highlight several library-maintained environmental sites, and will demonstrate free on-line tools that enable users to make maps of important natural resources (such as soil type, location within a watershed, and air quality), as well as environmental assessment tools that enable users to evaluate the impact of alternative land use decisions. They will also provide guidance/suggestions for how libraries might develop resource sites focused specifically on local environmental concerns.

**Wisconsin Library Association
2008 Annual Conference**

General Environmental Information

About.com: Environmental Issues

<http://environment.about.com/>

This Internet guide for environmental issues includes feature articles, Web links, and discussion forums. Topics covered include air pollution, acid rain, ozone depletion, water & wetlands, endangered species, renewable energy, forestry, food issues, population, biodiversity, recycling, nuclear waste, and more.

Environmental Literacy Council

<http://www.enviroliteracy.org/>

This web site helps students and teachers study environmental issues by guiding them to available Internet resources. The site introduces a variety of viewpoints and thoughtful analyses on environmental issues. Links are provided to general sites, as well as specific data pages, online articles, lesson plans, and classroom activities.

The Encyclopedia of Earth

<http://www.eoearth.org/>

Supported and maintained by the Environmental Information Coalition and the National Council for Science and the Environment, this site provides a free collection of scholarly, peer-reviewed articles about "earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society." The collection is searchable by author, topic, sources, and several other options. There are sections containing frequently updated news about the environment and discussion forums.

Environmental News Network

<http://www.enn.com/>

This site is updated daily with news from around the world relating to the environment.

NASA's Earth Observatory: Ask a Scientist

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Library/AskScientist/>

The NASA Earth Observatory – Ask a Scientist site used to offer users a chance to ask questions about the environment or climate and receive a response. The Earth Observatory no longer supports this feature, but these pages do provide an archive of previous questions and answers. The website also includes images and numerous other resources regarding

Compendium of Environmental Acronyms

<http://www.umn.edu/~aeg/arco/arco.html>

An alphabetical listing of acronyms (and what they stand for) related to the environment.

EPA's Laws, Regulations, Guidance, and Dockets Site

<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/>

This site provides a basic description of how environmental laws and regulations are developed, what they are, and where to find them. The site includes links to Title 40 of the US Code of Federal Regulation, which deals with environmental issues.

National Environmental Scorecard

<http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/>

The National Environmental Scorecard provides information about the environmental voting records of U.S. Representatives and Senators. The Scorecard represents the consensus of experts from numerous respected environmental and conservation organizations who selected the key votes on which members of Congress should be graded.

U.S. EPA's National Library Network

<http://www.epa.gov/natlibra/index.html>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the EPA National Library Network website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.epa.gov/natlibra/index.html>. The website header features the EPA logo on the left and the text "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with the title "EPA National Library Network" and a search box. The search box contains the text "Search: All EPA This Area" and a "Go" button. Below the search box is a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: EPA Home > EPA National Library Network".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains a vertical menu with the following items: "EPA National Library Network Home", "About the EPA National Library Network", "Library Services & Repositories", "Online Library System", "National Library Network News", and "National Library Network News".
- Main Content:**
 - Introduction:** "The EPA National Library Network provides access to information about the environment and related scientific, technical, management, and policy information. This web site provides information on:"
 - About the EPA National Library Network:** "The combined network collection contains a wide range of general environmental information, as well as specialized collections."
 - Library Services and Repositories:** "EPA has one of the nation's preeminent library networks providing access to information about the environment and related scientific, technical, management, and policy information."
 - Online Library System (OLS):** "for EPA's National Library Network consists of several related databases that comprise the shared library catalog. Use OLS to locate books, reports, journals, and audiovisual materials on a variety of topics."
 - National Library Network News:** "As EPA plans for the future of the Library Network, updates will be provided to stakeholders with information on the planning activities and ways to provide input into the process."
 - National Environmental Publications Internet Site (NEPIS):** "part of the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP). Employees and the public have access to over 26,000 EPA documents in digital form through the National Environmental Publications Internet Site and over 7,000 titles in hard copy free of charge from National Service Center for Environmental Publications."
 - EPA's Vision for Library Services:** "EPA's vision is to be the premier environmental library network providing timely access to information and library services to its employees and the public. EPA's approach to achieving this vision involves maintaining a strong network of physical libraries enhanced with on-line tools to expand access to environmental information. This enhanced model provides more library materials electronically and on the EPA Web site with increased accessibility to environmental information and increased efficiency by which employees and the public can find the materials they need."
- Right Sidebar:**
 - News about EPA Libraries and Repositories:**
 - EPA and Federal Library Information Center Committee (FLICC) Collaboration
 - EPA National Library Network Update
 - Tell Us What You Think:**

EPA is seeking input on plans for the future direction of the Library Network and will use the information provided to help develop the strategic plan for library services. EPA is committed to supporting an effective physical and virtual library network that provides timely information access and library services.

Provide feedback on EPA's current library services or give input for longer term plans. [More information on EPA's library services.](#)

National Library for the Environment

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/>

National Council for Science and the Environment
Improving the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking

PROGRAMS #10184

HOME ABOUT NCSE EDUCATION & CAREERS SCIENCE SOLUTIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE EARTHPORTAL SCIENCE POLICY SUPPORT NCSE

IMPROVED DECISIONMAKING
ADVANCING SCIENCE
OBJECTIVE

SCIENCE POLICY

NATIONAL LIBRARY for the ENVIRONMENT

A universal, timely, and easy-to-use single-point entry to environmental information and data for the use of all participants in the environmental enterprise.

NCSE Programs

- CRS Reports
- Earth Portal
- Native Americans and the Environment

Featured Links

- Foundations Providing Grants for Environmental Purposes
- NLE Environmental Jobs & Resumes
- State of the Environment Reports
- Web, U.S. Higher Education

Congressional Research Service Reports
1544 reports on environmental and related topics.

Quick Search: GO

Advanced Search

News & Announcements from NCSE

Leading Scientists and Policymakers Address NCSE Conference on Environmental Forecasting

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) convened the 5th National Conference on Science, Policy and the

Online References

Discussions not available on <http://www.ncseonline.org/>

U.S.G.S. Library

<http://library.usgs.gov/>

USGS science for a changing world

USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

USGS Library

Welcome to the largest earth science library in the world!

Find

- Search Library Catalog
- Frequently Asked Questions
- USGS Search Assistance - FAO's
- Selected Map Bookmarks
- Digital Library for Earth System Education
- USGS Thesaurus
- State Geological Surveys
- World Geological Surveys

Databases

- National Geologic Map Database
- U.S. Board on Geographic Names
- USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive
- USGS Search Assistance - FAO's
- USGS Reports & Maps (Publications Warehouse)
- USGS Library Selected Print Journal Holdings

Information & Services

- Exchange & Gift Program
- Special Collections
- Classification System
- Collection Development Policy
- Library History
- Visiting the Library
- Help in the Library
- Borrowing
- Ask a Librarian
- Z39.50 Services

Library Home

Collection

- Search Catalog
- New Acquisitions
- Special Collections
- Selected Print Journal Holdings

Services

- Ask a Librarian
- Visiting
- Borrowing
- Exchange & Gifts
- Z39.50 Services

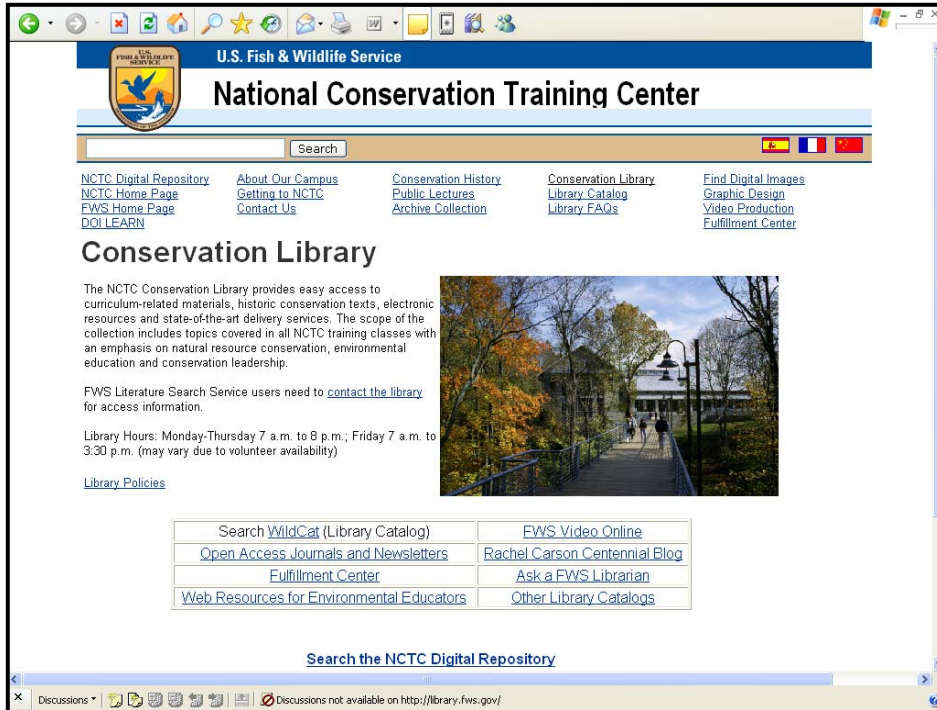
Locations & Contacts

- Staff Contacts
- Denver, CO
- Flagstaff, AZ
- Menlo Park, CA
- Reston, VA
- Science Center Libraries

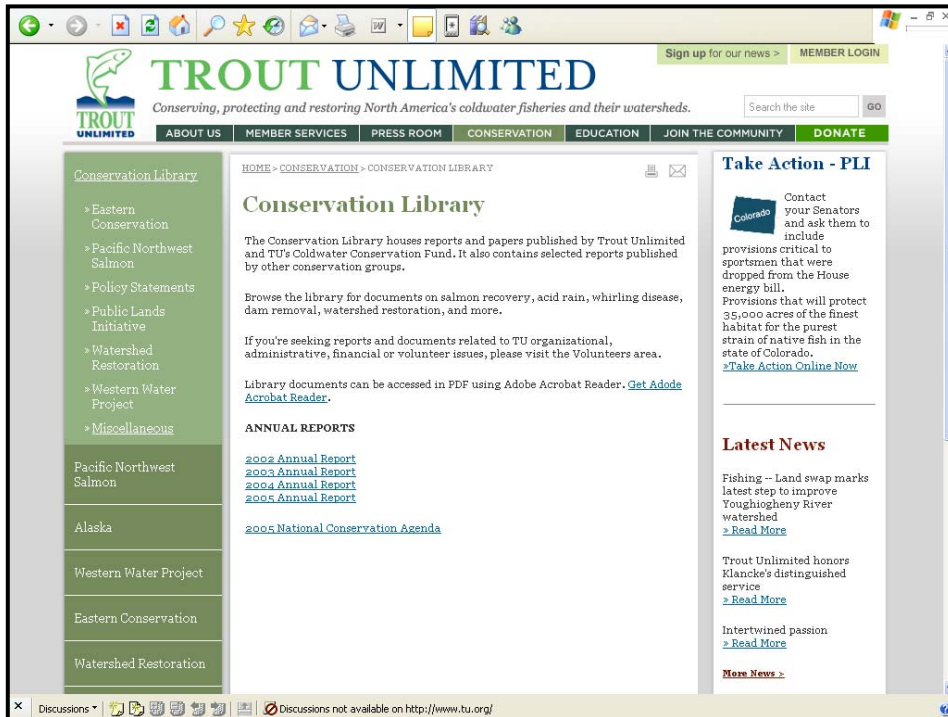
About Us

Discussions not available on <http://library.usgs.gov/>

National Conservation Training Center Conservation Library
<http://library.fws.gov/>



Trout Unlimited Conservation Library
http://www.tu.org/site/c.kkLRJ7MSkH/b.3022969/k.7B37/Conservation_Library.htm



Climate Change, Global Warming, Etc.

About.com: Environmental Issues: Global Warming

<http://environment.about.com/od/globalwarming/u/globalwarming.htm>

This Internet guide for global warming issues includes feature articles, Web links, and discussion forums.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Change Site

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html>

This EPA site includes news, reports, and information on the impact of global warming. The site also has a browsable glossary of terms.

The Encyclopedia of Earth's Climate Change Collection

http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_%28collection%29

This collection brings together some of the world's leading scientists and organizations and presents the essential knowledge underlying the issue of climate change. It includes articles, FAQs, a timeline, biographies, links for further reading, and much more.

Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)

<http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/>

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts assesses and anticipates climate change impacts on specific Wisconsin natural resources, ecosystems and regions; evaluates potential effects on industry, agriculture, tourism and other human activities; and develops and recommends adaptation strategies that can be implemented by businesses, farmers, public health officials, municipalities, resource managers and other stakeholders. This site provides background information on this initiative.

Endangered Species

Animal Info - Information on Rare, Threatened and Endangered Mammals

<http://www.animalinfo.org/>

This site offers a searchable listing of endangered mammals worldwide. Species are indexed by common and scientific name, group, and country. Each entry includes a species profile, status and trends, biological and ecological data, and references. The site also includes links to related organizations, web sites, and publications.

Internet Public Library's Endangered Species Page

<http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48466>

This IPL pathfinder is designed to help you find information about endangered species using Internet and/or print resources. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list; rather, it is intended to be a useful starting point for those wishing to find quality information about animals and plants that are threatened with extinction.

North American Assoc. for Environmental Education's Endangered Species Page

<http://eelink.net/EndSpp/>

This excellent resource and links page includes the following categories: Getting Started (starting points, definitions, causes); Endangered Species Lists; Extinct Species; Species Facts, Data, and Pictures; Current News, Events, and Sources; Take Action (ways of helping endangered species); Organizations; Laws and Policy; and Education and Interactive Kids Stuff.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

This site lists U.S. recognized endangered species, candidates for the list, and guidelines and qualifications for the list. There's also a section of frequently asked questions and a Kid's Corner.

Wisconsin DNR's Endangered Species Site

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/>

This Wisconsin-specific site provides species lists, fact sheets, publications, forms, and contact information, and much more.

Wisconsin's Water Library

<http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary/>

university of wisconsin sea grant | university of wisconsin water resources

[Kids Library](#) | [Feedback](#)

[About](#) | [How to Use This Site](#) | [Ask a Librarian](#)

WELCOME TO WISCONSIN'S WATER LIBRARY

A UW Water Resources Library project to celebrate the Wisconsin Year of Water

Wisconsin citizens can check out books - it's free and easy:

- [Search our collection](#)
- [Browse our recommendations](#)
-[Zebra mussels & other invasive species](#)
-[Understanding & protecting groundwater](#)
-[Protecting our wetlands](#)
-[Ponds, water features and water gardening](#)
-[Explore Wisconsin's waters](#)
-[More](#)
- [Recent acquisitions](#) - our newest books
- [Request books](#)


Beyond books:

- [Explore the Web by topic](#)
- [Check out videos](#)
- [Find journal articles](#)
- [Ask a librarian](#)

Learn more:

- [Wisconsin water facts](#)
- [Finding Water-Related Information](#)

Special features:



What's New?

Wisconsin's Water Library for Kids - for parents, teachers and librarians too

Hours

Monday - Friday
9am - 4:30pm

Saturday - Sunday
Closed

Discussions not available on <http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/>

Wisconsin's Water Library for Kids

<http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary/kids/>

university of wisconsin sea grant | university of wisconsin water resources

[Water Library Home](#) | [Feedback](#)

WISCONSIN'S WATER LIBRARY FOR KIDS

A University of Wisconsin-Madison Library

[home](#) | [about us](#) | [book lists](#) | [request books](#) | [kids section](#) | [ask us!](#)

Wisconsin citizens can check out books - it's free and easy

[Request books](#)

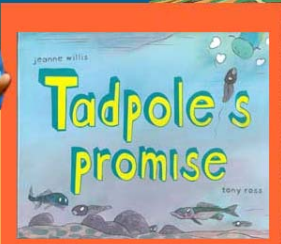
[Have a question? Ask us!](#)

Water books for kids

- [Browse books by topic](#) — book lists for librarians, teachers & parents
- [Explore our new books](#) — recent acquisitions
- [See what our staff is reading](#)

Beyond books

- [Water videos for kids](#)
- [Story hour ideas and resources](#)



[Explore Our New Books!](#)

Discussions not available on <http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/>

Great Lakes

Great Lakes Information Network

<http://www.great-lakes.net/>

The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) provides one place online for people to find information relating to the Great Lakes region

Great Lakes Radio Consortium

<http://www.environmentreport.org/>

"The Great Lakes Radio Consortium is a news service committed to revealing the relationship between the natural world and the everyday lives of people in the Great Lakes region. This is accomplished by thoughtful and provocative explorations of the environment in a way that reaches the widest possible audience."

NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/library/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

GLERL

GLERL Library

Online Resources

Library Catalog

Interlibrary Loan

Periodicals

CD-ROMs

Relevant Links

Library Information

GLERL Homepage

The GLERL library's collection supports the laboratory's research activities. The collection reflects an emphasis on fresh water studies particularly in the Great Lakes basin.

The GLERL library is open to the public for research purposes, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Discussions not available on <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/>

Environmental Photographs

American Environmental Photographs, 1891-1936: Images from the University of Chicago Library

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/icuhtml/aephome.html>

"This collection consists of approximately 4,500 photographs documenting natural environments, ecologies, and plant communities in the United States at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. Produced between 1891 and 1936 by a group of American botanists generally regarded as one of the most influential in the development of modern ecological studies, these photographs provide an overview of important representative natural landscapes across the nation. They demonstrate the character of a wide range of American topography, its forestation, aridity, shifting coastal dune complexes, and watercourses. Among the natural features these images document are ecological settings such as dunes, bogs, forests, and deserts; individual plants from the Ponderosa pine and birch to grasses and mosses; landscape features like the Grand Canyon, Lake Superior, and the Sierra Nevada; and the consequences of natural and human changes to the environment ranging from erosion and floods to irrigation and lumbering."

National Image Library

<http://images.fws.gov/>

"Contains still photo images of wildlife, plants, National Wildlife Refuges and other scenics, as well as wildlife management work. You may search all the images through the National Image Library, or you may search by individual collection."

U.S.G.S. Photographic Library

<http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>

USGS
science for a changing world

U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library

Home | About the USGS Photo Library | Resolutions and Downloading | Contact Us | Latest Additions

Select a Search Method: [tips](#)

Key Word Search

Earthquakes
Mines, Mills, Quarries
Mount St. Helens
National Parks
Photographers
Pioneer Photographers
Portrait Collection

Welcome to the U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library

This site is designed to provide free viewing and downloading of the entire USGS photographic collection.

"Select a Search Method" menu accesses the photographs. The "Key Word Search" feature allows the user the freedom to search for any desired subject. Choosing from the list of subjects on this menu allows searching within specific categories.

Images are available to view and download at no charge.
[Terms of Use, Copyright, and Publishing Information.](#)

Digital resolution options of each image include:

- 100 dots per inch (dpi) thumbnail-resolution GIF file
- 700 dpi medium-resolution JPG file
- 1400 dpi high-resolution JPG file
- 1600+ dpi full-resolution JPG file

For more information, visit [Resolutions and Downloading](#) at the top of this page.

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. Buffalo on Frank Island in Yellowstone Lake. August 1897. ID: Walcott, C.D. 478b

Discussions Discussions not available on <http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>

Some Other Useful Environmental Web Tools

Wisconsin GetFacts

<http://www.getfacts.wisc.edu>

Allows library patrons to view interactive maps of their neighborhoods, communities, or watersheds that show past, present, and projected demographic and socioeconomic conditions and trends. Users can create thematic (color-graded) maps of different characteristics and download the underlying data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources as spreadsheets and pre-assembled community summaries.

Surface Water Data Viewer

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/data_viewer.htm

Allows library patrons to view and export interactive maps their neighborhoods, communities, or watersheds that show surface water quality features, such as wetlands, impaired waters, and monitoring sites. Users can turn on- and off a wide variety of map “layers” and view or export the underlying attributes of different map features.

Web Soil Survey

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

Allows library patrons to quickly access, analyze, and report on detailed data from county soil surveys for user-delineated (drawn) areas of interest. Users can create thematic (color-coded) maps of different soil suitabilities and limitations (e.g., for buildings with basements) and generate formatted soil survey reports for their area of interest.

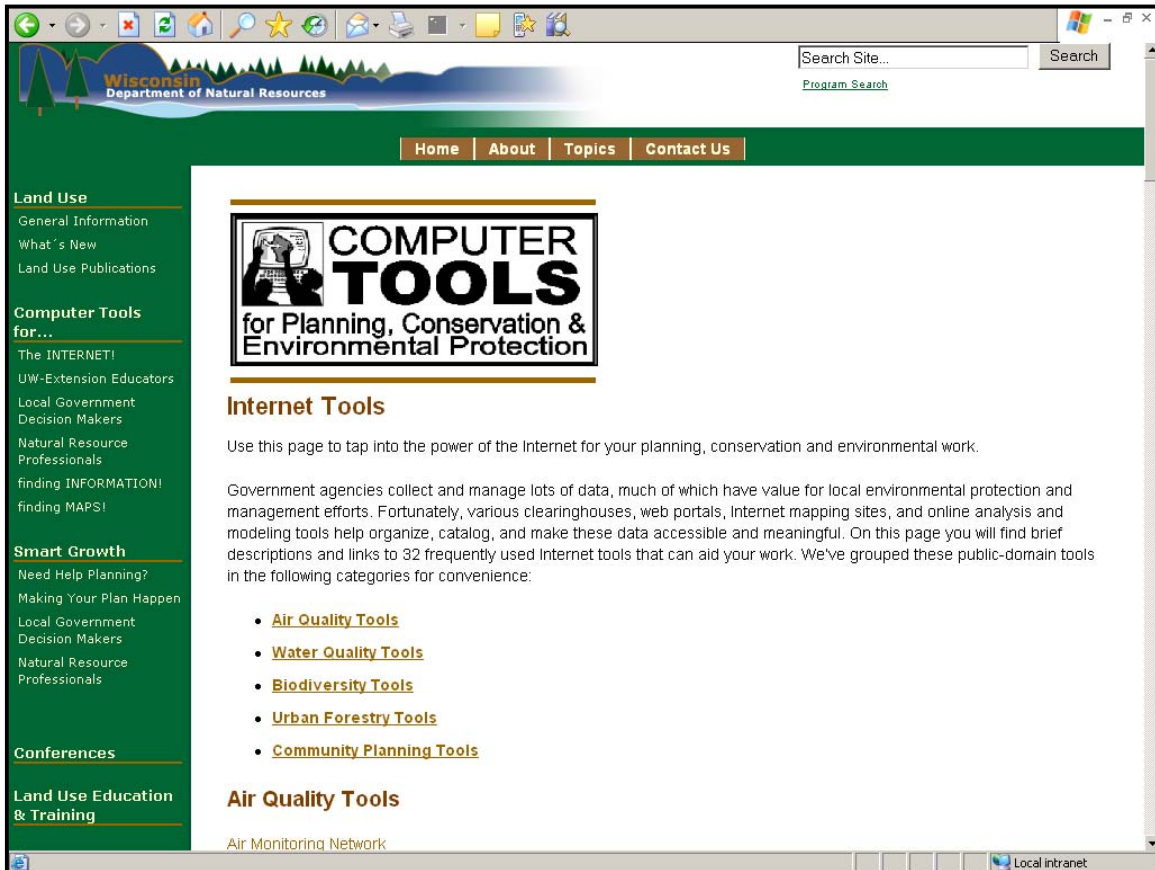
Watershed Delineation/ Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment (L-THIA)

<http://cobweb.ecn.purdue.edu/~sprawl/LTHIA7/lthianew/tool.htm>

Allows library patrons to delineate the watershed or catchment drained by a particular river or stream, summarize the delineated area by current land use and soil conditions, and model stormwater runoff and non-point source pollutants. Users can alter the development pattern of the area with a drawing tool to estimate the impact on runoff and pollution.

Wisconsin DNR's Computer Tools for Planning Conservation and Environmental Protection Website

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/landuse/CompTools/internet.htm>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Wisconsin DNR website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/landuse/CompTools/internet.htm>. The website header features the Wisconsin DNR logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Topics, and Contact Us. A search box is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is titled "COMPUTER TOOLS for Planning, Conservation & Environmental Protection". Below this title, the section "Internet Tools" is highlighted. The text under "Internet Tools" reads: "Use this page to tap into the power of the Internet for your planning, conservation and environmental work. Government agencies collect and manage lots of data, much of which have value for local environmental protection and management efforts. Fortunately, various clearinghouses, web portals, Internet mapping sites, and online analysis and modeling tools help organize, catalog, and make these data accessible and meaningful. On this page you will find brief descriptions and links to 32 frequently used Internet tools that can aid your work. We've grouped these public-domain tools in the following categories for convenience:"

- [Air Quality Tools](#)
- [Water Quality Tools](#)
- [Biodiversity Tools](#)
- [Urban Forestry Tools](#)
- [Community Planning Tools](#)

Below the list, the section "Air Quality Tools" is partially visible, with the text "Air Monitoring Network" appearing at the bottom of the page.