
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Geographic Information System for the Watershed Program

Purpose and History

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is responsible for the development, management, and coordination of the Natural Resource Geographic Information System (NRGIS) for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The NRGIS is used to provide local watershed managers with data to develop, monitor, and display watershed improvements. Other responsibilities of the GIS include:

- Development for specific major geographically referenced databases.
- Integration of GIS system planning with other DNR computer systems.
- Providing assistance to all DNR programs with regards to GIS technology.
- Staff training on GIS concepts and GIS tools.
- Providing public access to GIS data.
- Coordinating and providing information for external users in State, federal, and local government agencies, as well as universities and private groups.
- Acquisition of aerial photography, satellite imagery, geophysical data, topographic data, and other special maps.

Funding History

Funding for the GIS is appropriated from the Environment First Fund and has been \$195,000 each year.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [466.7](#)

Budget Unit Number

5420HB70295

Doc ID 1519842

More Information

DNR Geological & Water Survey: www.iowadnr.gov/environmental-protection/water-quality/watershed-improvement

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