Web-based Watershed Management Tools Term Sheet

Term	Tool	Definition
303d	All	An EPA databases of impaired water bodies in the U.S.
BMPs	HIT, L-THIA	Best management practices. Land management actions designed to conserve and/or protect natural resources.
CDL	HIT	Cropland Data Layer. A multi-year, remotely-sensed raster dataset of crop types, maintained by the USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS).
C-factor	HIT	A representation of land cover management (e.g. tillage, crop type, rotations, cover crops). An input to RUSLE.
Conservation tillage	HIT	Farming practice to reduce erosion by reducing the amount the soil is turned over.
CTIC	HIT	Conservation Technology Information Center. A Purdue University resource for conservation data, namely tillage records for counties in the Midwestern U.S.
Curve number	L-THIA	Used to estimate runoff based on the relationship between rainfall, land uses, and hydrologic soil group. The relationship between rainfall, runoff and CN value is non-linear, meaning that small changes in land use or rainfall can produce large changes in runoff. Developed by the Soil Conservation Service (now the NRCS).
Delivery ratio	HIT	The percentage of eroded soil that reaches the stream network in a given year.
DEM	All	Digital elevation model. A gridded (raster) representation of the Earth's surface, with each grid cell representing a ground elevation. Values are typically generated through contour interpolation or remote sensing.
Drainage swales	L-THIA	A shallow depression in the landscape to transport runoff and reduce the velocity of the stormwater to increase infiltration.
EMC	L-THIA	Event Mean Concentration. Compiled by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Baird and Jennings, 1996) and used in non-point source pollution concentration water quality calculations.
Green roof	L-THIA	Rooftops that are planted with a variety of vegetation. The roof captures rainwater and slows it down to decrease stormwater runoff. It also can provide building insulation.
HIT	HIT	High Impact Targeting. Developed by the Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University
HUC	All	Hydrologic Unit Code. A numeric naming convention for uniquely identifying watersheds. Ranges from 2-digits (e.g. 04 for the Great Lakes Basin, to 12-digit for small local catchments). The codes represent nested catchments, i.e. any HUC12 that begins with '04' drains to the Great Lakes.
Hydrologic soil group	L-THIA	Indicates the status of infiltration in the soil. The minimum rate of infiltration obtained for bare soil after a minimum amount of wetting determines the classification. See Table 2.1 in the manual for more details on the specific HSGs.
K-factor	HIT	A representation of soil erodibility. An input to RUSLE.
LID	L-THIA	Low Impact Development. An approach to land development to mimic pre-development site hydrology to reduce runoff volume, diffuse runoff flows into smaller retention/detention areas, improve water quality and encourage groundwater infiltration.
Lot-level	L-THIA	Low impact development practices can occur at the lot-level, or at a specific site such as a ¼ acre lot that a home resides on to tackle stormwater. Lot-level LID practices like rain gardens treat rainwater where it falls.

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LS-factor	HIT	A representation of slope steepness and length. An input to RUSLE.
L-THIA	L-THIA	Long-term Hydrologic Impact Assessment. Developed by the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University.
NHD	All	National Hydrography Dataset. A vector GIS-dataset of stream locations in the U.S.
NLCD	All	National Land Cover Dataset. A satellite-based raster representation of U.S. landcover, at 30-meter resolution.
NPS pollution	HIT, L-THIA	Non-point source pollution. Refers to the collective pollutant loading from areas without a point source (e.g. farm lands as opposed to an industrial discharge pipe).
NRCS	All	The Natural Resource Conservation Service. A branch of USDA focused on promoting land conservation and environmental protection.
Porous pavement	L-THIA	Porous surfaces such as pervious pavers or reinforced gravel which allow rain water to percolate instead of running off into streams or storm sewers. Typically placed in parking lots or low traffic areas.
Rain barrel	L-THIA	A container to harvest rain water, usually placed below a roof or gutter downspout outside the house. Reduces stormwater runoff and stores water which can be used to water a garden or lawn.
Rain garden	L-THIA	A biorentention basin consisting of native vegetative planting in a shallow depression. It's designed to capture rainwater which would otherwise become runoff.
Raster	All	A spatial representation of a particular phenomena in gridded cells/pixels.
REVA	DW	Regional Vulnerability Assessment. EPA program to report land-use derived environmental metrics.
R-factor	HIT	A representation of annual rainfall intensity. An input to RUSLE.
Runoff	HIT, L-THIA	The contribution to the stream network from precipitation that reached the surface but did not infiltrate the soil.
RUSLE	HIT	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation. Estimates annual rainfall-induced sheet erosion for a given area. Does not account for wind, bank, or ephemeral gully erosion.
Sediment loading	HIT	Amount of sediment delivered to the stream network from overland runoff.
SEDMOD	HIT	Spatially Explicit Model. A model to estimate the amount of eroded soil that reaches the stream network in a given year for a given pixel (Robert Fraser, 1999).
SSURGO	HIT, L-THIA	County-level soil surveys conducted by the USDA, at a 1:24,000 map scale.
STATSGO	HIT, L-THIA	State-level soil surveys conducted by the USDA, at 1:250,000 map scale.
STORET	DW	STOrage and RETrieval database of water quality, maintained by EPA.
TSS	L-THIA	Total suspended solids. A common quality metric of river/stream monitoring.
USPED	DW	Unit Stream-based Erosion Deposition.