



## Student Populates Wayne's NRIS Water Module

***Fish and mussel survey data is now available to Wayne National Forest biologists as a result of a college student's efforts at mastering the NRIS Water database.***



Lindsey Van Gundy entering data into the NRIS Water Module.

Biologists often have to sift through piles of paper maps and data sheets to find out what species may occur in a project area, but analysis of aquatic survey data just got a bit easier on the Wayne National Forest. Those piles of paper are now history on the Wayne because results from fish and mussel surveys conducted over the past 20 years are now in the NRIS Water Module.

A second-year Hocking College student majoring in Fish Management, worked diligently one to two days a week for six months entering fish and mussel survey data into the NRIS Water Module. "Entering data was tedious and I had to learn the database's quirks," remarked Lindsey Van Gundy, who was hired into the Student Temporary Employment Program, "but I

learned a lot about databases and what kind of data are collected during aquatic surveys."

The Wayne has already realized the benefit of Van Gundy's efforts. "We received a quick turn-around information request from the Regional Office asking for possible Forest Highway stream crossing improvement projects we could do," said Steve Marchi, Forest Engineer. "Our fisheries biologist was able to query the NRIS Water Module and get the biological data needed for the report quickly and that enabled us to prioritize projects so we could get work done where it would really make a difference."

"We've been able to get into the database and get information quickly, but more importantly we can now look at it spatially and can perform a variety of queries, which adds another level to our analysis capabilities," stated Becky Ewing, Forest Biologist.

"The job now is to make sure all of our biologists and technicians know how to use NRIS Water," said Ewing. "It operates very differently from the other NRIS modules we use (Fauna and Terra), but fortunately for us we have super people working the NRIS Water Help Desk!"

*For more information contact Rebecca Ewing at 740-534-6537*