

## **SECTION 1.1**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Indiana Drainage Handbook ("Handbook") is to serve as an administrative and technical guide for drainage activities within Indiana streams and ditches. Pursuant to its enabling legislation, the Handbook (1) explains and clarifies federal, state, and local laws and regulations affecting drainage improvement activities within the State of Indiana, (2) provides descriptions of specific "Best Management Practices" which define how work should be done with a minimum of adverse environmental impact, and (3) explains procedures for timely access to agencies' drainage-related personnel.

The Handbook is intended for use by both the regulatory agencies and those doing drainage work. A clear understanding of the applicable regulations and practices provided in the Handbook, and how they should be applied, should ease the process of obtaining permits for drainage improvement activities. Such improved understanding should also result in minimizing the adverse impacts of these activities on human life and property as well as on fish, wildlife, or other aquatic and botanical resources.

The practices contained in the Handbook are intended to be selected and applied on a case by case basis and for an appropriate reach of a subject ditch or stream. **Nothing in this Handbook is intended to force the application of a practice or its indiscriminate utilization along the entire length of a stream or ditch.** Such indiscriminate utilization of a practice along the entire reach of a drainageway may not only be cost prohibitive, but may also be ineffective in many settings. Planning and selection principles explained later in Section 4 of this Handbook should be utilized to allow selection and use of the most appropriate practice for each specific reach of a drainageway.