

October 21 - Oneida

Sign-IN

Name

Organization

Contact

Alan Johnson

WTCAC

WTCAC1@gmail.com

Nate Goulden

FEDC

nate.goulden@fepd.nh.gov

Erin Hoffman

Innovative
Funding
WTCAC

innovative.funding@fepd.nh.gov

Doug Cox

Menominee

dgox@mitw.org

Keith Seaybush

WTCAC

1seayak@hotmail.com

Tina L. VanZile

Sokaogon/Mole
Lake

tina.vanzile@scc-nsn.gov

Chris Borden

USDA/NRCS

chris.borden@wi.usda.gov

Janice Kelley

USDA-NRCS

janice.kelley@wi.usda.gov

Brett McConnell

Lac Courte Oreilles

brett.mcconnell@lco-nsn.gov

Randy Poelme

Ho-Chunk

Randy.Poelme@ho-chunk.com

Scott McDougall

Lac du Flambeau

smcdougall@ldftribe.com

Pat Pelky

~~ppelky~~
Oneida Tribe

ppelky1@oneida.natrom.org

Jeff Mears

Oneida

jmears@oneidatribetn.org

Lacey Hill Foster
(phone)

Jeremy Bloomquist

Chad
(phone)

SIGN IN OCTOBER 22

NAME

ORGANIZATION

CONTACT

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT
Alan Johnson	WTCA	WTCA1@gmail
Nate Gulden	WTCA FCPC	nategulden@fepokdi. nsn.gov
Doug Cox	Menominee	dgrex@emitter.org
Kelvin Sengbusch	WTCA	15earge@lutni.com
Erin Hoffman	WTCA/ Innovative Funding	innovative.funding@ gmail.com
Janice Kelley	USDA-NRCS	janice.kelley@wi.usda
Chris Barbe	USDA-NRCS	chris.barbe@ wi.usda.gov
Tina L. Vanzile	Sokaogon-Mole Lake	tina.vanzile@scc- nsn.gov
Scott McDougall	Lac du Flambeau	smcdougall@lcftribe.com
Brett McConnell	LCO	brett.mcconnell@lco-nsn.gov
Randy Pelka	Ho-Chunk	Randy.Pelka@ho-chunk. com
Pat Pelky	Oneida	ppelky1@oneidanature.org
Jen Falck	Oneida	jfalck@oneidanation.org
Mike Daniels	USDA Rural Development	Mike.daniels@wi.usda
Jeremy Bloomquist	St. Croix	jeremyb@stcroixtribalcenter.com
JONATHAN PRATSKOWITZ	INCA	Jonathan.Pratskowitz@wisconsin.gov
Mary Rosmussen	USDA Forest Service	mrosmussen@fs.fed.us
JoAnn Cruse	USDA, APHS, PQ	joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov
Greg Bussler	USDA-NASS	greg.bussler@nass.usda
PAUL DEMAZIN	IAC	pdemazin@indianaylink.com
MIKE CONNORS Phone		

Agenda

WTCAC Meeting October 21-October 22 Host: The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

1. Lodging location: The Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay. The Radisson has a block of rooms reserved October 20 and October 21 under block code "WTCAC". The rate will be \$83.00. The deadline for reservations is October 9. **Call 920-494-7300.**

2. Meeting location: Oneida Thornberry Creek Golf 4470 N Pine Tree Rd, Oneida, (920) 434-7501

October 21 – WTCAC Meeting (Call to Order 8:00 AM)

- 1) Approval of Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Introductions
- 4) ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

Planning 8:30-12:00

- 5) *"Planning for the Future" 2016 and beyond. Jennifer Falck, Pat Pelky, Nate Guldan*
- 6) Lunch
- 7) Meeting Resumption 12:45

NRCS 12:45-3:30

- 8) EQIP **Chris Borden (Jimmy Bramblett available by phone at 3:00)**
- 9) WTCAC closed session EQIP **WTCAC Board**

4:00 Open Session-Reports and Projects 4:00-4:30

- 10) Reports
 - Financial Statements **Erin Hoffman**
 - Development Report **Alan Johnson**
- 11) Projects
 - APHIS/ Tribal Mitigation and Quarantine Protocol Development-\$67,500. Keith Sengbusch, Alan Johnson
 - APHIS/Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Native American Internship Program "Planning for the Future". \$61,900 Keith Sengbusch
 - GLRI/EPA Invasive Species Control-\$236,460 for 2015-2016 and \$236,460 for 2016-2017. Tribes = Mole Lake, Menominee, Oneida and FCPC, Bad River, Red Cliff, Stockbridge Munsee, Keith Sengbusch, Erin Hoffman,
 - Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board/OATS \$10,000. Alan Johnson
 - APHIS Goal 3, 5, 6. Alan Johnson

RCPP 4:30-5:00

Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Pat Pelky Moderator, Open Discussion

**Thornberry Meeting Resume 8:00 AM October 22
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting**

October 22—(Call to Order 8 AM)

1). WTCAC PLANNING 8:00- 10:00

**WISCONSIN TRIBAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
WITH PARTNERS October 22**

Agency Updates 10:00 -12:00

- a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b. Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- c. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- d. Rural Development (RD)
- e. Forest Service (FS)
- f. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- g. Risk Management Agency (RMA)

LUNCH

MEETING RESUME AT 1:00

- h. Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC)
- i. Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) - Jonathan Pyatskowitz
- j. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- k. Indian Health Services (IHS)
- l. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- m. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- N. RTCAC

CLOSED SESSION

2). WTCAC EQIP FINAL RANKING

WTCAC Meeting October 21-October 22
Host: The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

1. Lodging location: The Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay. The Radisson has a block of rooms reserved October 20 and October 21 under block code "WTCAC". The rate will be \$83.00. The deadline for reservations is October 9. **Call 920-494-7300.**

2. Meeting location: Oneida Thornberry Creek Golf 4470 N Pine Tree Rd, Oneida, (920) 434-7501

October 21 – Call to order at 8:13. Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Lacy on the phone). Quorum present

Approval of Agenda by consensus

Approval of Minutes. Motion to table by Menominee until next meeting, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All in favor, motion carries.

Introductions (see attendance sheet)

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER:
Elections held off until after lunch

Planning 8:30-12:00

"Planning for the Future" 2016 and beyond. Jennifer Falck (see attachments)

Lunch

Meeting Start 12:45

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER: Brett McConnell nominated Nate Guldán for Vice-President. Scott McDougall seconded. Call for all in favor and motion carried unanimously. Nate Guldán accepted nomination. Nate Guldán nominated Brett McConnell for Treasurer. Tina Van Zile seconded. Call for all in favor and motion carried unanimously. Brett McConnell accepted nomination.

NRCS 12:45-3:30

EQIP

Tom Krapf (NRCS): we are starting a whole new year with a change. Any Tribal member can apply through the regular sign up; \$440K is set aside for Wisconsin Tribes at this point, which could potentially increase if we have more requests. Focus this year is NRCS is tracking the projects and getting Tribal projects in line with planning done ahead of time. End of sign up was 10/2. NRCS EQIP may have enough in applications and dollars that all the funds would be used up; however this year they preplanned a potential award time/March 4, 2016 to be a second date. If we don't have sufficient high ranked projects currently to utilize the \$440,000 there might be

another opportunity to do so March 4. This sign up would be if there are funds left over. They are going to try to have funds available every 6 months.

Chris handed out the spreadsheet of this year's projects. (See attachment A)

Much discussion occurred with the EQIP handout.

Ranking

Motion to rank the Red Cliff aquaculture project as medium and all other projects as high by FCPC, seconded by Menominee. All in favor and motion carried unanimously.

Motion to draft a letter for Pat's signature to encourage NRCS to prioritize the Red Cliff project (to be ready by March and once it is ready) we will rank it as high. Motion made by Menominee, seconded by Lac Du Flambeau; all in favor and motion carried unanimously.

4:00 Open Session-Reports and Projects 4:00-4:30

Reports

Financial Statements
Development Report

Erin Hoffman (see attachment B, page 1-17)
Alan Johnson (see attachment C)

Projects

APHIS/ Tribal Mitigation and Quarantine Protocol Development-\$67,500. Keith Sengbusch, Alan Johnson
Next meeting Mole Lake 12/3, 1:30-5:00

APHIS/Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Native American Internship Program "Planning for the Future". \$61,900 Keith Sengbusch
Menominee and St. Croix have expressed interest.

GLRI/EPA Invasive Species Control-\$236,460 for 2015-2016 and \$236,460 for 2016-2017.
Tribes = Mole Lake, Menominee, Onondaga and FCPC, Bad River, Red Cliff, Stockbridge Munsee, Keith Sengbusch, Erin Hoffman
Alan will look at the deliverables needed from Keith and Randy for GLRI And come up with a work plan and present at next Board Meeting

Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board/OATS \$10,000. Alan Johnson-Discussed as new partner

APHIS Goal 3, 5, 6. Alan Johnson

Submitted under Farm Bill 10007- Goal 3/This suggestion is to work with APHIS PPQ National Operations Manager Kristian Rondeau to develop a Nation-to-Tribal Nation Capacity Building Model that incorporates APHIS PPQ policies, procedures and documentation into a Culturally Accepted format for Tribal Nations.

Goal 5/ This WTCAC Tribal Outreach and Education suggestion is to build bridges between the USDA APHIS PPQ and the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region and to establish the beginnings of a partnership between APHIS PPQ and some of the BIA Western Region Agencies to jointly address the Invasive Species issues of the Tribal Nations served by those Agencies.

Goal 6/. The WTCAC Board of Directors developed this suggestion to expand on the Tribal Mitigation and Quarantine Protocol Development Project through (this) Pest Rapid Response Emergency Preparation and Mitigation Exercise. With Tribal Nations input and evaluation of this project, a model for subsequent Tribal use in other areas of the United States is anticipated.

RCPP 4:30-5:00

Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Open Discussion Alan Johnson provided a synopsis of the opportunity. See attached Executive Summary (Attachment D)

Thornberry Meeting Resume 8:00 AM October 22

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Roll Call: Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac Du Flambeau, Menominee Tribe, Mole Lake Band, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

October 22—(Call to Order 8 AM)

1). WTCAC PLANNING 8:00- 10:00

WISCONSIN TRIBAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING WITH PARTNERS October 22

See October 22 Attendance sheet
Agency Updates

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chris Borden – Greg Yakle retired, The Tribal Liaison responsibilities now are with Ryan Swatek for Ho-Chunk. He has worked with HO-Chunk since 2002. Janice Kelly has taken Greg’s Tribal Liaison responsibilities. She is a Soil Conservationist in Columbia County and over the next 3 years will spend 20% of her time as a special emphasis coordinator with NRCS to help Native Americans obtain a career with NRCS. She is working with Tribal colleges on recruitment and education. NRCS is working with RD to get a bridge loan to cover the expense to install a seasonal high tunnel before the Tribe has gotten reimbursement from NRCS. Renee Anderson retired who was the public affairs specialist. Now they have Tiffany Gough. It was great timing to be able to develop a 3 year agreement and it is good for NRCS because of budget issues they see on the horizon so it is helpful for NRCS.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

(See attachment E)

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Joanne – EAB traps should be down. No new finds since the last time she reported. Had finds in Marquette, Richland, Iowa Counties that were already quarantined. There were some finds in the UP close to the WI border. Gypsy moth numbers seem like they were lower this year. Process of reviewing Farm Bill projects. They don't know what the funding levels are yet. Some projects may be fully funded, partially funded, or rejected. She doesn't expect to hear anything until March. She did not get any updates from Wildlife Services or Veterinarian Services. VS is trying to develop nationwide teams to be ready for Avian influence as they think there may be a resurgence in October and November.

Rural Development (RD)/Mike Daniels

They are in a holding pattern on their funding. They had a round table listening session with Red Cliff to listen to what needs they may have and how best to address their needs. Thought there was some good discussion held that day. Had training and several Tribes attended and they awarded three different rural business development grants to Tribes in WI. \$5 million dollars in loans and grants given out to the 3 Tribes. VAPGs given to Tribal Maple Syrup producers coop looking at how they can better identify and work with native syrup producers. They just awarded Red Cliff to study the opportunities for fish processing in the Red Cliff area to help with commercial fisherman on Lake Superior. Overall they had about \$360K in grants in business programs. First self-help housing technical assistance grant was awarded to LCO this past year-provides TA to the Tribe and they will in turn help low income individuals build their own homes.

Forest Service (FS)

Mary Rasmussen – She will be working closely with Alan; she has commitment from CNNF to fund one intern in engineering. CNNF would also like to host 2 positions as they have in the past at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Good Neighbor authority was discussed. (See attachment F)

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

NASS – Greg Bussler – List from WTCAC of Indian Farmers to check against their list. At the end of September they released the organic survey results. 2nd from number of organic farms in the country. Organics is an important part of agriculture in the state. October 9 they released the crop production report. If everything goes right, this will be the highest corn yield on record for WI and they expect soy beans to be the highest yield as well. $\frac{3}{4}$ of soybean harvest complete and $\frac{1}{2}$ with corn. County Agricultural practices survey for corn and soybeans will be upcoming.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Not in attendance

LUNCH

MEETING RESUME AT 1:00

Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) IAC – Paul DeMain. If you know any youth that may want a scholarship to go to the annual conference let them know, they would need to write an essay. GO to their website for scholarship info. Mobile farmers market went to taste of Madison. The wild rice harvest was average. He had a chance to get out and see the high tunnel at LCO and Bad River. He is part of the Board of Directors for the intertribal maple syrup producers cooperative to bring together the people that are sapping now. There is a great deal of potential for involving those producers.

Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) - Jonathan Pyatskowitz. They had a board meeting in June. They are working on strategic plan. WTCAC (Jerry) had been assisting with some of their trainings.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
Not in attendance

Indian Health Services (IHS)
Not in attendance

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
Not in attendance

Bureau of Indian Affairs Not in attendance
Not in attendance

RTCAC- Pat Pelky. They are working on setting up the new council. They replaced Tom Christiansen. He is guessing his term is probably done with the group.

APHIS- Joann Cruz—A meeting will occur on December 3rd at Mole Lake with someone who is knowledgeable with regulation language, coupled with facilitating skills for the Farm Bill 10007 Mitigation grant. Information from tribes regarding their procedures for taking care of invasive species will also occur. Progress report will be provided at the next meeting. \

RCP- Anticipate if gotten, would be on top of the current \$440,000 EQIP. Direct costs are funded. EPA GLRI funds can be used as leverage as long as the programs are complimentary. Alan will draft a letter of commitment for the Tribes to use.

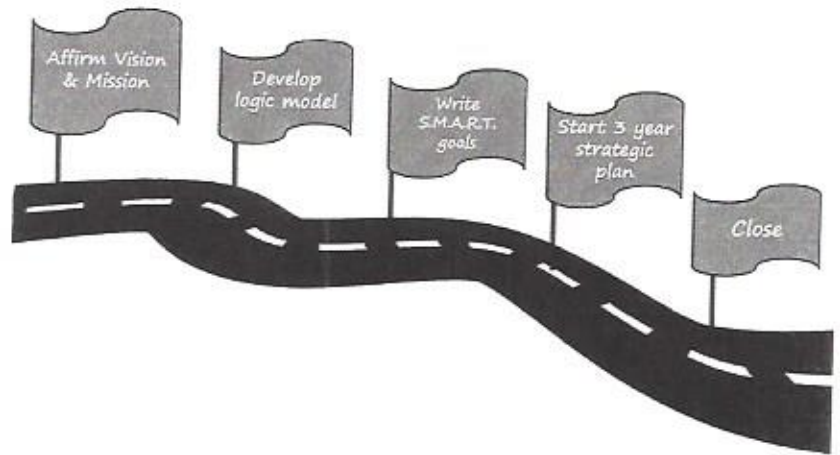
Internship program for 2016: Farm Bill 1007 funding for 5 interns, FS Ottawa National Forest funding for 2-3 students, FS Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest funding for 1 student NW Workforce Board/funding for 3-5 interns. Additional discussions with other USDA agencies occurring.

Motion to adjourn made by Menominee, and seconded by Mole Lake. Consensus vote. Meeting adjourned 2:23 PM



**Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Strategic Planning Session
October 21-22, 2015
Oneida, Wisconsin**

Facilitator: Jennifer Falck, RS, MPA,
Program Evaluation Analyst Oneida
Environmental, Health, & Safety Division



Session Goal

Use planning methods to arrive at a draft strategic plan for FY16-18.

Work Products:

Vision, Mission, Logic Model. S.M.A.R.T. Goals, draft strategic plan



Vision

Desired end state

A one sentence statement describing the clear & inspirational long term change resulting from your work.

WTCAC Vision

Natural resources of reservations in Wisconsin will become world renowned as being ecologically sustainable while meeting the needs of our communities

Vision Criteria	YES	NO	KIND OF...
One sentence statement?			
Clear & inspirational change?			
Does it state what you want to accomplish?			
Does it specify a future direction?			
Does it provide a mental picture of where WTCAC is headed?			



Mission
Why you exist

A one sentence statement
describing the reason an organization or program exists

WTCAC Mission

Make federal conservation programs work on tribal lands through government to governments education and demonstration

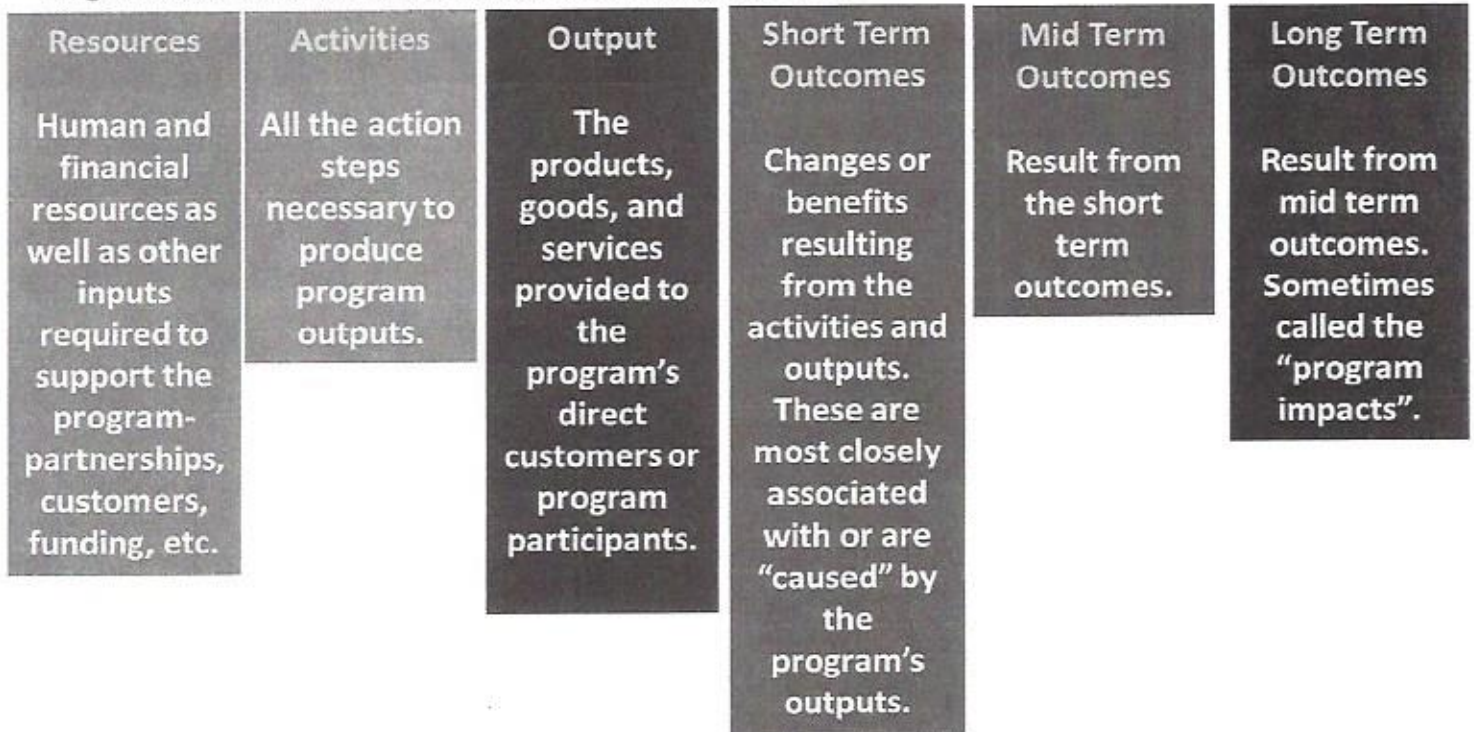
Mission Criteria	YES	NO	KIND OF...
One sentence statement?			
Describe why WTCAC exists?			
Does it indicate who stakeholders are?			
Does it provide purpose?			



Logic Model

A plausible and sensible model of how a program will work

Program Goal: What's driving the need for the program? What are the factors that cause the problem?



Program Goal:

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Mid Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes

S.M.A.R.T Goals

S	M	A	R	T
SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ASSIGNABLE	REALISTIC	TIME BASED
What? Where? How?	From & To	Who?	Feasible?	When?
A specific goal is distinct & defines as much of the goal as possible & contains no ambiguous language	A measurement gives feedback and lets one know when the goal is complete	Goals must be assignable to individuals or groups	Realistic goals are challenging yet attainable within a given timeframe	Timeframe must be aggressive yet realistic

S:

M:

A:

R:

T:

Next Steps

WHAT	WHO	BY WHEN

Attachment A

October 21 Cumulative 2016 Tribal EQIP Applications.

Tribe	Site Visits Conducted (Y/N)	1200 Signed and Appendix x Reviewed (Y/N)	Project Identifier	Practice Number	Anti So Nu fro Pr Sc
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	N/A	Y	Wood Creek Purple Loosestife Control, Kakagon Slough Cattail Control Handpulling, and Wild Rice Planting		
Ho-Chunk Nation	Y	Y	Former Badger Army Ammunition Plant Site	314	
Ho-Chunk Nation	Y	Y	Former Badger Army Ammunition Plant Site Prescribed Burn	338	
Ho-Chunk Nation	Y	Y	Lyndon Station Wetland Restoration Repair	587 and 342	2
Forest County Potawatomi Community	Y	Y	Seasonal High Tunnels 2	325	
Forest County Potawatomi Community	Y	Y	Structures for Wildlife - Loon Nesting Platform	649	
Forest County Potawatomi Community	Y	Y	Structures for Wildlife - Bat Boxes	649	
Forest County Potawatomi Community	Y	TBD	Composting Facility		
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Aquaculture Ponds-Harvest Kettle	397 With Harvest Kettle	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Aquaculture Pond	397	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Structure for Water Control	587	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Pond Sealing or Lining-Flexible Membrane	521A	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Pond Sealing or Lining-Compacted Clay	521D	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Chain Link Fence	382	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Access Road	560	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	TBD	Subsurface Drain	606	

Practice Number	Anticipated Scenario Number from 2015 Practice Schedule	Anticipated Quantity		Current Estimated Cost	Comments (include comments on practices that may involve significant engineering staff resources to complete and any outstanding questions regarding EQIP eligibility)
					Currently funded under Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership funding pools.
314	2	209.5	Acre	\$ 33,654.08	
338	1	170	Acre	\$ 11,310.10	
7 and 342	2 & 4	1 & 0.2 2 @2160	each & ac	\$ 2,321.16	Luther Teller (CET Mauston) has completed the design. Construction estimated cost \$4938; cost-sharing est from 9/23/15 FY16 draft cookbook
325	1	Sqft	Sq.Ft.	\$ 20,000.00	Phase II of NRCS Planning Process complete Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete; no location map provided; unable to determine land eligibility
349	1	1	Each	\$ 345.70	Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete; no location map provided; unable to determine land eligibility
349	7	4	Each	\$ 309.56	Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete; no location map provided; unable to determine land eligibility
					Ineligible current standard really focuses on Water quality and odor issue as the resource concerns.
With vest title	4	0.5	Acre	\$ -	This is a likely 2017 application, LCO would like to have time to have enough information secure a bid before proceeding and secure funding for the non EQIP portion of costs.
97	3	1.5	Acre	\$ -	2017
87	1	13232	Diameter Inch-Foot	\$ -	2017
1A	2	12880	SqYd	\$ -	2017
1D	3	400	CuYd	\$ -	2017
32	7	2400	Foot	\$ -	2017
30	3	400	Foot	\$ -	2017
16	5	800	Foot	\$ -	2017

2

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Underground Outlet	620	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Water Well	642	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Obstruction Removal	500	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Livestock Pipeline	516	TBD
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Critical Area Planting	342	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	TBD	Pumping Plant	533	
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	y	Y	Forest Stand Improvement	666	
Potential applicant to be member of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians [not to be included in WTCAC fund pool]	Y	N	Shoreline Restoration	580	
Potential applicant to be member of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians [not to be included in WTCAC fund pool]	Y	N	Shoreline Restoration	342	
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Hatchery Raceway Waste Separation Facility	TBD	TBD
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Sherman Lake Dam Repair	TBD	TBD
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Early Succession Habitat Development and Management	647	
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin	Y	Y	Trails and Walkways	575	
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin	N	N	Livestock Shelter Structure	561/367	TBD

3

7	675 Foot	\$ -	2017
3	50 Foot	\$ -	2017
1	3 Acre	\$ -	2017
	700 Foot	\$ -	2017
1	3 Acre	\$ -	2017
9	10 HP	\$ -	2017
1	200 Acre	\$ 51,398.00	2016 LCO Application
			Phase I of NRCS Planning Process mostly complete; not to be included in WTCAC funding pool; will proceed with Phase II upon receipt of EQIP app and determination of eligibility or as CTA, per request of land leasee
			Phase I of NRCS Planning Process mostly complete; not to be included in WTCAC funding pool; will proceed with Phase II upon receipt of EQIP app and determination of eligibility or as CTA, per request of land leasee
			2017 Project. Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete, as of 10/19/15; engineering assistance required to inventory resources (Step 3) and proceed with decision support (Phase II); Doug Denk will be carrying out engineering site assessment (8/27/15)
			2017 project. Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete, as of 10/19/15; engineering assistance required to inventory resources (Step 3) and proceed with decision support (Phase II); Tom Melnarik will start the survey soon (9-1-15)
1	14.6 Acre	\$ 5,821.46	Phase II of NRCS Planning Process complete
3	775 ft	\$ 589.00	Brian Bogucki Appleton NRCS CET beginning design work.
TBD	TBD	\$ -	No signed application... will be planning for 2017 sign-up.

2017

207

4

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Aquaculture Pond	397
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Pond Sealing or Lining-Flexible Membrane	521A
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Fence	382
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Underground Outlet	620
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Structure for Water Control	587
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Y	Y	Access Road	560
St Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	TBD	N	Buckthorn Control Mechanical	314
St Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	TBD	N	Buckthorn Control Handpull	314
St Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	TBD	N	Access Road in support of Prescribed Burning	560
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Stream Crossing	578
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Access Road	560
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Seasonal High Tunnel Traditional Materials	798
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Forest Stand Improvement - Pre-commercial Thinning, Hand Tools; Stand 702-40	666
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Tree Pruning - Pruning, Low Height (to at least 18 feet); Stand 702-19	660
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - Mechanical, Heavy Machinery	490
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Individual Tree, Hand Planting or Conifer Machine Planting	612
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Y	Y	Oak Lake Access Road	
Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior	N/A	Y	Forest management plan CAP	106
Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community	Y	Y	Wetland Restoration	657
Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community	Y	Y	Wetland Restoration	657
Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community	Y	Y	Stream Crossing	578

Total Estimated Cos

5

4	2.25	Acre	\$ 90,730.04	Paul and Kenny completed the design and presented cost estimate to Chase. Three 3/4 acre Ponds Planned.
2	10667	SqYd	\$ 88,109.42	
7	1600	Foot	\$ 21,904.00	
7	440	foot	\$ 6,982.80	
3	28.5	foot	\$ 52,706.19	Note Total est incentive below
7	1200	foot	\$ 17,208.00	\$ 277,640.45
				Dependant on neighbor seed source control first. Likely 2017 or later application
				Dependant on neighbor seed source control first. Likely 2017 or later application
	150	Foot	\$ 1,717.50	Waiver to commence approved
4	32	Foot		Phase I of NRCS planning process mostly complete; sugarbush/gravel pit project withdrawn from EQIP consideration by tribe
2	5525	Foot		Phase I of NRCS planning process mostly complete; sugarbush/gravel pit project withdrawn from EQIP consideration by tribe
1	500	Sq.Ft.	\$ 2,315.00	Phase I of NRCS Planning Process incomplete; no location map provided; unable to determine land eligibility
1	19	Acre	\$ 4,740.31	Phase II of NRCS planning process mostly complete; requires NEPA
2	16	Acre	\$ 5,161.92	Phase II of NRCS planning process mostly complete; requires NEPA
1	36	Acre	\$ 8,882.28	Phase II of NRCS planning process mostly complete; requires NEPA
1	36	Acre	\$ 15,036.48	Phase II of NRCS planning process mostly complete; requires NEPA
				Phase I of NRCS planning process mostly complete; Oak Lake project requires info on planned forest mgt activities to determine eligibility
2	80	Acre	\$ 1,615.68	
4	600	Cu.Yd.	\$ 3,960.00	Brian Bogucki Appleton NRCS CET beginning design work. (Still in SBM Committee)
5	1	Acre	\$ 5,795.81	
3	26	Foot	\$ 1,280.50	Brian Bogucki Appleton NRCS CET beginning design work. (passed out of SBM Committee)
			\$ 453,894.98	

17,300 Ready work
280,400 - Ready market

6

Application	Current Total	Ranking	
		Score	Planning Progress
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Ho-Chunk Nation - Badger Prairie Restoration	\$ 44,964.18	300	7
Ho-Chunk Nation - White Otter	\$ 2,321.16	400	7
Forest County Potawatomi - High Tunnels and Structures for Wildlife	\$ 20,655.26		7
Lac Courte Oreilles - Forest Stand Improvement	\$ 51,398.00	350	7
Lac du Flambeau - Early Successional Habitat Development	\$ 5,821.46		7
Menominee - Trails and Walkways	\$ 589.00	205	6-7
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Red Cliff - Aquaculture Ponds	\$ 277,640.45	355	5
St Croix - Access Road	\$ 1,717.50	370	7
Sokaogon - High Tunnel, FSI and Tree Planting	\$ 36,135.99		7
Sokaogon - Forest Management Plan CAP	\$ 1,615.68		N/A
Stockbridge - Wetland Restoration	\$ 9,755.81	360	6
Stockbridge - Stream Crossing	\$ 1,280.50	330	6-7
Total	\$ 453,894.98		

17

High Tunnel System (Hoop House)

Purpose

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to fruit and vegetable agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices, including high tunnel systems, that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, conserve energy, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. The goal of the initiative is to assist producers in extending their growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner.

High tunnels, sometimes called hoop houses, are steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend the growing season for fruit and vegetables, increasing yields and profitability. The Initiative may assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving water, plant, and soil quality, while also reducing nutrient and pesticide transportation.

Eligible applicants include individuals, legal entities, Indian Tribes, and joint operations engaged in fruit and vegetable agricultural production.

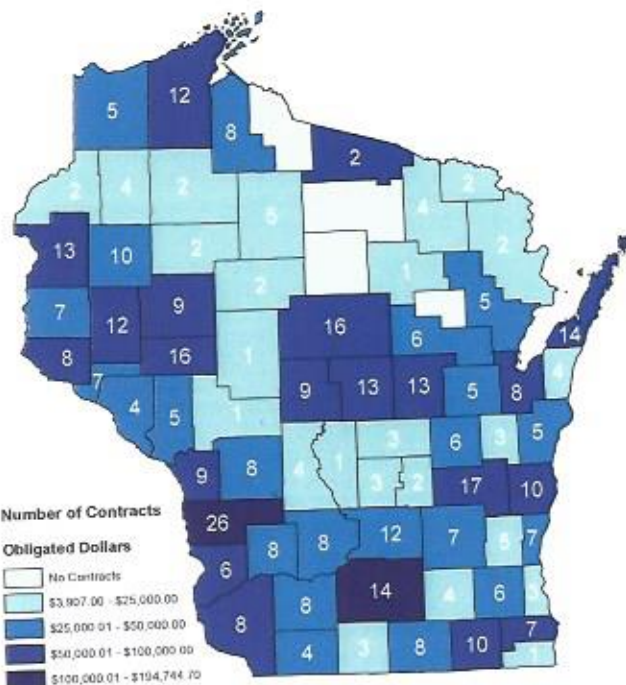
Requirements

Eligible producers interested in assistance may file an EQIP application at any time. Applicants must be an agricultural producer and have control of eligible land for the term of the proposed contract period; eligible land must be cropland. They must be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, as specified in the Farm Bill. Current year USDA Adjusted Gross Income requirements apply and other eligibility requirements may apply.

Contact your local service center for more information on high tunnel systems: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>

Signup Results

Fiscal Year	Contracts (No.)	EQIP Dollars (\$)
2010	102	530,152
2011	75	374,372
2012	76	424,197
2013	83	506,614
2014	42	271,315
2015	65	525,842
2016	22	170,674
Total	465	2,803,166



Number of Environmental Quality Incentives Program high tunnel system contracts for FY10 through FY15.



Attachment C

Development Report

October, 2015

Obtained as of September 2015

1. NRCS: no cost extension to 2016 \$8,999
2. APHIS Farm Bill 1007 Goal 5: Requested \$80,000 for Internship Project. \$61,900
3. APHIS Farm Bill 1007 Goal 6: Requested \$90,000 for Mitigation Project. \$67,500
4. EPA GLRI 2015-2017 Requested \$472,000 for Invasive Species Control. \$472,000
5. Navajo Technical University Obtained \$18,166
6. Cooperative Agreement APHIS Wildlife Services Obtained \$9,286
7. Cooperative Agreement RMA Obtained \$8,083
8. Ottawa Modification for 2016 Obtained \$20,000
9. 2501 collaboration: WTCAC will partner with the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc. to provide outreach and training support to American Indian farmers in Northwest Wisconsin. WTCAC has the strong relationships with USDA offices and each of five Tribes in the targeted region to help make Outreach Agricultural Training (OATS) a success. WTCAC staff will act in outreach, recruiting, and consulting capacities for a total of 400 hours throughout the grant period. A subcontract for \$10,000 will cover all salaries, fringe, mileage, and direct costs for WTCAC's work on the OATS project. Two WTCAC Interns will be receiving wages for their Internship.

Obtained as of October 2015

1. NRCS Cooperative Agreement FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018 Total: \$165,949

Current Working

1. RCPP: Currently WTCAC is working on an application that incorporates CSP and (former WHIP) now EQIP projects. RCPP will provide the opportunity for Tribes to utilize the pre-planning they have done regarding water quality, inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife.

Pending

1. Forest County Potawatomi Foundation: This proposal will provide "front end" engineering and design on selected Tribal Aquaculture/Aquaponics projects. The request was \$157,000.
2. Farm Bill 1007 Capacity Building Goal 3: This suggestion is to develop the Capacity of Tribal Nations in the Invasive Species survey protocols of USDA APHIS PPQ. Tribal Nations are the second largest land owners in the United States (next to the Federal Government) and they have some of the worst Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds infestations on their farmlands, rangelands and wetlands of any agricultural lands in the country. As Tribes continue to develop overseas markets for their agricultural products "pest free certifications" will be paramount for their success. Request: \$144,286
3. Farm Bill 1007 Capacity Building Goal 5: This current suggestion is to 1) finish the Farm Bill 10007 Tribal Webinar sessions with APHIS PPQ National Operations Manager

Kristian Rondeau; 2) produce CD's for distribution to 556 Tribal Nations; 3) work with the Western Region BIA Noxious Weed Specialist Patricia Wright and the APHIS PPQ National Tribal Liaison Carl Etsitty to conduct 2-day Workshops with Tribes that have known Invasive Species; and 4) assist those Tribes with developing and submitting FB10007 suggestions for FY2017. Request: \$114,646

4. Farm Bill 1007 Capacity Building Goal #6: This suggestion is to Design, Develop, Conduct, Evaluate a Pest Rapid Response Emergency Preparation and Mitigation Exercise on Tribal Lands in Wisconsin. The Exercise will involve Tribal and other stakeholders. Preparedness is imperative; when a pest is detected, the time between corresponding unified response activities is a critical window to lessen trade impacts, environmental damage, economic and social costs. Both the Incident Command System (ICS) and the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), as suggested for use by APHIS, provide a clearly identified planning process which can be used to enhance response activities for preparation, rapid response, and mitigation of pest(s). Expanding on the Tribal Mitigation and Quarantine Protocol Development Project through (this) Pest Rapid Response Emergency Preparation and Mitigation Exercise will further strengthen Tribal knowledge base, response options, training, and capabilities prior to the onset of a pest emergency. The overarching goals of containment, control, and/or eradication of pests will be enhanced. Request is \$117,958

Not Received

1. Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for training/travel-\$16,140

AMENDMENT 1
to
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
between the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)
and the
WISCONSIN TRIBAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

This amendment extends the expiration date of this agreement from September 30, 2015 to April 1, 2016.

The total amount of NRCS funds and the deliverables listed under this agreement remain unchanged.

Amend:

IV: IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

This agreement is effective upon the date of the NRCS State Conservationist's signature on the Notice of Award and shall continue in effect through **April 1, 2016**.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

WISCONSIN TRIBAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL:

By: Pat Pelky
Pat Pelky, WTCAC President

Date: 8/21/15

USDA-NRCS:

By: Jimmy Bramblett
Jimmy Bramblett, State Conservationist

Date: 8-26-15

NRCS Funds Available:

Shawn Nameth
Shawn Nameth, Financial Resources Specialist

Date: 8/14/15

August 31, 2015

Patrick Pelky
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155

Subject: Agreement Number 68-5F48-4-006

Dear Mr. Pelky,

Enclosed, for your file, is a fully executed copy of Amendment 1 to the Cooperative Agreement named above.

This amendment extends the expiration date of this agreement from September 30th, 2015 to April 1st, 2016. If you have any questions please contact Pat Murphy, Assistant State Conservation – Partnerships, at 608-662-4422, extension 273, or at pat.murphy@wi.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



JIMMY BRAMBLETT
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Pat Murphy, ASTC - Partnerships, NRCS, Madison, WI

Attachment D

Executive Summary 2016 RCPP

NRCS is the Department of Agriculture's conservation agency working with farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners nationwide to identify and address natural resource objectives in balance with operational goals in order to benefit soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources locally, regionally, and nationally. NRCS works in partnership with other entities to accelerate getting conservation on the ground.

<p>Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners in innovative, workable and cost-effective approaches to benefit farming, ranching, and forest operations, local economies, and the communities and resources in a watershed or other geographical area. RCPP provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts. Potential funding through WTCACC is through Critical Conservation Areas (CCA)-Great Lakes Region and Mississippi River Basin. Measures of success are: solutions, contributions, innovation, and participation.</p>	<p>The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations. Funding is provided via State NRCS.</p>
<p>STRENGTHS: 3-5 years to complete, funds don't run out Potential for new, additional partnerships Utilizes a negotiated partnership agreement once proposal is approved Can provide initiative for future, comprehensive planning RCPP assistance provided via Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Healthy Forests Reserve Program, EQIP; combinations of program authority and identified conservation activity allowed 20% of proposal to NRCS NRCS will accept measurement tools from WTCAC that are measurable from environmental, economic, and social perspectives</p>	<p>STRENGTHS: Approximately \$440,000 provided annually NRCS Tribal Liaisons help with process NRCS is updating the EQIP regulation to incorporate the 2014 Act changes, The primary benefits associated with this rulemaking are: Provides continued consistency for the NRCS to implement EQIP. Provides transparency to potential applicants on NRCS program requirements.</p>
<p>WEAKNESS: Tribes (partners) need to commit leverage Tribes need to determine commitment amount Timeframe for getting all together is tight No administrative funds for indirect costs Currently WTCAC engineering staff lack appropriate NRCS certification Some Tribes do not have projects determined 3+ years out Do not know if current GLRI EPA can be used for match</p>	<p>WEAKNESS: No cooperative agreement/no guarantee Currently most \$ going to Aquaculture Tribes must negotiate/pick and choose who receives project funding due to funding limitations Insufficient NRCS staff to provide technical assistance Rules change, leading to confusion between Tribes and NRCS EQIP training has begun, but more is needed</p>

<p>Must provide significant match—NRCS goal to achieve an amount equal to Fed investment Two CCA—Great Lakes and Mississippi</p>	<p>The primary costs imposed by 2014 EQIP regulation: All program participants must follow the same requirements, even though they are very different types of agricultural operations in different resource contexts. Most program participants are required to contribute at least 10-25 percent of the resources needed to implement program practices. However, such costs are standard for such financial assistance programs. NRCS State funds are limited, limited funds = limited Tribal projects=no Tribal fire in the belly initiative?</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES: Provides additional funding to hasten critical conservation projects Strategically plan for 3-way use (RCPP EQIP projects + State NRCS/WTCAC Tribal EQIP aquaculture + State NRCS EQIP general pool) Enables planning for critical conservation needs 3+ years out Can allow for WTCAC technical assistance thereby lessening dependence on NRCS Flexibility to adjust the rules of ACEP, CSP, EQIP, HFRP/use of threshold score for application approval, modifying application ranking criteria Maximizing the number of partners and participants Innovation/use of all partners via support letters to demonstrate experience and working effectively and collaboratively with agricultural producers and forest landowners All RCPP funds provided in accordance with final partnership agreement</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITIES: Training provided by NRCS Outreach provided by NRCS Tribal EQIP and State EQIP pool available for Tribal expansion</p>
<p>THREATS: Potential compromise of Wisconsin State EQIP funding Inability to provide upfront T&A Necessitates continued momentum between WTCAC and Tribes</p>	<p>THREATS: Potential loss of Tribal EQIP NRCS comments regarding potential 2016 changes in program</p>

TO DO:

- Work with Jimmy--make sure he has copy of proposal. Obtain letter of support from Jimmy
- Who is lead State Conservationist for CCA
- Obtain letters of support/participation from all partners
- Obtain letters of commitment from all Tribes (provide equations to determine leverage commitment)
- Obtain letter of support from Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (NWWIB)
- Determine projects
- Determine budget
- Determine personnel and costs
- Update maps
- Make sure DUNS and SAM are up to date

Attachment E



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-5361
Fax: 608-742-0194

Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – October 22, 2015

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext. 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

FSA October State Newsletter

The October FSA State Newsletter has been issued. This newsletter has also been posted to the Wisconsin FSA webpage www.fsa.usda.gov/wi under *Newsletters* in the left hand column. www.fsa.usda.gov/wi click on "Subscribe to Wisconsin FSA E-mail News" under the "I WANT TO", enter your email address, hit submit. Scroll down until you get to WI and pick the State Office news. At the top you can choose to receive other USDA publications.

Farm Loan Programs and EQIP High Tunnel and other Conservation Practices (Draft fact sheet)

The FSA Microloan can be used in combination with the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to build high tunnel systems and implement other conservation practices. EQIP funds can cover a significant portion, but not all, of an applicant's costs to install an approved conservation practice. The FSA microloan can cover *individual* tribal members' portion of the costs and serve as a bridge to pay the supplies and contractors. This is important resource for many tribal members because the NRCS cannot pay the EQIP incentive until the project is fully completed. **October Farm Loan Interest Rates:** 2.635% for operating/microloans/youth loans and 4.000% for ownership/real estate.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

- *Continuous CRP:* Cost-share assistance with annual rental payments is offered for practices including conservation buffers and pollinator habitat plantings, and initiatives such as the highly erodible lands, bottomland hardwood trees, and longleaf pine. Signup is conducted year round.
- *General CRP signup:* December 1 through February 26, 2016. Producers interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll. Cost-share assistance with annual rental payments
- *New Conservation Incentives for Working Grass and Pasture Lands:* September 1 – November 20. (First ranking period) Cost-share assistance with annual rental payments to help conserve working grasslands and pastureland while maintaining the areas for livestock grazing.

Loss Coverage for Various Commercial Crops

November 20th is the deadline to obtain loss coverage policies under the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for commercial crops that generate at least \$1,500 in income and that are not insured within your county. Includes fruits, vegetables, maple sap, honey, farm raised fish, mushrooms, floriculture, wild rice with water control structures in place, etc. \$250 administrative fee is waived for tribes/tribal members and ½ of buy up premiums are waived.

Employment opportunities within the agency – many FSA offices throughout WI and the State Office in Madison are hiring. This includes positions such as Program Technicians, Farm Loan Officer Trainees, County Office Trainees, etc. All FSA job openings are posted to the USAJOBS website.

FSA Program Fact Sheet: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/ click on "FSA Fact Sheets" under "Popular Topics" and click "all" to get a listing of all FSA fact sheets.

October 2015



NEWSLETTER



- [Important Dates to Remember](#)
- [USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadline](#)
- [USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Fall Crop Sales Deadlines](#)
- [Nov. 20th Non-Insured Assistance Program \(NAP\) Deadline for Perennial Crops](#)
- [General CRP Signup Begins December 1](#)
- [CRP Grasslands Initiative for Livestock Grazing Lands](#)
- [Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Direct Loans](#)
- [Consider Storing Your Harvested Grain and Obtain a Crop Loan with FSA](#)
- [Maintain Quantity and Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain](#)
- [Breaking New Ground? Notify FSA Before Starting!](#)

Wisconsin State FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

8030 Excelsior Drive,
Suite 100
Madison, WI 53717

www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

State Committee:

Bill Averbek, Chair
Patty Edelburg
George Huber

Acting State Executive

Director:
Warren Hanson

Division Chiefs:

Russell Raeder
Tom Brandt
Warren Hanson

Please contact your [local FSA Office](#) for questions.

Important Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1.....2015 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Application for Payment Deadline
- Nov. 9.....County Committee Election Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
- Nov. 12.....Deadline for Removing hay Bales from CRP fields
- Nov. 16.....2016 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland & Forage (PRF) including Native Grass, Fall Wheat and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- Nov. 16.....Deadline for 2015 NAP Production Reports for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage, Mixed Forage Crops, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic
- Nov. 20.....EXTENDED! Last day of the Registration/Coverage Election Period for 2016 MPP-Dairy Program
- Nov. 20.....Application Deadline for CRP Working Grass, Range & Pasture Lands Initiative
- Nov. 20.....2016 NAP Application Closing Date for fruit and other crops such as apples, pears, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, honey, maple sap,

asparagus and other perennial fruits
Dec. 1.....CRP General Signup Begins
Dec. 1.....2016 ARCPLC Signup Begins
Dec. 7.....Last Day to Return Voted County
Committee Election Ballots to FSA
at the local USDA Service Center.

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadline

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced the deadline to enroll in the dairy Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016 has been extended until Nov. 20, 2015. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

Producers are encouraged to use the online Web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet.

Producers who were enrolled in 2015 will need to make a coverage election for 2016 and pay the \$100 administration fee. To remain eligible for higher coverage levels any 2015 unpaid premium balances must be made by the Nov. 20, 2015 deadline. Premiums for 2016 are not due until Sept. 1, 2016. Also, producers can work with milk marketing companies to remit premiums on their behalf.

To enroll in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Payments under the program may be reduced by a certain percentage due to a sequester order required by Congress and issued pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Should a payment reduction be necessary, FSA will reduce the payment by the required amount.

USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Fall Crop Sales Deadlines

Disaster Loss Coverage is Available for Crops that are Ineligible for Federal Insurance

Producers are encouraged to examine the available U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the sales deadline for fall crops.

Deadlines are quickly approaching to purchase coverage for fall-seeded crops. Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

The cost of basic coverage (55% of price and 50% of expected production) is a \$250 service fee per crop. However, a producer never has to pay more than \$750 in service fees per county and no more than \$1875 for the basic coverage if producing in three or more counties

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

Nov. 20th Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline for Perennial Crops

Producers interested in participating in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) need to be aware of the upcoming Nov. 20th application deadline for fruit and other crops such as apples, pears, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, honey, maple sap, asparagus and other perennial fruits.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause catastrophic losses of production or prevented planting of eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

Contact your [local FSA office](#) for more details or to make your appointment before the Nov. 20th deadline.

General CRP Signup Begins December 1

Local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will accept new offers to participate in the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#) under a general signup to be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016. Farmers interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll.

For 30 years, CRP has helped farmers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The voluntary program allows USDA to contract with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is conserved. Participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

CRP protects water quality and restores significant habitat for ducks, pheasants, turkey, quail, deer and other important wildlife which spurs economic development like hunting and fishing, outdoor recreation and tourism across rural America. An additional 800,000 acres for duck nesting habitat and other wetland and wildlife habitat initiatives can now be enrolled in the program.

Farmers should consider the various CRP continuous sign-up initiatives that may help target specific resource concerns. Financial assistance is offered for many practices including conservation buffers and pollinator habitat plantings, and initiatives such as the highly erodible lands.

For additional information farmers should contact their [local FSA county office](#). For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

CRP Grasslands Initiative for Livestock Grazing Lands

First Ranking Period Ends November 20

Farmers can now apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands under the CRP-Grasslands initiative.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences. FSA will accept applications on an ongoing basis with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be November 20, 2015.

To learn more about CRP-Grasslands, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or contact your [local County FSA Office](#).

Guaranteed Loan Program

FSA [guaranteed loans](#) allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender. The lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and pay for other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your lender or [local FSA farm loan office](#) for more information on guaranteed loans.

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans (including Microloans) to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

[Direct farm operating loans](#) can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and cover other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate. Microloans are loans up to \$50,000 for beginning, small and mid-sized farmers. They have a simplified application process and can have a repayment of up to 7 years. Microloans are part of USDA's continued commitment to small and midsized farming operations.

[Direct farm ownership loans](#) can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000. A down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years. The October interest rate for direct operating loans is 2.625% and for direct ownership loans it is 3.75%.

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

Consider Storing Your Harvested Grain and Obtain a Crop Loan with FSA

FSA is now accepting requests for 2015 [Marketing Assistance Loans \(MALs\)](#) for all eligible commodities after harvest. Marketing Assistance Crop Loans provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

Eligible crops include wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool and honey.

Interest rates for 9-month 2015 crop year crop loans are announced monthly. The interest rate is 1.375% for loans disbursed in October. The national loan rates for 2015 crops are \$1.95/bu for corn, \$5.00/ bu for soybeans, and \$1.94/bu for winter wheat. Local loan rates vary by county.

Producers will need to certify or provide evidence of their harvested production. Loans are calculated using the certified bushels, not to exceed the county committee established maximum yields per acre, times the local county loan rate. Monthly spot-checks are conducted to ensure the quantity and quality of the crop being stored.

For more details contact your [local FSA office](#).

Maintain Quantity and Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

Breaking New Ground? Notify FSA Before Starting!

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet [Highly Erodible Land \(HEL\) and Wetland Conservation \(WC\) provisions](#).

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland. These areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.



Microloans For High Tunnel Systems and Other NRCS EQIP Conservation Practices

OVERVIEW

The FSA microloan can be used in combination with the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to build high tunnel systems and implement other conservation practices.

EQIP funds can cover a significant portion, but not all, of an applicant's costs to install an approved conservation practice. The FSA microloan can cover individual tribal members' portion of the costs and serve as a bridge to pay the supplies and contractors. This is important resource for many tribal members because the NRCS cannot pay the EQIP incentive until the project is fully completed.

NRCS EQIP Program

The NRCS has financial incentives available on a competitive basis to help defray the costs for implementing conservation practices.

EQIP is the primary program available for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices including high tunnel systems.

There must be an approved EQIP contract in place before starting your project.

MICROLOANS

Low interest microloans from FSA are available up to \$50,000 for applicants' who project at least \$1,000 in farm sales and have some farming experience or a mentor *

Loans can be used to purchase equipment and livestock, construct high tunnel systems and other approved EQIP conservation practices or systems, and pay for annual farming expenses and minor farm improvements.

Loan terms are based on the use of loan funds and the life expectancy of the loan collateral.

The loan installments can be structured to have the EQIP contract payment cover the first loan installment with the EQIP payment assigned to FSA for application onto the borrower's loan.

This allows for the remaining loan installments to be significantly smaller, affording the borrower with lower debt burden while the project is starting out. For more information on microloans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

*other eligibility and feasibility criteria apply.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information stop in to your local USDA Service Center. Your local FSA and NRCS office staff are generally located in the same building. To find a local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

For more information about FSA loan and other programs visit: www.fsa.usda.gov

For more information about NRCS programs: www.nrcs.usda.gov



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FACT SHEET
OCTOBER 2015

Microloans For High Tunnel Systems and Other NRCS EQIP Conservation Practices

*through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800)
845-6136 (in Spanish).*

*If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of
discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination
Complaint Form, found online at
http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any
USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You
may also write a letter containing all of the information
requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or
letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director,
Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email
at program.intake@usda.gov.*

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Good Neighbor Authority Timber Project on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Underway - Timber Sale Level to Increase in 2016

On September 14, Forest Supervisor Paul Strong put the final signature on the Supplemental Project Agreement outlining the specific timber sale work the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will do in the first year on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) under the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement. Even as it was being signed, CNNF and WDNR staffs are working together on the "handoff" of projects to be done.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized Good Neighbor Authority (www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/gna.shtml) for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into agreements or contracts with states for the performance of forest, rangeland and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands.

In the first project agreement the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and their partners and contractors will prepare, award and administer 25 MMBF of timber sales on the National Forest. These timber sales come from projects that have already been through the environmental analysis and public involvement process but were not yet under preparation by CNNF staff. These timber sales fall across the Forest in Oconto, Forest, Vilas, Bayfield, Sawyer, Price, and Ashland counties and include a variety of forest products. Some of the first sales will include stands damaged by last fall's windstorm event in Ashland, Sawyer, and Price Counties.

This project enables the CNNF to increase the amount of timber offered for sale to more than 100 million board feet (MMBF) in fiscal year 2016 which is likely to make the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest the top timber producing national forest in the country next year. The CNNF has found efficiencies and used Stewardship Authority to increase its timber sale level from 62 MMBF in 2010 to 80 MMBF in 2015. In 2016, the CNNF plans to sell 85 MMBF and with WDNR assistance through GNA, sell more than 100 MMBF.

This partnership results in more wood available to Wisconsin's important forest products industry, while creating and maintaining healthy forest conditions prescribed in the 2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land Management Plan. A portion of the receipts from the timber sales will reimburse the state for its costs to do the work, with remaining funds available to be used to conduct additional restoration activities on the forest in the future.

This agreement falls under the Master Good Neighbor Authority Agreement that was signed by both parties in early August. The two organizations have been collaborating since the beginning of the year building the framework and partnership to begin working together in this new way. The CNNF and WDNR intend to continue this work annually. As project income from timber sales is accrued, additional conservation projects on the National Forest will be identified by the CNNF and WDNR and implemented by the WDNR utilizing a portion of timber sale proceeds.



The WDNR anticipates holding a bid opening for a portion of the sales by early winter and a second bid opening late next spring. Policies and procedures on GNA timber sale administration will closely mimic current state practices. The WDNR will work with interested county forests and contract with private consultants to help establish and administer timber sales and restoration projects.

“We look forward to working collaboratively with the Wisconsin DNR as well as other partners to identify opportunities and projects on the National Forest that will benefit local communities and their economies with the timber receipts generated from Good Neighbor Authority,” said Strong.

The Good Neighbor Authority provides the opportunity to work across jurisdictional boundaries and manage forest lands in a mixed ownership setting. It leverages state resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands. It also helps strengthen federal and state partnerships.

“We are fortunate to have the Wisconsin DNR and its employees ready and willing to assist us in achieving important conservation goals on the National Forest in addition to the important work they already do on state, county and private lands,” said Strong. “I am looking forward to working even more closely with the WDNR on a variety of conservation projects in the future.”



Forest
Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
500 Hanson Lake Rd, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Voice: 715-362-1300 Fax: 715-369-8859
www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF

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Recreation on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Up until this past year, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's (CNNF) recreation program continued to provide a variety of recreation opportunities to visitors despite increasing operational costs and decreasing sources of funding. However in FY15, roughly 11 percent of the developed recreation sites had reduced services or were closed in order for the CNNF to continue providing a high-quality recreation experience at the remaining 89 percent of our recreation areas.

Throughout this process the CNNF has been taking a landscape approach in managing our recreation sites, meaning we are taking a look at the types of recreation being offered in and around the CNNF by our partners and neighbors. This is an ongoing discussion as it relates to the items listed below as we navigate what a sustainable recreation program looks like on the CNNF.

CNNF FY 16 Recreation Program

- The amount of funding available for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Recreation Program in FY 16 is similar to FY15. We continue to see an increase in operational costs and a decrease in the amount of funding available to cover these costs (supplies, vehicles, personnel, etc.).
- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will continue to engage with Tribes, communities and partners during the next several months at the Ranger District level sharing our experiences in FY 15 and asking for feedback on impacts to local communities. We are also reviewing all of the comments received regarding the changes implemented in FY15.
- In addition, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is open to working with partners who are interested in managing recreation sites through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement.
- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be using the feedback from these meetings to determine recreation service levels for FY16. We anticipate a similar reduction as FY15 which affected roughly 11 percent of the Forest's total recreation areas.
- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is committed to working with Tribes, communities and partners to lessen the recreational, economic and social impacts as much as possible while still balancing our operational costs and funding levels.

Long-term CNNF Recreation Program

The information gathered through our interactions with Tribes, communities and partners regarding FY 15 and what will happen in FY 16 are all very helpful in shaping the long-term sustainable recreation program on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Below are some of the key items that will be happening over the next year that we would appreciate your



engagement in.

- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will begin a process in October called a Recreation Site Analysis (RSA). The Recreation Site Analysis builds a 5-year program of work that will help the CNNF create a sustainable recreation program. The process takes into account how recreation sites contribute to the social stability, environmental integrity and economic vitality of the forest and its communities. It will also analyze information such as operating and maintaining sites to standard and reducing the deferred maintenance costs of recreation sites. Tribes, communities and partners will be an integral part of this analysis. We anticipate having the RSA process complete by next summer.
- The U.S. Forest Service recently became eligible again to propose changes to the fee program as designated by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act through the creation of a Region 9 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. The last time changes were made to the fee program on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was 2008. In 2016, the CNNF will use information from the RSA, previous fee program changes and neighboring forests to propose changes to the fee program. Engagement with Tribes, communities and partners will be a key part of this process as well as posting the proposed changes at recreation sites to gather public comments.
- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be conducting a National Visitor Use Monitoring survey October 1-September 30. This survey is conducted throughout the year at a variety of recreation sites and aims to gather information on the different types of forest visitors, activities the visitors engage in and which areas of the forest receive the most use. Signs will be posted at the recreation site where the survey is happening notifying visitors a volunteer recreation use survey is in progress. Responses to the survey are voluntary and completely confidential. This survey is conducted every 5 years and is part of an ongoing national monitoring program. The information gathered is available to the public at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>.



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Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission – U.S. Forest Service MOU Annual Meeting Northern Research Station Report September 2015

Selected 2014-2015 Research

Black Ash and Emerald Ash Borer

The search for surviving black ash -- The emerald ash borer (EAB), an introduced pest, can kill 99% of the ash trees in forests it infests. It has spread rapidly across the region and is now present in 25 US states. There is great concern about black ash swamp forests due to their ecological importance and their cultural importance to Tribes. In areas long-infested by EAB, we have been monitoring the populations of mature ash trees that have survived EAB and appear healthy. Many of these trees have been propagated and are being tested for tolerance or resistance to EAB as part of a program for breeding trees with EAB resistance. Almost all of the surviving ash trees found so far are white ash or green ash. We began a project last year to do a targeted search for surviving black ash in areas long-infested by EAB. We modeled suitable habitat for black ash in southeast Michigan based on prior occurrence of black ash in FIA plots and ash monitoring plots. Our models identified several areas of good habitat for black ash. We will be collaborating with Michigan DNR to conduct a helicopter survey of these areas in early September to search for surviving black ash trees in these areas. Black ash trees identified from the helicopter surveys will be surveyed on foot next year, and the most promising trees will be propagated and included in the EAB resistance testing and breeding program.

Contacts: Kathleen Knight (Delaware, OH) ksknight@fs.fed.us , Jennifer Koch jkoch@fs.fed.us, Rachel Hefflinger hefflinger.4@osu.edu , Matt Peters matthewpeters@fs.fed.us

Modeled distributions of 12 tree species in the Ceded Territories

These maps depict the distribution of 12 tree species across the Ceded Territories. Using color codes, the maps show where the trees do not occur, occasionally occur, are a minor component, are a major component, or are the dominant species in the forest as determined by the total basal area. Basal area is the area of a cross-section of the trunk at 4.5 feet above ground (breast height). Sugar maple is the species with the greatest basal area. Of the 86 tree species recorded in the Ceded Territories in the 2005-2009 inventories, the 12 species presented in the map together compose 76% of the total live tree basal area and 77% of the tree count in the Ceded Territories.

Contact: Rachel Riemann (Troy, NY), 518-285-5607, rriemann@fs.fed.us.

Restoration of Northern Dry Forests and Open Barren Systems

Fire suppression combined with succession has drastically reduced open barren and savannah systems that historically were common on sandy soils throughout northern Wisconsin. In the Northeast Sands ecosystems, we are examining fire risk, and vegetation and pollinator diversity changes after large-scale restoration efforts to expand oak-pine barrens. Fire and silvicultural treatments are being applied winter/spring 2016. In summer 2015, we began a study in Moquah Barrens investigating soil heating patterns and effects on hardwood regeneration, availability and viability of the seed bank, and immediate and longer-term availability of nutrients affecting soil fertility.

Contact: Deahn DonnerWright, 715-362-1146, ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us; Brian Sturtevant, 715-362-1105, bsturtevant@fs.fed.us; Christel Kern, 715-362-1123; Rhinelander, WI

Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation for Northwoods Forests

The Climate Change Response Framework (CCRF) is a collaborative approach to help foresters and land managers incorporate climate change into their work. The CCRF has produced three climate change vulnerability assessments focused on forest ecosystems in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin/western Upper Michigan, and eastern Upper Michigan and northern Lower Michigan (<http://climateframework.org/vulnerability-assessment>). These assessments include downscaled climate change information, forest impact model results, and literature reviews. Conclusions were developed through an expert panel of researchers and land managers, including foresters from GLIFWC member tribes. Forest Adaptation Resources (www.forestadaptation.org/far) contain a structured thought process and menu of adaptation strategies for forest management and the online Adaptation Workbook (www.adaptationworkbook.org). A growing network of real-world adaptation examples, including examples with GLIFWC tribes, illustrates how managers are preparing for climate change (<http://climateframework.org/demonstration-projects>).

Contact: Stephen Handler (Houghton, MI), 906-483-6303, ext. 21, sdhandler@fs.fed.us.

Connecting the Bats

The White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) epidemic has led to unprecedented declines of cave dwelling bats such as little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Northern long eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), with populations becoming smaller and potentially more isolated. WNS was documented in the Great Lakes region in 2014. We are evaluating seasonal movement ecology and resistance to WNS in natural bat populations in the region. Understanding movement and resistance patterns can be used to keep populations functionally connected. We are also evaluating habitat use around hibernacula during spring emergence, a critical recovery period for surviving bats. We worked with the Ottawa and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests to

monitor bats using the North American Bat Program protocol. Data will be used to evaluate habitat use at landscape-scales.

Contact: Deahn DonnerWright (Rhinelander, WI), 715-362-1146, ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us;
Paula Marquardt (Rhinelander, WI, 715-362-1121, pmarquardt@fs.fed.us

Beaver management

Beavers and their dams have been removed from Class I and II trout streams within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest since the late 1980s to restore stream channel integrity and improve trout habitat. We are using beaver colony count locations from aerial survey flights conducted in the autumns of 1987-2013 to understand how surrounding landscapes and water system characteristics influenced recolonization events. Results will help managers refine beaver removal program.

Contact: Deahn DonnerWright (Rhinelander, WI), 715-362-1146, ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us.

Landscape planning for fire-dependent communities.

We are examining the long-term trade-offs between restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems and fire risk to human property within a mixed ownership landscape in the Northeast Sands ecoregion of Wisconsin, where the conflict between restoration and human development is acute. The study area includes portions of the Ceded Territories in Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties. The study evaluates the long-term consequences and relative influence of 1) land development patterns, 2) alternative forest management strategies, 3) social constraints on harvest activity, and 4) climate change on human safety and ecological restoration goals using the landscape simulation model LANDIS-II.

Contact: Brian Miranda (Rhinelander, WI), 715-362-1186, bmiranda@fs.fed.us.

2016 Summer Internship Opportunities

The Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies in Rhinelander, WI will have up to 4 Native American summer internship opportunities in summer 2016. One internship will be through a cooperation with The Wildlife Society and provide summer stipend. The intern will work on bat acoustic monitoring and habitat restoration for sharp-tail grouse in Moquah Barrens. The other internships will be through Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) and will be located either in Rhinelander or on the Ottawa National Forest working on a variety of projects.

Contact: Deahn DonnerWright (Rhinelander, WI), 715-362-1146, ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us.

Urban Gathering

Native Americans and others gather plant materials and mushrooms in cities and suburbs. In response to questions and concerns about the safe consumption of gathered plants from a 23-acre natural area in Chicago, we worked in cooperation with the American Indian Center of Chicago to collect soil and plant tissue samples (leaves, fruit, roots) from several plants in. We tested the samples for levels of heavy metals. Preliminary results indicate possible cause for concern, depending on the plant or plant part and the quantity consumed. We collected a second round of samples in 2015 to better determine the safety of consuming these materials and to try to correlate the level of metals in the edible plant parts with the levels in adjacent soils. Research designed to understand how cooking techniques might concentrate or reduce heavy metals in urban gathered foods as they are actually consumed was initiated this summer in New York City. Further work in Baltimore, Maryland is modeling potential health risks and benefits from consuming urban gathered foods.

Contact: Cherie LeBlanc Fisher (Chicago, IL), (847) 866-9311 x14, cheriefisher@fs.fed.us; Bruce Birr (Rhineland, WI), (715) 362-1173, bbirr@fs.fed.us; Lynne Westphal (Chicago, IL), (847) 866-9311 x11, lwestphal@fs.fed.us; Ron Zalesny (Rhineland, WI), 715-362-1132, rzalesny@fs.fed.us; Marla Emery (Burlington, VT), (802)656-1720, memery@fs.fed.us.