

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program FY 2013 Plan of Operations for Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns.

**Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:** See the FY13 Wisconsin NRCS List of Eligible Practices posted on the WI NRCS web site.

**Application Period:** Applications may be taken at any time. The sign-up period will be announced in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY13. All eligible applications received by the close of business on the last day of the sign-up period will be evaluated and ranked for FY 2013 funding consideration.

Tribes interested in applying may do so at their corresponding service center listed below.

**Bad River and Red Cliff Bands of Lake Superior Chippewas**

Ashland Service Center  
315 Sanborn Avenue, Suite 100  
Ashland, WI 54806

(phone) 715-682-9117 x115  
(fax) 715-682-0320  
gary.haughn@wi.usda.gov

**Forest County Potawatomi Community, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Sokaogon Chippewa Community**

Rhineland Service Center  
2187 North Stevens Street, Ste A  
Rhineland, WI 54501

(phone) 715-362-5941  
(fax) 715-363-9370  
michael.stinebrink@wi.usda.gov

**Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**

Ladysmith Service Center  
P.O. Box 349, 1120 West Lake Ave.  
Ladysmith, WI 54848

(phone) 715-532-7629  
(fax) 715-532-9933  
mike.koehler@wi.usda.gov

**Menominee Indian Tribe and Stockbridge-Munsee Community**

Shawano Service Center  
603C Lakeland Road  
Shawano, WI 54166

(phone) 715-524-8520 ext 113  
(fax) 715-526-6121  
sherrie.zenkreed@wi.usda.gov

**Ho-Chunk Nation**

Onalaska Service Center  
1107 Riders Club Road  
Onalaska, WI 54650

(phone) 608-782-0180  
(fax) 608-785-1739  
greg.yakle@wi.usda.gov

**St. Croix Chippewa**

Spooner Service Center  
800 N. Front Street, Room 102  
Spooner, WI 54801

(phone) 715-635-8228  
(fax) 715-635-3729  
tom.fredrickson@wi.usda.gov

**Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin**

Oneida Nation Service Center  
P.O. Box 365, N7332 Water Circle Place  
Oneida, WI 54155

(phone) 920-869-4577  
(fax) 920-869-1610  
tony.bush@wi.usda.gov

**Funding Pools:** Only Wisconsin federally-recognized Tribes may submit applications to the WTCAC Fund Pool. The WTCAC Fund Pool is not land use specific, requiring only that the land is eligible.

Tribes may also apply for funds dedicated to the three national initiatives: organic, energy and seasonal high tunnel. Contact your NRCS tribal representative for further details concerning these initiatives.

**Ranking:** Scoring of all eligible applications will be done after the application ranking period has ended. Scoring of the applications will be done according to the scoring system posted on this webpage for the appropriate funding pool(s). Applications will be selected for plan development and contracting in ranked order according to the score as funds allow. In the event of a tie score, the assign tracking code feature in ProTracts (the NRCS will assign random numbers to applications to be used as a tiebreaker).

**Funding:** Available EQIP funds will be allocated based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the website. All ranking will be conducted in ProTracts. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with extra EQIP funds received later during the fiscal year, or deferred to the next ranking period.

**Priority Resource Concerns:** Based on the diverse and often unique nature of tribal conservation issues the following resource concerns have been identified as being the highest priority for financial assistance when utilizing the WTCAC ranking tool:

Soil Erosion

sheet and rill; classic and ephemeral gully; streambank; shoreline; road, roadside and construction sites; wind

Soil Condition

organic matter depletion; phosphorus or nitrogen contamination from animal waste or other organics

Water Quantity

excessive runoff, flooding or ponding; insufficient flows in water courses

Water Quality

harmful levels of pesticides or pathogens in ground or surface water; excessive nutrients and organics in surface or groundwater; harmful temperatures of surface water; excessive suspended sediment and turbidity in surface water

Fish & Wildlife

inadequate cover/shelter or space; habitat fragmentation; threatened and endangered (T&E) federal, state, or tribally-recognized species; T&E declining species or species of concern

Plant Condition

noxious and invasive plants; forage quality and palatability; plants not adapted or suited; productivity, health, vigor; threatened and endangered (T&E) federal, state, tribally-recognized species; T&E declining species or species of concern

Domestic Animal

inadequate stock water; stress and mortality; inadequate quantities and quality of feed and forage

Air Quality

objectionable odor; excessive greenhouse gasses (CO<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>4</sub>); excessive ozone

Energy

inefficient energy use of farming/ranching practices, field operations, facilities or equipment