

# Partnering with Wisconsin Tribes



## Tribal Participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Eight Tribes in Wisconsin had projects funded through the WTCAC Tribal fund pool. Roughly \$400,000 in projects were funded. Projects were focused on erosion control, wild rice restoration, prescribed grazing, forest stand improvement and high tunnel systems.

The Oneida Nations had three GLRI contracts funded for a total of \$655,000. Projects focused on converting cropland to prescribed grazing, cover crops and adoption of no-till systems.

## Tribal Participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

Two Tribes were approved for new CStP program contracts. Three Tribes have existing contracts.

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community's contract involved protecting and improving 4,700 acres of forestland and 300 acres of associated ag lands. Enhancements focused on increasing riparian buffers, pollinator habitat, and tree and shrub plantings.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians' contract involved protecting and improving 49,000 acres of forestland and 2,300 acres of associated ag lands. Enhancements focused on increasing forest diversity through prescribed burning and patch opening, and the establishment of Monarch butterfly habitat.

## Development of New Conservation Solutions

Because of the work of the WTCAC Forestry Subcommittee, the Stockbridge Munsee Community has committed to carrying out two invasive species demonstration projects. The Tribe will be planting conifers to reforest an area currently dominated by reed canarygrass to restore the area to its original forested condition. The Stockbridge Munsee Community will also be carrying out an understory planting in a monotypic riparian black ash stand. Understory planting will maintain the area in a forested condition once the black ash succumb to emerald ash borer. Both practices have the potential to improve the thermal condition of cold-water fisheries by providing shade and instream woody debris to the stream. Data from these demonstrations will help refine WI NRCS EQIP scenarios and serve to encourage the implementation of these conservation solutions on Tribal and non-tribal lands.



## Working Effectively With American Indians Course

Forty-two NRCS staff, whose decisions have a bearing on Tribal Participation in NRCS programs completed the WEWAI course.

The Red Cliff elected officials, natural resources staff, facilities staff, and Tribal elders worked closely with WI NRCS staff and NEDC cadre members over 12 months to develop a meaningful agenda which met the standards for the course. The course placed a strong emphasis on Anishinaabe culture and practical aspects of how NRCS and the eleven federally recognized tribes work together in Wisconsin.

## Joint Training Highlight

In August 2018, the WTCAC Forestry Subcommittee organized and held a field tour training about Forest Habitat Types at the Bad River Reservation. The training involved in field determination of forest habitat types, analysis of the validity and utility of the correlation between forest habitat types and soil map units, and joint discussions regarding the silvicultural and wildlife management implications of the forest habitat types. Forty-five staff members from the following organizations participated: tribal staff from nine tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, US Forest Service, Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources, USDA-NRCS, and the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. It is anticipated that Tribes and Tribal partners will be very helpful in developing NRCS conservation planning tools based on Forest Habitat Types and resulting Ecological Site Descriptions.

## Conservation Practices Highlighted

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin provides conservation programs and technical services to American Indians, Alaska Natives and Tribal governments. Below are thirteen Tribal projects that took place in FY18, completing conservation work through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE). The following are highlights of each tribe's conservation work completed in Fiscal Year 2018 by program and practice.

Tribe	Program Enrolled	Practices Completed	Practice Funding (Dollars)
Red Cliff	EQIP	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Wild Rice Seeding), Conservation Cover, Structures for Wildlife	10,408
Oneida	EQIP	Tree/Shrub Planting, No-Till, Cover Crops, Waste Storage Facility, Roofs and Covers, Livestock Watering System, Heavy Use Area Protection, Livestock Pipeline, Fence, Access Road	669,027
St Croix Chippewa	EQIP	High Tunnel System, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Wild Rice Seeding)	22,254
Forest County Potawatomi	EQIP	Forest Trails & Landings, Prescribed Grazing System, High Tunnel Systems, Forest Stand Improvement	206,905
Sokaogon Chippewa	EQIP	Forest Stand Improvement	25,121
Ho-Chunk	EQIP	Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, Prescribed Burning	46,087
Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa	EQIP	Forest Stand Improvement, Lined Waterway	56,211
Stockbridge-Munsee	EQIP	Forest Stand Improvement	14,585
Lac du Flambeau	EQIP	Forest Stand Improvement	16,050
St Croix Chippewa	CSP	3,844 acres of Forestry Practices; Tree/Shrub Planting, Monarch Butterfly habitat, and Cultural Plantings (This is a renewal contract)	8,330 (First year obligation)
Sokaogon Chippewa	CSP	4,998.2 acres for Forestry Practices; Tree/Shrub Planting, Pollinator Habitat and Riparian Forest Buffers	5,300 (First year obligation)
Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa	CSP	51,552 acres for Forestry Practices; Patch Openings, Monarch Butterfly Habitat, Prescribed Burning, Cultural Planting.	31,377 (First year obligation)
Oneida	ACEP-WRE	Wisconsin NRCS, Pheasants Forever, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continue to work in the Green Bay area to secure the state's first Wetland Reserve Easement, 30-year contract for a 415 acre wetland and upland restoration. It is hoped that the project will be completed in 2019 and will restore and protect a complex of open marsh, wet prairie, and native forest.	Over 2 million

