United States Environmental Protection Agency

This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at **http://www.epa.gov/twg**.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005

Manistee River

MI

2003 Grantee

UPDATE

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

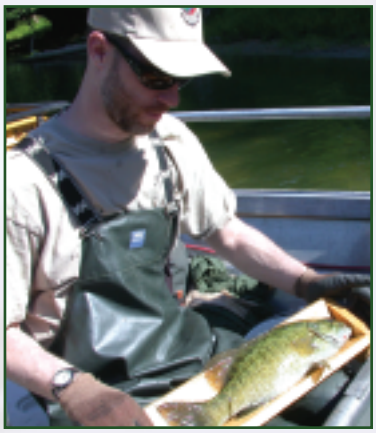
- Extensive logging
- Loss of vegetation
- Extreme erosion
- Excess sediments
- Loss of habitat for aquatic species
- Potential extinction of threatened or endangered species

Streambank restoration projects will improve water quality and habitat.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is focusing on reducing pollution problems attributable to extensive logging, and on revitalizing impaired streambanks and road-stream crossings to improve water quality. To date, they have:

- Completed three stream bank restoration projects
- Completed one road crossing to reduce streambank erosion
- Improved river access and minimized erosion to two sites by building trails and steps in high traffic areas
- Concluded preliminary water quality investigations to improve sturgeon habitat and channel conditions
- Continued efforts to monitor water quality
- Promoted watershed health through numerous presentations addressing water quality issues and public involvement



Assessing the fish species helps measure water quality improvements.

"It is through this continued evolution of understanding that we strive to facilitate lasting solutions which will ensure that the next seven generations of our people proceed, complete with our inherent cultural identity intact; an identity which humbly defines us as a small yet intrinsic element to the great scheme of life that was placed here to flourish along the Manistee."

– Jimmie Mitchell
Tribal Natural Resources Commissioner