



# Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Lake Superior Environmental Monitoring Collaborative

Presenters:

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# Mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

To enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.



# Brief History

- 1775 – Committee on Indian Affairs, established by the Continental Congress and chaired by Benjamin Franklin.
- 1824 – The Indian Affairs were administratively established by the War Department
- 1849 – Transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- 1975 – Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (amended in 1994)
- 2000 – Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

# INDIAN AFFAIRS' UMBRELLA

- Human Services/Housing
- Education
- Law and Order
- Realty/Land Titles and Records/Probate
- Roads
- Tribal Government
- Trust Resources
  - Agriculture/Irrigation
  - Forestry
  - Minerals and Energy
  - Water/Power/Dam Safety
  - Wildlife and Fish





# Self-Determination Act of 1975 and amended in 1994

Congress passed the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act that allowed Indian tribes and tribal organizations to acquire increased control over the management of federal programs that impact their members, resources and governments.



# The Midwest Region serves 35 Tribes with trust holdings in :

- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Wisconsin





# Natural Resources

Midwest Region

(all Indian land including trust, treaty and ceded areas)

Total Acres	62 million
Forest Acres	41 million
Lakes Acres	2.2 million
Wetlands Acres	4.8 million
Stream Miles	15,396





**WATER  
RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT,  
PLANNING, AND  
PRE-  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM**



# Purpose and Priorities

- Managing, Conserving and utilizing reservation water resources
- Provide necessary technical research, studies and other information for tribes to serve as informed and prudent managers of their water resources
- Preparation of water management and development plans, use surveys, interagency drought management planning, and to define and characterize tribal water resources.



Focus is on water quantification and economic development





# Types of projects

- *Baseline*
- *Community Planning*
- *Economic Development*



# Studies not funded by this program

- Projects to design, construct, repair or improve water facilities, including water supply, waste water, irrigation or dam infrastructure.
- Water quality studies to initiate legal or administrative actions needed to address pollution problems.



# FY 2014 Funding Summary

- \$6.4 Million available for tribal requests nationwide
- 162 tribal proposals received
- \$15.1 total amount requested

END





**FISH,  
WILDLIFE,  
AND PARKS  
PROGRAMS**



# Program goals

- Provide support to fulfill Indian trust responsibilities
- Enable Tribes the meaningful exercise of their treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering rights

# Program elements that incorporate environmental monitoring

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Rights Protection
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species



# Program elements and goals

- GLRI – protect and restore the Great Lakes
- Rights Protection Implementation – protect hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on treaty-ceded territory
- Endangered Species – protection and preservation of trust resources
- Invasive Species – protection of trust lands and resources from noxious weeds

### Tribal Monitoring Activities in the Lake Superior Basin using BIA Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Program Funding

What is being monitored?			
Tribe	State	GLRI	Rights Protection, Endangered Species, Invasive Species
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians	MI	Migratory birds, walleye	RPI Climate Change - snowshoe hare and climate change interaction via aspen management prescription. 10-year monitoring planned
Bay Mills Indian Community	MI	Whitefish, invasive species	RPI Climate Change - climate data compilation, climate monitoring partnership with Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC)
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	MI	Invasive species	Endangered Species - monitoring wolf distribution. Invasive Species - monitoring Japanese bayberry infestation.
Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	MN	Wild rice, lake sturgeon, moose, elk	
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	MN	Moose, native fish, wild rice	
1854 Treaty Authority	MN	Moose, deer, wolves, terrestrial invasive species, aquatic invasive species	
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	WI	Wild rice, water quality, water levels, flow, plants/vegetation, migratory birds, waterfowl, wolves, amphibians, bats, beaver, bald eagle, piping plover, invasive species	Endangered Species - monitoring Piping Plover population
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	WI	Fish, marten, water quality, aquatic invasive species	Endangered Species - monitoring American marten population distribution
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	WI	Aquatic invasive species	
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	WI	Aquatic invasive species	
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission	MI, WI, MN	Wild rice, beavers, water quality, sediment quality, river flow, contaminants, aquatic invasive species	RPI - biological and population monitoring in Lake Superior. Invasive Species - monitoring Leafy Spurge and Purple Loosestrife infestations

This list is not all-inclusive. This is a summary of recent monitoring activities being conducted by Tribes and Tribal Organizations in the Lake Superior Basin utilizing BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding as well as Rights Protection, Endangered Species, and Invasive Species Program funding. Upland, wetland, coastal wetland, and aquatic habitats are being monitored.



# Summary of Tribal Projects funded through the BIA GLRI program FY10-FY13

<u>Number</u>	<u>Units</u>
10,132	Number of acres of wetlands and other habitats protected, restored, and enhanced
7; 486	Barriers removed; associated number of miles of Great Lakes tributaries reopened
27	Number of projects conducting habitat assessments, native species restoration, invasive species assessments and control

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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