Lake Superior Environmental Monitoring Collaborative

Presenters:
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Merben Cebrian, MRO Biologist
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
- 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
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Resource</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
<td>62 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Acres</td>
<td>41 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes Acres</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands Acres</td>
<td>4.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stream Miles</td>
<td>15,396</td>
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</table>
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

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

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

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