

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2011
Stockbridge-Munsee

Meeting called to order at 9:08 am by Jonathan Pyatskowitz.

1. Roll Call

Present: FCPC (Nate Guldan), Ho-Chunk (Sara Schmidt), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Scott McDougall), Menominee (Jonathan Pyatskowitz), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Stockbridge-Munsee (Bob Frank). A quorum is present.

Others present: Heather Stricker (FCPC), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS), Pat Leavenworth (NRCS), Greg Yakle (NRCS), Janice Kelly (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Tom Melnarik (NRCS), Matthew Brantner (WisCorps, Inc), Willie Bittner (WisCorps, Inc), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Susan Hunter (FSA), Keith Sengbusch (Retired), Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Tom Fredrickson (NRCS)

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the December 2, 2010 minutes. Motion by Oneida, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. NRCS Update

Pat Leavenworth gave the update for NRCS. NRCS has some new state partners with the new governor's cabinet. There are also new DNR division directors. They are having healthy sign ups in all of their program, CSP started out slowly with 150 contracts but by the end of December they closed at 861 contracts which is a record sign up for them. EQIP, WHIP and WRP also had good sign ups. On the NRCS national website there is information on certain initiatives the Chief has put forward. There is up to \$50 million for transforming farms to organic. There is \$15 million available for climate change projects through Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). They are on a continuing resolution until March 4, after the State of the Union last night; the President said there will be no earmarks which will help NRCS because their funds are usually taken up by a lot of earmarks. No indication of what will happen after March 4. They are proceeding to fill critical vacancies; they need to limit travel until they know what the budget will look like. They receive technical assistance dollars for each CSP contract so the large sign up will help greatly. Pat has been a liaison to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). They have analyzed historical climate data for the entire

state and prepared the state's first assessment of the risks and how the state can put in practices to adapt to climate change. There have been Tribal representatives on it and she has been educating WICCI on WTCAC. They have also put together an initiative for Wisconsin Tribal fisheries. Tom Kraft and others have worked on this proposal; Pat submitted it to her supervisors for input and recommendations as to where it goes from here (attached). They hope to have practices available to Tribal fisheries programs that are currently not available. There would be \$100,000 to \$300,000 available annually for practices associated with fish hatcheries. Pat thinks that putting in new hatcheries will apply. Bob Frank represents WTCAC on the wildlife committee. There is hope that there will be an increase in grassland reserve dollars. The wildlife subcommittee recommendations were to leave the program in the central part of the state for at least this year. Pat indicated that she has not had a chance to meet with new senators or congressmen.

5. APHIS Update

JoAnn Cruse gave the APHIS Update. There is a new disease that attacks walnut trees, Thousand Cankers Disease (attached). APHIS has known about it for almost a year and they have been trying to figure out if they were going to do anything about it.

They have been discussing conducting a full scale emergency response exercise and it looks like it will be Menominee. First there will be a table top and then a full scale to take place in September. They were hopeful to set it up on a reservation being they haven't done that before. She met with Stockbridge-Munsee yesterday about this to discuss what APHIS does.

Looking at adding a few more counties for gypsy moth quarantine this year but need to talk to tribes first. For EAB, they finalized an agreement with the state which overlaps on tribal lands more than it has in the past as they want to make sure they get traps in those areas. State would do the trapping if the Tribes want.

APHIS would like to go meet with all the Reservations and talk to them about what services they offer.

Nate asked JoAnn talked about a letter the Tribe has received dealing with a Plant Protection and Quarantine Strategic Plan. JoAnn will look into it and try to get us more information.

6. WisCorps

The Executive Director of WisCorps, Matthew Brantner, gave a presentation (brochure attached). They first found out about us from Tony Havranek. They are operating a conservation corps based on the non-profit model. His experience is with the Vermont Conservation Corps which was the first one to employ this model back in the 1980s when their funding was cut. They were founded in 2009 and the first year they started with a single crew on

a single project for 1 week in which they built a large stone retaining wall in La Crosse that had been blown out by a landslide. Willie Bittner (also at the meeting from WisCorps) is a professional trail builder. They work with professionals in the field to provide a very high quality project. Last summer they did about 23 weeks of work hiring about 40 kids all over the state. In St. Croix they did a lake shore restoration last year funded by EQIP. If we are looking for a labor source to do the projects, they may be able to help us. They have a dual mission to develop job skills and work ethic. The crews set up camp with all the tools and do the project. They do have a cost share that is involved, \$4,500 - \$6,000/week (70%). They raise 30% through partnerships they create to fund the rest of the program. They are working on some legislative work; they had a bill that almost past last year, trying again this year which would provide some state support for WisCorps. This model provides for a very cost effective way to run a program similar to the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. They worked with ACOE, a couple of counties, a couple cities, etc. They would like to offer about 48 weeks this year. The 23 weeks last year consisted of 1 week in the spring, 5 weeks in fall, and the rest in summer. They would like to recruit youth from each tribe so get them the contacts if you are interested in this.

7. FSA Update

Wisconsin State FSA Director Brad Pffaf and Wisconsin State Farm Loan Chief Ray Ellenberger participated via conference call. Brad talked about 2 programs, the Conservation Loan Program (CLP) which is a newer program that is there to improve water and soil quality and to help production agriculture and the Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program. He indicated that they are different from NRCS in that they provide price stabilization services and farm loan services. They work closely with NRCS when it comes to various land and water quality issues and what kind of improvements can be done. They have a great working relationship with Pat Leavenworth. CLP provides assistance directly to producers who are seeking to improve water, soil, or air quality.

Ray spoke on the CLP program. CLP is different in that any producer/operator is eligible for the program. There has to be an approved NRCS conservation plan for them to provide financing. This program is there if you need financing to put this plan in motion. They have a direct loan of \$300,000 which is currently at 4.875% or the producer can work with local bank for loans over \$1 million dollars for conservation enhancements. This program is totally conservation driven. This is only for individual operators; if the Tribe is listed as the operator Tribes would be eligible (a subsequent email indicated that this was not accurate). Susan thinks that Tribes are eligible but they need to look into it more.

The 2nd program is Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program for Tribes or Tribal corporations. The purpose is to purchase land within the Reservation (handout attached). When you apply to FSA you need to document that you cannot get credit from other lenders. The land must be within the Reservation boundaries. The Tribe will also need a statement from BIA that they

have denied funding. The loan can be for up to 40 years and current rate is 5%. This program may not be applicable to Tribes with checkerboard reservations (subsequent email indicated that Tribes without exterior boundaries are not eligible). Pat Pelky asked if there is a cap on this. Ray does not know what national allocation is, he does not see a limit on an individual loan. A rate higher than 5% could qualify as not being able to get a bank loan.

Susan Hunter gave an update which is covered on a hand out (attached). She also discussed the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (handout attached). This program can be used for damage caused by natural disasters (tornado, straight line winds, fire, lightning strikes, etc). The money can be used for clean up and replanting. It is a 75% cost share program. The maximum amount is \$500,000.

Pat Pelky's son got a youth loan through FSA – now called Entrepreneur Loan – he got a \$5,000 loan to start a fire wood selling enterprise. He also hires himself out to split wood. He had to write a business plan to get the loan. He bought all the equipment with the loan. He is 16 and pretty excited about it, he has sold 10 face cords already. The loans are for kids ages 10 – 20 and the loans have an interest rate of 2% with a maximum amount of \$5,000 per year.

8. EQIP/WHIP

Tony Bush passed out hand outs detailing this year's EQIP and WHIP requests. The ranking period ends February 18. The contract date is April 1. Need to add LCO's projects to the spreadsheets and FCPC needs an extra \$1,000.

MOTION: Motion to approve EQIP projects as submitted. Motion by Oneida, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to approve WHIP projects as submitted. Motion by Oneida, seconded by LCO. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

A question was raised about the NRCS Forest Management Plan requirement. The State Forester met with LCO and he thought it was great what they do. There is a spec sheet that can go into what NRCS accepts as a plan. So if everything in our plan meets their specs than they are fine. Would an MOU between NRCS and BIA be useful to show that NRCS would accept BIA accepted Forest Management Plans?

9. Technical Recommendations

Jonathan asked Pat Leavenworth about the potential of keeping Keith on a separate contract. Because of the Continuing resolution they are on hold, Cheryl was exploring ACES and there was some thought about through an RC&D. There is a potential for an agreement between NRCS and WTCAC directly. ACES is a way to bring back retired federal employees. They had

a management team meeting on positions and what they want to act on as money becomes available. There have been arrangements to cover the engineering needs until this all gets figured out. Jonathan offered up letters of support if they are needed. Pat Leavenworth said it would be good for WTCAC to write a letter stating what we would like to do in terms of an arrangement, this would trigger the process to explore how this could be done – the letter should go to Pat. Indicate that WTCAC has a need for technical recommendation assistance and specifically for aquaculture practices.

Ideas for Technical Recommendations were:

- 1) Fish Cribs (Brett has the information on this)
- 2) Bat Houses – a practice likely already exists, just needs to be added to the docket. This was suggested by Bad River, contact Lori Lemieux for more information
- 3) Renewable energy practices for farms
- 4) Will raceways for fish and aquaponics be included in the Tribal Fisheries Initiative?
- 5) Wild rice seeding and cost concerns
- 6) Review prices for wood duck houses, is it really required that cedar has to be used? Scott McDougall raised this issue.

10. Small Projects

There needs to be changes made to the application form. A spot for Jerry to sign indicating he reviewed the project and feels it meets the intent of the funding needs to be added.

MOTION: Motion to approve small grant application form with changes. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to set a deadline of March 1, 2011 to have small project proposals to the WTCAC Program Manager. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Oneida. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

Small projects grants will be awarded at the March 10 WTCAC meeting in Madison. St. Croix should bring their project forward at this meeting.

Ho-Chunk presented the final report on their project titled “Ho-Chunk Nation Badger Army Ammunition Plant Soil and Vegetation Analyses.” Ho-Chunk had already been reimbursed \$1,169.03 for this project so they are requesting the remaining balance of \$9,483.97. They learned that they need to look more at 2 sites that they are concerned about.

MOTION: Motion to approve final payment of \$9,483.97 to Ho-Chunk for their Badger Army Ammunition Plant Soil and Vegetation Analyses Project. Motion by Oneida, seconded by FCPC. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

11. Financial Report

Brett handed out a spreadsheet of all transactions. He indicated that by the next meeting he will get it broken down to show exactly how much money is “WTCAC’s money.”

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9 and 10 in Madison. The afternoon of March 9 will be the Tribal caucus portion of the WTCAC meeting, the morning of March 10 will be a normal WTCAC meeting, and the afternoon of March 10 will be the public meeting to present WTCAC’s technical recommendations to the State Conservationist.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

November 2010

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Funding for EFRP is appropriated by Congress.

Program Administration

EFRP is administered by FSA's state and county committees and offices. Subject to availability of funds, locally-elected county committees are authorized to implement EFRP for all disasters except drought and insect infestations, which are authorized at the FSA national office.

Land Eligibility

County FSA committees determine land eligibility using on-site damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage. To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and,
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and,
- Materially affect future use of the land.

Payments

EFRP program participants may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency forest restoration practices as determined by county FSA committees.

Individual or cumulative requests for financial assistance of \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity, per disaster are approved by the county committee. Financial assistance from \$50,001 to \$100,000 is approved by the state committee. Financial assistance over \$100,000 must be approved at the FSA national office. A payment limitation of \$500,000 per person or legal entity applies per disaster.

Emergency Forest Restoration Practices

To restore NIPF, EFRP program participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures:

- Necessary to repair damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land; and
- Restore forest health and forest related resources on the land.

Other emergency measures may be authorized by county FSA committees, with approval from state FSA committees and the FSA national office.

Sign-up Periods

Producers should check with their local county FSA offices regarding EFRP sign-up periods, which are set by county FSA committees.

For More Information

Additional information on EFRP is available at FSA offices and on FSA's website at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> and www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all of part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



United States Farm and Foreign Farm OFFV FSA Office
Department Agricultural Service 2187 North Stevens Street, Suite A
of Agriculture Services Agency Rhinelander, WI 54501-8036

Serving Oneida, Florence, Forest and Vilas Counties
Phone: 715-362-5941
Fax: 715-362-9370

FSA REPORT TO WTCAC – JANUARY 2011

By Susan Hunter, FSA County Executive Director (715) 362-5941 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP): I am still working to gather strawberry and pumpkin yields for this program that offers catastrophic level coverage for commercially grown crops that aren't eligible to be insured. This includes fruits, vegetables, honey, maple sap, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, mink, sod and aquaculture to name a few. Right now we are working to get Lake wild rice eligible.

Wild Rice Eligibility: I'm still working with my State FSA office and the Minnesota FSA State office on eligibility of Lake wild rice for our Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) program that provides minimal loss coverage and for the SURE Crop Disaster Program. The FSA specialists in Minnesota are on a fact finding mission to see exactly what policy has been established for their state for wild rice coverage so we could use it as a guide to help establish policy for Wisconsin. In the mean time tribes should work on gathering their planting, management, sales and yield information for their wild rice crops. Once we get a policy established I will be meeting personally with each tribe on this issue. The deadline to get a 2010 policy ended last September 30th, so we have until September 30th of this year to get this completed for 2011 policies.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP): Still waiting to hear more details on eligible facilities and how we will be handling this program.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP): I discussed this program at the December WTCAC meeting. In December, FSA received an email for Matthew C Anderson who is the Regional Timber Sales Forester for BIA Midwest region asking if Indian Trust land was eligible as the land exists in a gray area between private and federal status. A couple requests were sent to the national office by our state office and we've been waiting to hear if Indian Trust Land would be eligible. As of Friday, January 21, we were informed that the Office of General Council may announce their response sometime this week.

Participants in the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) will use the money to implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures necessary to address damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land and restore forest health and forest related resources on the land. The damage from the natural disaster must have occurred on or after January 1, 2010.

FSA Quarterly Newsletter: The Wisconsin State FSA office issues a quarterly newsletter. If anyone does not receive this newsletter I can get them on the list to receive them.

Fact Sheets for all the FSA programs are available at the FSA website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> (click on "Find FSA Fact Sheets" in the right hand "I Want To...." column)

Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program Loans handout



Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) extends credit to Indian Tribes or Tribal corporations that do not qualify for standard commercial loans to purchase land within their own reservation or Alaskan community through the Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program (ITLAP).

Eligibility Requirements

Native American Tribes must meet the following eligibility requirements to be eligible for an ITLAP loan:

- The application must be submitted on form FSA-2620 (Indian Land Acquisition Program Application) and be signed by the Tribe's or Tribal Corporation's authorized representative.
- An acceptable option to purchase or purchase agreement for land to be purchased with the loan funds must be provided with the loan application.
- The Tribe must show funding from other sources is not available to purchase the real estate. Documents to be furnished include: (1) a current financial statement; (2) a projected cash flow statement; (3) the past 3 years financial statements and cash flow statements.
- The land must be located within the Tribe's reservation for use by the members of the Native American tribe or Tribal Corporation.
- The Tribe must provide at least three letters from outside lenders, one of which will be from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), stating funding has been denied to the Tribe.
- A feasibility plan for the use of lands and a method of repayment of the loan funds must be provided.
- The Tribe must be in a good standing with all Federal Agencies and not subject to a judgment lien against the Tribe's property due to a debt to the United States.
- The Tribe must not have received a write-down on any other loans within the past five years.
- The amount of the loan funds must not exceed the market value of the land determined by the current appraisal.



Allowable Loan Uses

Funding through ITLAP is allowed for the following:

- Purchase of land located within the Tribe's reservation used for the benefit of the Tribe or its members;
- Title clearance, legal services, land surveys, and loan closing;
- Refinance preexisting debts other than from the USDA which were incurred from land purchases; and
- Pay for the cost of an appraisal.

However, loans may not be used for land improvements or development purposes, acquisition or repair of personal property, operating costs, finder's fees, or projects that contribute to excessive erosion of highly erodible land.



Funding

Loan approval is subject to the availability of funds and will be funded based on the date FSA approves the application. Loan terms can be up to 40 years from the date the loan application is closed. The interest rate will be fixed for the life of the loan at the current interest rate charged by FSA on the loan closing date.

Loan Security

An assignment of Tribal income will be taken as security to ensure repayment of the loan. A mortgage or deed of trust on the land to be purchased will be taken as security for the loan.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Pest Alert

United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
NA-PR-02-10
Revised August 2010

Thousand Cankers Disease

Dieback and mortality of eastern black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) in several Western States have become more common and severe during the last decade. A tiny bark beetle is creating numerous galleries beneath the bark of affected branches, resulting in fungal infection and canker formation. The large numbers of cankers associated with dead branches suggest the disease's name—*thousand cankers disease*.

The principal agents involved in this disease are a newly identified fungus (*Geosmithia* sp. with a proposed name of *Geosmithia morbida*) and the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*). Both the fungus and the beetle only occur on walnut species. An infested tree usually dies within 3 years of initial symptoms.

Thousand cankers disease has been found in many Western States (figure 1). The first confirmation of the beetle and fungus within the native range of black walnut was in Tennessee (July 2010). The potential damage of this disease to eastern forests could be great because of the widespread distribution of eastern black walnut, the susceptibility of this tree species to the disease, and the capacity of the fungus and beetle to invade new areas and survive under a wide range of climatic conditions in the west.

Disease Symptoms

The three major symptoms of this disease are branch mortality, numerous small cankers on branches and the bole, and evidence of tiny bark beetles. The earliest symptom is yellowing foliage that progresses rapidly to brown wilted foliage, then finally branch mortality (figure 2). The fungus causes distinctive circular to oblong cankers in the phloem under the bark, which eventually kill the cambium (figure 3). The bark surface may have no symptoms, or a dark amber stain or cracking of the bark may occur directly above a canker. Numerous tiny bark beetle entrance and exit holes are visible on dead and dying branches (figure 4), and bark beetle galleries are often found within the cankers. In the final stages of disease, even the main stem has beetle attacks and cankers.

Geosmithia sp.

Members of the genus *Geosmithia* have not been considered to be important plant pathogens, but

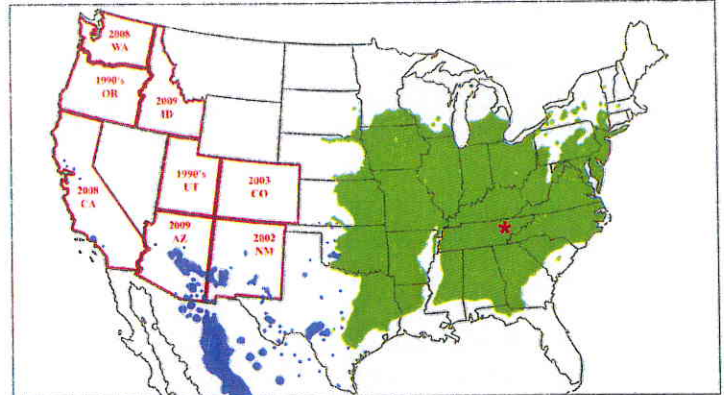


Figure 1. Thousand cankers disease occurs in eight western states (outlined in red) and in the east was first confirmed in Knoxville, TN in July 2010 (see *). In the west the year when symptoms were first noted is given. Native distributions of four species of western walnuts (blue) and eastern black walnut (green) are also shown. Eastern black walnut is widely planted in the West, but not depicted on this map.



Figure 2. Wilting black walnut in the last stages of thousand cankers disease.



Figure 3. Small branch cankers caused by *Geosmithia morbida*.

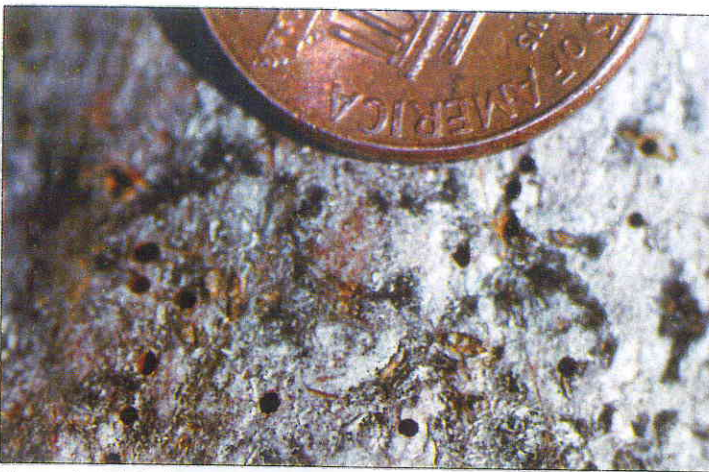


Figure 4. Exit holes made by adult walnut twig beetles.

Geosmithia morbida appears to be more virulent than related species. Aside from causing cankers, the fungus is inconspicuous. Culturing on agar media is required to confirm its identity. Adult bark beetles carry fungal spores that are then introduced into the phloem when they construct galleries. Small cankers develop around the galleries; these cankers may enlarge and coalesce to completely girdle the branch. Trees die as a result of these canker infections at each of the thousands of beetle attack sites.

Walnut Twig Beetle

The walnut twig beetle is native to Arizona, California, and New Mexico. It has invaded Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington where walnuts have been widely planted. The beetle has not caused significant branch mortality by itself. Through its association with this newly identified fungus, it appears to have greatly increased in abundance. Adult beetles are very small (1.5 to 2.0 mm long or about 1/16 in) and are reddish brown in color (figure 5). This species is a typical-looking bark beetle that is characterized by its very small size and four to six concentric ridges on the upper surface of the pronotum (the shield-like cover behind and over the head) (figure 5A). Like most bark beetles, the larvae are white, C shaped, and found in the phloem. For this species, the egg galleries created by the adults are horizontal (across the grain) and the larval galleries tend to be vertical (along the grain) (figure 6).

Survey and Samples

Visually inspecting walnut trees for dieback is currently the best survey tool for the Eastern United States. Look for declining trees with the symptoms described above. If you suspect that your walnut trees have thousand cankers disease, collect a branch 2 to 4 inches

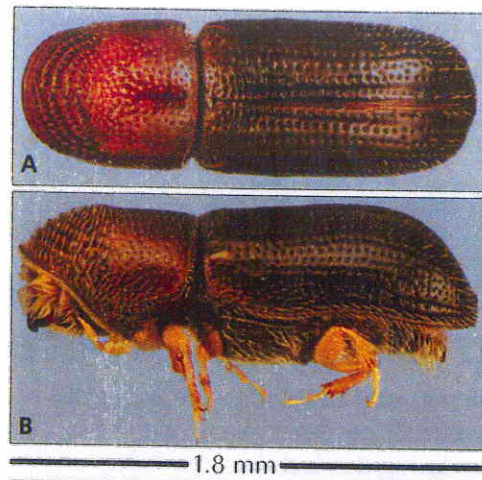


Figure 5. Walnut twig beetle: top view (A) and side view (B).



Figure 6. Walnut twig beetle galleries under the bark of a large branch.

in diameter and 6 to 12 inches long that has visible symptoms. Please submit branch samples to your State's plant diagnostic clinic. Each State has a clinic that is part of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). They can be found at the NPDN Web site (www.npdn.org). You may also contact your State Department of Agriculture, State Forester, or Cooperative Extension Office for assistance.

Prepared by:

Steven Seybold, Research Entomologist, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

Dennis Haugen, Forest Entomologist, and Joseph O'Brien, Plant Pathologist, U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Andrew Graves, Postdoctoral Research Associate, UC-Davis, Department of Plant Pathology

Photographs:


Figure 1: Andrew Graves

Figure 2: Manfred Mielke, U.S. Forest Service

Figures 3, 4, 6: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, www.forestryimages.org

Figure 5: Steve Valley, Oregon Department of Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

 Federal Recycling Program
Printed on recycled paper.



Published by:
USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Boulevard
Newtown Square, PA 19073
www.na.fs.fed.us

Wisconsin Tribal Fisheries Initiative

Background

Indian communities have traditionally depended on a healthy and abundant walleye fishery for subsistence. Today, the importance of northern Wisconsin fisheries to tribes is reflected in the requests to update and assist with tribal hatcheries re-stocking efforts. The prevalence of new hatchery operations on reservations and the need for expansion of existing facilities indicates commitment to the resource is high on the tribes' priority list.

Tribal fish hatcheries play an important role in co-managing inter-jurisdictional fishery resources. The landmark 1983 "Voigt decision" by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals determined that the Ojibwe had retained rights to hunt, fish and gather on lands they ceded to the federal government in treaties signed in 1837 and 1842.

Under the Voigt Decision, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) biologists set the number of walleye that can safely be harvested from each lake by the combination of tribal spearers and sport anglers. The tribes declare which lakes they want to spear, and what proportion of the safe harvest they plan to harvest. The six tribes work together through an intertribal task force to coordinate their declarations. DNR fisheries biologists use the tribal declarations to determine daily bag limits for sport anglers on those particular lakes. The tribes' declaration, and the corresponding daily sport bag limits are announced in April. Daily bag limits for sport anglers are increased later that summer, usually before Memorial Day, if the tribes have harvested fewer fish than they declared.

Each spearer is required to get a permit that day for the lake he or she intends to spear that night. The number of permits issued is limited by the remaining quota. Creel crews hired by GLIFWC count and measure each spearer's harvest as the spearers come ashore for the night.

The concentrated effort, year in and year out, on lakes in the ceded territory has brought other benefits to Wisconsinites who fish. More fish are stocked in Wisconsin waters that don't sustain naturally-reproducing fish populations. WI DNR renovated its primary walleye and musky hatcheries in northern Wisconsin to meet rising demand for more, bigger, healthier fish for stocking. Fish hatcheries have been expanded at Bad River and Red Cliff, and all tribes now maintain hatcheries to raise fish for stocking, including back into waters they spear.

There are several tribal fish hatcheries and/or rearing facilities. The Red Lake reservation and Lac du Flambeau reservation hatcheries are the oldest, being established in 1929 and 1936, respectively. These and other programs, range in size from an incubator system and stocking of fry, up to fully staffed hatcheries rearing fry, fingerlings, yearlings, and larger fish for stocking or market. Some tribal hatchery programs have been in existence for over 70 years, while others are just beginning. Approximately ten different species of fish are reared at these facilities. These are walleye, musky, lake sturgeon,

largemouth bass, whitefish, white sucker, lake trout, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout. Each hatchery has their own program for the species of fish they are rearing.

Current Resource Needs

The intent of this initiative is to implement indigenous stewardship methods to sustainable use of natural walleye resources within their capacity to sustain natural processes, while honoring the wisdom of past generations, ensuring that the use does not diminish the potential to meet the needs of future generations.

USDA Program Assistance

To accomplish this initiative through the technical and financial assistance programs of NRCS, we are requesting consideration of targeted funds through the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Application ranking and practice payment limitations will rely heavily on recommendations from the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC).

Practices and Funds Needed

The initiative requests to fund at least one project per year for 3 years, beginning in late FY11. The total WHIP financial assistance need for this initiative is estimated to be \$300,000, or \$100,000 annually. The primary conservation practices involved are Aquaculture Pond (397), Pipeline (516), Wetland Creation (658), and Well (642) or Pumping Plant (533). These practices are not currently offered in WHIP in Wisconsin for these purposes and their use for this initiative will need to be approved by the NRCS Deputy Chief for Financial Assistance and Community Development.

Next Steps

Pending review of NRCS and Tribal stakeholders in Wisconsin, this initiative request will be approved by the WI NRCS State Conservationist and submitted to NRCS at the national level for consideration.

WisCorps

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.

2702 Quarry Road
La Crosse, WI 54601



Request for Projects

2011 Field Season

www.wiscorps.org

Are you in need of short term crew services?

The Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc. (WisCorps) is currently seeking conservation work projects for its crews to complete during the spring, summer, and fall of 2011.

WisCorps can provide crew services to municipalities, agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations in need of short term labor solutions that are flexible enough to fit into tight operating budgets.

WisCorps crews are available for hire on a weekly basis and we anticipate having a total of 48 crew weeks available for hire in 2011.



About WisCorps

WisCorps is a non-profit conservation corps that provides a valuable service to Wisconsin's citizens and environment by engaging youth and young adults (Corps Members) aged 16-25 in direct conservation projects on public lands across the state.

Under the guidance of an experienced adult Crew Leader, teams of 5-8 Corps Members complete high quality work as they gain leadership skills, practice team work, learn how to resolve differences, and expand their knowledge of current environmental and social issues. WisCorps provides a "real job for real pay", as all Corps Members are paid a minimum wage for their participation on a WisCorps crew.

Added Value for Your Project



The WisCorps mission is to "develop leadership, self-confidence, and a strong work ethic in youth and young adults through the active stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources."

The intense work experience created through the completion of high quality conservation projects provides an ideal environment to foster personal growth and learning in each of our Corps Members.

Through your conservation project, Corps Members can gain valuable life and employment skills that will help them to become engaged and active members of their communities, as well as future leaders in the Wisconsin workforce!

Ready to Work

Each WisCorps crew is fully trained and equipped to take on a variety of conservation projects such as: new trail construction, trail restoration, stream bank stabilization, reforestation, and invasive species management.

WisCorps provides:

- A crew of 5-8 Corps Members
- 1 experienced adult Crew Leader
- All basic tools (trail and carpentry)
- General project management
- All transportation costs (vehicle, gasoline, etc.)
- All insurance costs (liability and worker's compensation)

You provide:

- All project materials (gravel, rebar, bolts, herbicide, etc.)
- Any specialized equipment required for the project
- Additional technical support as needed
- Overall guidance of the project (a minimum of one visit per week)
- A funding match to cover a portion of the total cost of the crew

Let WisCorps complete your conservation project this year!

Project Profile - Ravine Trail Reconstruction

During the summer of 2010, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WisCorps completed an extensive reconstruction of the Ravine Trail at Interstate State Park in St. Croix Falls, WI.

Originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Ravine Trail had fallen into disrepair, as sections of the trail had been paved and wooden steps installed in the 1990's had started to rot away.

Using specialized hoisting equipment and hand tools, the WisCorps crew removed the asphalt, widened the trail, and installed more than 70 armored stone steps.

In keeping with the aesthetic of the other CCC structures throughout the park, each step was cut from native rock and installed using dry stone masonry techniques.



How to Hire a WisCorps Crew

WisCorps provides crews on a weekly basis to municipalities, agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations. WisCorps crews must work on land available for public use (including private lands with public easements).

For more information about how to hire a WisCorps crew, please contact:

Matthew Brantner
Executive Director
608-782-2494
staff@wiscorps.org

Potential Projects

- New trail construction
- Trail rehabilitation
- Invasive species management
- Bridge and boardwalk construction
- Reforestation
- Timber stand improvement (TSI)
- Stream bank stabilization
- Lakeshore stabilization
- Erosion control
- Rain garden installation
- Prairie restoration
- Historical site preservation
- Recreation site maintenance
- Boundary marking
- Fencing
- Carpentry projects (picnic tables, shelters, kiosks, etc)
- Data collection for scientific research

Funding a WisCorps Crew

For each project, we ask that a funding match be provided to cover a portion of the total crew cost in exchange for the work completed. The match works on a sliding scale and ranges from \$4,500 - \$6,000 per week of work.

WisCorps receives funding support from individual contributors, foundations, and various other sources to cover the balance of the cost of each crew.

WisCorps can partner with project sponsors to apply for a variety of grants and other funding, which can cover both the crew and material costs of your project.

