

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2012
Bad River

Meeting called to order at 8:00 by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill), FCPC (Nate Guldán, Frank Shepard, Danielle Fatla), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), LCO (Brett McConnell), Lac du Flambeau (Gus Theobald), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Tina Van Zile, Roman Ferdinand), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Chad Abel, Gary Defoe Jr.), St. Croix (Tony Havranek), Stockbridge-Munsee (Luke Hennigan).

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Chris Borden (NRCS), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Jonathan Pyatskowitz (INCA), Sherrie Zenk-Reed (NRCS), Tony Bush (NRCS), Donn Waage (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Matthew Paplinski (FSA), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), Paul Strong (USFS), Keith Sengbusch (NRCS), Barb Tormoehlen (USFS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Donna Huebner (RD), Susan Hunter (FSA)

2. Approval of Agenda

Need to add approval of amended bylaws and Lac du Flambeau EQIP Submittal to the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Need to change Jonathan Pyatskowitz to Jeremy Pyatskowitz in the Roll Call.

MOTION: Motion to approve the January 22, 2013 WTCAC meeting minutes. Motion by Menominee, seconded by St. Croix. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. Introduction of New State Conservationist

Jimmy Bramblett – He comes here after 23 working with NRCS – 21 of the years were in Georgia. He has spent most of his career at the Georgia State Office in Athens. Two years ago he went to Headquarters in Washington DC and worked with State Conservationists on budget, personnel, program issues, etc. He has very minimal experience working with Tribal nations. He helped facilitate the RTAC in Oneida and it was a great experience for him. Personally he has 4 kids 22, 21, 21 and 18. 3 of them are in college in Georgia. His wife works in Little Rock, Arkansas with NRCS as an agricultural engineer.

5. NRCS Update

Pat was here 18 years and she did a great job navigating thru great growth. They are in pretty good shape as they have been planning for the budget issues coming. Yesterday, they were given the go ahead to hire folks but they are going to take about \$4 million out of their budget that they had already been given (called a rescission). There is talk about furloughs with the federal government; NRCS doesn't think they will have to do any furloughs however they may say that every agency within USDA has to implement furloughs. New Soil Health Campaign – they are spending this fiscal year doing a lot of internal training on this but next year they will be reaching out to us and others to promote soil health.

Tom Krapf – Thanked all of us for a good sign up this year. His real work with Jimmy will be after the next meeting with us after our technical recommendations are presented. They did have a record year for financial assistance before they may have to send funds back.

6. APHIS Update

Jerry Thompson – APHIS had put out opportunities for their Farm Bill Program and we applied for some funds to help APHIS reach out to Tribes throughout the country. But particularly to set up a national Tribal network to help APHIS stop invasive species coming in, invasive vectors, diseases, etc. He got a phone call yesterday that they are looking at approving all of these grants by tomorrow. We will only have couple of days to come up with a work plan, budget, etc. The grant will keep Randy and Jerry employed half time until next March. We would need a motion to approve Jerry to sign the grant documents. The grant is for \$100,000.

MOTION: Motion to give Jerry one time approval to sign the APHIS grant on behalf of WTCAC and to accept the grant. Motion by LCO, seconded by Menominee. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

7. Forest Service Update

Mary Rasmussen – Gave a presentation on Tribal Forest Protection Act and Stewardship Contracting (3 handouts and presentation attached). In 2003, in the Southwestern United States there were about 20 tribes that were devastated by wildfires that started on USFS land. GLIFWC Tribes could likely do projects anywhere on the National Forest because of their treaty rights. Where does funding come from – Paul Strong – His understanding is that if a Tribe was to formally request TFPA it would start a conversation as well as a timeline for when USFS has to get back to the Tribe. Stewardship contracting could go away if Farm Bill is not reauthorized. Paul Strong plans to speak with the State Forester on any discussions there have been on Tribal forest concerns. Pat Pelky felt Tribes should have a working group with USFS separate from state committee. **We need to look into developing a WTCAC Forestry subcommittee and Barb would like to be part of it. Also, what role does BIA forestry play? Get BIA involved in the subcommittee.**

Barb Tormoehlen – She handed out an RFP for GLRI funding through USFS which was due March 12. For tribes she would focus on Program Area 1, don't get too hung up on

the urban aspect of it. In fall, Jerry submitted a proposal for the internship program through the USFS competitive process. The process is core funding that actually through the Farm Bill is dedicated to state forestry agencies, therefore that proposal had to go through the State Forester. Ours did not rank very high, but nothing has been funded at this point. She is still looking for other opportunities for the proposal. At this time through the continuing resolution, they do not have the funding to fund new projects (which this would be). They do provide forest health technical assistance directly to Tribes.

8. FSA Update

Susan Hunter (update attached) - FSA may end up having furloughs.

9. Rural Development Update

Donna Huebner - Stan Gruszynski is working with 12 other state directors to combine a lot of administrative things, they have done a lot of cuts already so they probably will not see furloughs if sequestration happens. They are talking about just becoming USDA instead of NRCS, FSA, RD, etc. The continuing resolution expires March 27. Value Added Producer Grant – they did have a tribal application this year and are being scored right now. They are really looking for Water and Waste Projects. They could provide funding for a community garden.

10. INCA Update

Jonathan – INCA recently held a board meeting in San Antonio (National Association of Conservation Districts). NADC does a lot of work in DC and they may be able to help us. We could run issues through INCA and then up through the NADC. INCA is also working on reassigning some of their priorities, they are looking at new directives for the Executive Director and pull him away from grants and get him to DC on maybe a quarterly basis to develop contacts. They are also working on a stewardship report similar to WTCAC's report. They have heard the WTCAC report is getting around. INCA is a national tribal organization. Dick Gooby is the executive director and a retired State Conservationist from Montana. INCA came about because of WTCAC. In 2000 or so, WTCAC drafted up a draft titles to the Farm Bill for Tribes and we were trying to push through this draft title. Jerry as an NRCS representative took the draft title to an IAC conference and they spread it around at the conference and said this is a good foundation for us to start an Indian nations program to try and get the title in the Farm Bill. At that meeting INCA was formed using our draft title as their foundation. The draft title has circulated around the country for the past 12 years. Jimmy indicated that next month, John Larsen, who is NADC Director, will be in Wisconsin Dells from March 13 – 15.

11. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Donn Waage - He wanted to talk to us about their grant programs (presentation attached). They have a Great Lakes Program and an Upper Mississippi Program. He would like to give more money to the Tribes which is why he is here. They do have annual funding cycles.

12. WTCAC Intern Program

We have 14 students intern positions, seven with the USFS, 5 with NRCS, and 2 with APHIS. We can place students out of state as they will be considered Wisconsin employees that are just working out of state. Pathways program - students could earn credits to become permanent USDA employees, 1 hour = 1 credit, need 640 credits to become eligible. Intern Budget – with 14 students to support we still need \$32,000 to fund all students. The cost is \$6,450 per student. We have \$44,300 currently plus money from USFS from Ottawa NF. Application period ends March 23.

13. Stewardship Report

He needs to get it done by the end of March to take advantage of an Office Max deal – he has received information from USFS, NASS, Oneida, FCPC, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, St Croix, APHIS, Red Cliff, and Ho Chunk. **He needs Stockbridge-Munsee, Mole Lake, Menominee, and LCO.**

14. WTCAC Ranking Tool

Tony Bush handed out a list of this year's projects (attached).

MOTION: Motion to rescind Lac du Flambeau's original EQIP submittal and approve their new submittal of \$86,667. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

15. Conservation Innovation Grant

This grant program is funded by EQIP. People that think they can come up with a conservation practice can apply for these funds. They are looking at saving energy, nutrient reduction and something else. I can be up to \$1million for up to 3 years.

16. Grazing Conference

A Grazing Conference is going to be held at LCO Community College and it is going to be somewhat focused on Native American Agriculture.

17. WTCAC Outreach Efforts

Dan Cornelius asked Jerry to attend the Food Sovereignty Conference.

MOTION: Motion to approve Jerry to attend the Food Sovereignty Conference. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Menominee. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

There is a session scheduled for Oregon and Idaho Tribes for a 3 day session and we are sponsoring folks to come to it. Jerry would need to be on travel from April 8 – 12. The training is April 9 - 11.

MOTION: Motion to approve Jerry's travel for the Oregon training session. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Red Cliff. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

Katie Stariha gave a presentation at GAP and Randy Poelma and Bob Frank answered questions.

18. VISTA Discussion

Our funding is too uncertain right now to take on this commitment.

19. Technical Recommendation Review

Please review what Randy and Keith send out and provide comments on anything that is missing. They will finalize it by the 14th of March so please have comments to them by March 11.

Tony Havranek – Fisheries subcommittee – He is compiling the fisheries data right now and looking at resources concerns. He will be emailing everybody as they work on this.

20. Special Projects

Red Cliff proposed a special project to reduce erosion on a pathway down to Lake Superior that is currently eroding into the lake.

MOTION: Motion to approve Red Cliff's special project for up to \$20,200 contingent on them submitting a signed copy to Jerry. Motion by Stockbridge-Munsee, seconded by Ho-Chunk. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

21. Financial Report

We are going with Associated Bank for WTCAC. Jerry handed out the WTCAC donation forms to everyone (attached).

22. GLRI Grant Update

Randy should have the draft QAPP out to us by next week. Most of the budgets have come right in at the dollar amounts we proposed, a couple a little under and a couple a ways over. Employees will be limited to work the same 19 weeks that must encompass the weeks of June 2nd through the week of August 11.

23. Website

Nate introduced Danielle (Dani) Fatla who will oversee WTCAC's website. Bryon Black from One Prospect (an FCPC owned company) will develop the new site at no cost and then Dani will have his support going forward. Dani can be reached at 715-478-4192 or at Danielle.Fatla@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov. Please contact her with any ideas.

24. Bylaws Amendment

The amendment to the bylaws removes the limitation that a maximum of 2 representatives can be appointed to WTCAC from each Tribe.

MOTION: Motion to approve the amended bylaws. Motion by Menominee, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All in favor, zero opposed, motion carried.

The approved bylaws are attached below.

25. Action Items

- A) Jerry will follow up with tribes on the stewardship report.
- B) Proposal for conservation innovation grant.
- C) Pat will contact Jimmy to take about contacting Herman Harris or Butch Blazer.
- D) Review Technical Recommendations and get comments back by March 11.
- E) Email Nate official Tribe names.
- F) Nate will send out contact list and please update.
- G) Nate will send out amended by laws
- H) Randy will send out GLRI budgets.
- D) Jerry will make arrangements to publicize public meeting at 1pm on March 27th in Madison.

26. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th in Madison. We will have a regular meeting in the morning starting at 8 am and then technical recommendation meeting in the afternoon.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Ho-Chunk, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

ATTACHMENTS

Farm Service Agency Administered Programs

Agricultural Mediation Program

The Agricultural Mediation Program helps agricultural producers, their lenders and people directly affected by the actions of USDA resolve disputes. A trained, impartial mediator reviews conflicts, identifies options and assists in settling disputes between participants in many different USDA program areas. These include farm loans, farm and conservation programs, wetland determinations, rural water loan programs, grazing on national forest system lands, and pesticides.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

Producers on farms with a covered commodity or peanut base acres may elect to participate for the 2013 crop year in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. Farms must be enrolled by June 3, 2013. Under the ACRE Program, producers may receive revenue-based payments instead of price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP). The following planted or considered planted crops may be eligible for ACRE payments: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, rice (medium and long grain), soybeans, other oilseeds, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed and sunflower seed, peanuts and pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, and small and large chickpeas [garbanzo beans]).

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans

Each fiscal year, the Farm Service Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan funds to beginning farmers and ranchers. Although this is not an official FSA program, FSA makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years, (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying, (3) substantially participates in the operation, and, (4) for farm ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county and has farmed for at least three years.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

BCAP is a voluntary program for agricultural and forestland owners and operators. BCAP is intended to support the production and use of biomass crops for conversion to bioenergy. BCAP can include 1) Project Areas: Supports establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy on contracts up to five years for annual and non-woody perennial crops or up to 15 years for woody perennial crops. Support may include annual payments and up to 75 percent payment of cost-share assistance to establish eligible crops; and 2) Matching

Payments: Assists agricultural and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible material by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF). As of February 2013, BCAP has not been funded for fiscal year 2013.

Boll Weevil Eradication Loan Program

The Boll Weevil Eradication Loan Program provides low interest loans to nonprofit organizations that work collaboratively with state agencies, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the National Cotton Council to eradicate the boll weevil. The program objective is to assist producers and state government agencies in the eradication of boll weevils from cotton producing areas and ensuring the pest is not re-introduced.

Conservation Loan Program (CL)

FSA guarantees CLs to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. Guaranteed CLs are available from lenders working with FSA. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing

conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a derivative program of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among producers; tribal, state, and federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups.

Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP)

The Dairy Indemnity Payment Program pays dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides. Payments are made to manufacturers of dairy products only for products removed from the market because of pesticide contamination.

Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP)

Under this program, FSA supports the price of nonfat dry milk, butter and cheddar at statutory minimum levels through the purchase of such products made from cow's milk produced in the United States. The established prices are uniform for all regions of the United States and may be increased by the Secretary when considered appropriate. The DPPSP is authorized through Dec. 31, 2013.

Debt for Nature Program

The Debt for Nature Program, also known as the Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract Program, is available to persons with FSA loans secured by real estate who may qualify for cancellation of a portion of their FSA indebtedness in exchange for a conservation contract with a term of 50, 30, or 10 years. A conservation contract is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts the type and amount of development and farming practices that may take place on portions of a landowner's property. Contracts may be established on marginal cropland and other environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes.

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

DCP provides income support to producers. DCP payments do not depend on the current production choices of the farmer; instead, they are based on historical acreage and yields. Producers on a farm with established base acres may annually enroll the farm in a DCP contract. Depending on the farm's planting history, a farm may have base acres established

for one or more of the following covered commodities: barley, corn, grain sorghum (including dual-purpose varieties), oats, canola, crambe, flax, mustard, pulse crops, rapeseed, safflower, sesame and sunflower (including oil and non-oil varieties), peanuts, rice (excluding wild rice), soybeans, upland cotton, and wheat. Farms must be enrolled by Aug. 2, 2013.

Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

FSA direct farm ownership loans (FO) may be made to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation. To qualify for a direct loan, the applicant must be unable to obtain credit from commercial credit sources, able to show sufficient repayment ability and pledge enough collateral to fully secure the loan. A percentage of loan funds is targeted to beginning farmers and ranchers and minority applicants.

Direct Operating Loan Program

FSA direct farm operating loans (OL) may be made to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. They can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and refinancing debts under certain conditions. To qualify for a direct loan, the applicant must be unable to obtain credit from commercial credit sources, able to show sufficient repayment ability and pledge enough collateral to fully secure the loan. A percentage of loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and ranchers and minority

applicants.

Domestic and Foreign Food Assistance

USDA, through FSA, donates food to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as federal, state, and other private and nonprofit agencies in the United States. Food items are used for school lunch programs, summer camps for children, the Women, Infants, and Children program, and other organizations and charities that help needy persons. Also, agricultural commodities are donated to international relief agencies to help feed people around the world. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of USDA organizes the delivery of the donated food to international development and humanitarian organizations operating in dozens of countries. Food donations also assist in the FAS Food for Progress program, which assists countries working to transition to market-oriented economies.

Downpayment Farm Ownership Loans

Downpayment Farm Ownership loans were developed to help socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers purchase a farm or ranch. These loans provide a way for retiring farmers to transfer their land to a future generation of farmers and ranchers. Under this program the applicant provides a 5percent down payment, FSA provides 50 percent of the needed loan funds at a reduced rate and a commercial lender provides the financing for the remaining 45 percent.

Economic Adjustment Assistance to Users of Upland Cotton

The Commodity Credit Corpora-

tion (CCC) issues payments to eligible domestic users of upland cotton. The program is designed to stimulate investment to maintain a globally competitive U.S. textile industry. Payments are made to eligible domestic users who enter into an agreement with the CCC. The payment rate is four cents per pound from Aug. 1, 2008, through July 31, 2012, and three cents per pound beginning Aug. 1, 2012. Proceeds received under this program must be used for capital investments that relate to manufacturing upland cotton into cotton products.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

ECP provides funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. The natural disaster must create new conservation problems, which, if not treated, would 1) impair or endanger the land, 2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land, 3) represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area, and 4) be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Subject to availability of funds, locally elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which may be authorized by the FSA national office. Eligible ECP participants may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency land rehabilitation practices as determined by county FSA committees; qualified

Limited Resource producers may receive financial assistance of up to 90 percent.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of rural nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore forest health on land damaged by natural disaster events such as floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters. Subject to availability of funds, locally elected county committees are authorized to implement EFRP for all disasters except drought and insect infestations, which may be authorized by the FSA national office. Eligible EFRP 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.

Emergency Loan Program (EM)

FSA provides EM loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. EM loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain credit from commercial sources and own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster area or quarantine area (for physical losses only, the FSA Administrator may authorize emergency loan assistance). Emergency loan funds may be used to 1) restore or replace essential property, 2) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, 3) pay essential family living expenses, 4) reorganize the farming operation, and 5) refinance certain debts.

Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton Competitiveness Payments

ELS Cotton Competitiveness Payments are made to domestic users and exporters of ELS cotton when the market prices of domestically produced versus foreign grown ELS cotton are such that payments are necessary to improve the competitiveness of domestically produced cotton in the world market.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through FSA, may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, peanuts, hay, honey, renewable biomass, sunflower seeds, canola, rapeseed, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, and other oilseeds as determined and announced by CCC. Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, barley, fruits and vegetables are also eligible, subject to program requirements.

Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)

The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) is a voluntary program to restore up to one million acres of farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation. Eligible producers in all states can enroll eligible land in the FWP through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. FWP is designed to prevent degradation of wetland areas, increase sediment trapping efficiencies, improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Feedstock Flexibility Program (FFP)

FFP is designed to avoid sugar loan forfeitures to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) by diverting sugar from food use to ethanol production. Every September, the Secretary of Agriculture announces the amount of sugar (if any) for the CCC to purchase and to be made available for sale to ethanol producers. Raw, refined and in-process sugars are eligible for purchase. Such sugar can be purchased from any marketer located in the United States.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP is a voluntary program for landowners to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. USDA's NRCS and FSA jointly implement GRP to conserve vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserve valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations.

Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

The Grassroots Source Water Protection Program (GSWPP) is a joint project by the FSA and the nonprofit National Rural Water Association (NRWA) designed to help prevent source water pollution in states through voluntary practices installed by producers and other landowners at the local level. GSWPP uses onsite technical assistance capabilities of each state rural water association that operates a source water protection program in the state. State rural water associations deliver assistance in developing source water protection plans within watersheds for the common goal of prevent-

ing the contamination of drinking water supplies.

Graze-out Program

The Graze-out Program provides for payments to eligible producers who elect to use their acreage planted to wheat, barley, oats, or triticale for grazing by livestock and agree to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on such acreage during the applicable crop year. Graze-out payments are subject to the same basic eligibility requirements as commodity loans and, when available, loan deficiency payments.

Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions) with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. A percentage of guaranteed loan funds is targeted to beginning farmers and ranchers and minority applicants. Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans (FO) may be made to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation, or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed Operating Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions) with a guarantee of up to 95

percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. A percentage of guaranteed loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and ranchers and minority applicants. Guaranteed Operating Loans (OL) may be made to purchase items needed such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, repairs, insurance, and other operating expenses. OLs also can be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family living expenses, and to refinance debts under certain conditions.

Homestead Protection Program

If the FSA has exhausted all loan servicing options and foreclosures on a property as required by law, the Homestead Protection Program allows the borrower to lease, with an option to purchase, their primary residence and up to 10 adjoining acres for up to five years.

Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program (ITLAP)

ITLAP loans enable Indian tribes to purchase privately held lands that lie within their reservations. Loan funds may be used to pay expenses incidental to the purchase of the

land, but not for land development.

Land Contract Guarantee Program

Guarantees are available for the owner of a farm who sells real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The guarantee provides an incentive to sell to individuals in these groups as it reduces the financial risk to the seller in the event of default. FSA offers two types of guarantees: a seller may request either a Prompt Payment Guarantee of up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance; or a Standard Guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract. To qualify for assistance, buyers must meet eligibility requirements similar to those for the Guaranteed and Direct Farm Ownership programs.

Microloan Program

Microloans are a special subcategory of direct operating loans that provide more flexible access to credit for smaller farming operations including specialty, niche and local food producers. The Microloan program simplifies the loan application process and reduces the paperwork burden substantially. The program provides additional flexibility to some of the loan eligibility requirements, reduces documentation requirements, and provides for simplified financial planning

for small operations. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

The MILC Program financially compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level that is adjusted each month by a dairy feed ration adjustment if certain feed cost components that make up the feed adjustment price also fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made monthly when the milk price falls below the established price per hundredweight and are issued by CCC based upon selection of a start month by the producer for the dairy operation. Payments are issued up to a maximum eligible quantity per dairy operation per fiscal year of 2,985,000 million pounds through August 31, 2013. The production cap in September 2013 is reduced to 2.4 million pounds per operation.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by drought, flood, hurricane, or other natural disasters. NAP covers noninsurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters. Landowners, tenants, or sharecroppers who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop are eligible. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food, including livestock feed or fiber for

which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable. Also eligible for NAP coverage are controlled-environment crops (mushroom and floriculture), specialty crops (honey and maple sap), and value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery, and turfgrass sod).

Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Programs

MALs provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. MALs for covered commodities are nonrecourse because the commodity is pledged as loan collateral and producers have the option of delivering the pledged collateral to the Commodity Credit Corporation as full payment for the loan at maturity. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but who agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain a LDP. A LDP is the amount by which the applicable loan rate exceeds the alternative loan repayment rate for the respective commodity.

Planting Transferability Pilot Program

The 2008 Farm Bill, as amended by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, provides funding for the 2013 crop year for the Planting Transferability Pilot Program (PTPP), a pilot project to permit the planting of cucumbers, green peas, lima

beans, pumpkins, snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes grown for processing on base acres. Base acres on a farm will be reduced by an acre for each acre planted under PTPP. However, the reduction in base acres under PTPP will expire at the end of the crop year and will be restored to the farm.

Primary Loan Servicing Program

The Primary Loan Servicing Program gives options to existing direct FSA borrowers who, due to reasons beyond their control, are unable to make the scheduled payments on their debt to the Government. These options may include consolidation, rescheduling or reamortization, deferral, interest rate reduction, and writedown. The program allows delinquent and/or financially distressed FSA borrowers to attain, or maintain, a current loan status while at the same time allowing the borrower to regain a more solid financial footing for the long term.

Recourse Seed Cotton Loans

Recourse seed cotton loans are made available by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to producers through March 31 of the year following the calendar year in which the cotton crop is normally harvested. Seed cotton pledged as collateral for a loan must be tendered to CCC by an eligible producer and must be in existence and in good condition at the time of disbursement of loan proceeds, in addition to other requirements. A produc-

er must repay the seed cotton loan principal, interest, and the charges before pledging the cotton for a nonrecourse loan or before a loan deficiency payment can be approved. Seed cotton loans mature on demand by CCC but no later than May 31 following the calendar year in which such crop is normally harvested.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

SAFE is a voluntary program available under CRP's continuous signup. SAFE is designed to address state and regional high-priority wildlife objectives. Producers within a SAFE area can submit offers to voluntarily enroll acres in CRP contracts for 10-15 years. In exchange, producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives and cost-share assistance to establish, improve, connect or create higher-quality habitat.

Sugar Loan Program and Sugar Marketing Allotments

The Sugar Loan Program provides nonrecourse loans to processors of domestically-grown sugarcane and sugar beets to stabilize America's sugar industry. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) establishes marketing allotments for sugar from domestically-produced sugar beets and sugarcane. Allotments are assigned based on estimates of sugar consumption, stocks, production, and imports for a crop year with the intent being that the total allotment quantity minimizes forfeitures of sugar to CCC

under the sugar loan program.

Sugar Storage Facility Loan Program

FSA may make loans to processors of domestically-produced sugarcane and sugar beets for the construction or upgrading of storage and handling facilities for raw sugars and refined sugars. Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed handling equipment, or the remodeling of existing facilities.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)

SURE was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. SURE is available for crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011, under certain conditions. SURE payments are calculated based on 60 percent of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the Total Farm Revenue. Sign-up for 2011 SURE began on Oct. 22, 2012, and ends on June 7, 2013. Coverage is not available for losses occurring after Sep. 30, 2011.

Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP)

TTPP provides payments over a ten-year period to quota holders and producers of quota tobacco to help them make the transition from the federally-

regulated tobacco marketing quota and price support loan programs. Eligible tobacco quota holders and producers receive payments under this program in 10 installments in each of the 2005 - 2014 fiscal years.

United States Warehouse Act (USWA)

The USWA authorizes the Secretary to issue licenses to public warehouse operators who voluntarily request regulation through licensing under the USWA to store agricultural products, including bulk grain, cotton, peanuts, sugar and other agricultural products. FSA administers USWA by providing licensing of warehouse operators, regulation of paper and electronic warehouse receipt providers, protection for depositors through bonding or other financial assistance and compliance examinations. The USWA provides for the use of warehouse receipts and requires warehouse operators to accept agricultural products for storage without discrimination. Under the USWA, the facilities meet and are maintained at established standards. The USWA allows FSA to enforce a uniform regulatory system for the protection of depositors and the agricultural commodities stored in the licensed facilities.

Voluntary Carbon Data Initiative

FSA's Voluntary Carbon Data Initiative provides interested farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners with an esti-

mate of the amount of carbon that their eligible tree planting practices are expected to sequester through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract term and beyond. For this initiative, FSA has developed CarbonNet, a communications tool to facilitate information exchange of carbon sequestration needs and opportunities among interested parties.

For those private entities seeking sequestration opportunities, the Voluntary Carbon Data Initiative will provide an informational clearinghouse, reducing costs associated with the identification of willing sellers.

Eligible CRP tree planting practices include:

- CP22 Riparian Buffer
- CP23 Wetland Restoration
- CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- CP36 Longleaf Pine Establishment

Any CRP incentives currently associated with eligible practices will apply. No additional incentives are authorized under this initiative. Only tree planting practices, not other CRP vegetative practices, have been included in the initiative.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) is a competitive grant program available only to states and tribal governments. The primary objective

of the VPA-HIP is to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting or fishing, under programs implemented by state or tribal governments. The funding provided by the VPA-HIP helps states and tribal governments to greatly increase access and recreational experiences by using that funding to provide landowner incentives for public access and wildlife habitat enhancement, technical assistance and conservation services to landowners participating, in public access programs, and to facilitate program administration, oversight, outreach, monitoring and evaluation. As of February 2013, VPA-HIP has not been funded for fiscal year 2013.

Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths, between the ages of 10 and 20 years, to establish and operate agriculture-related income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, the Future Farmers of America and similar organizations. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

More Information

For more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center, or go to www.fsa.usda.gov.

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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).

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Sponsored by

**Northwest Wisconsin
Graziers Network; Lake
Superior Graziers; UW-
Extension, LWCD, NRCS
Offices for Barron, Burnett,
Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and
Washburn Counties;
DATCP; and with funding
from the Grazing Lands
Conservation Initiative**



University of Wisconsin-Extension provides Title IX requirements which include affirmative action and equal opportunity in education programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, conviction record, or veteran status.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are confidential (ADA requirements.)

Otto Wiegand, Area Ag Agent


Spooner Area Ag Agents Office
Spooner Agricultural Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spooner, WI 54801
715-635-3506



Northwest Wisconsin & Lake Superior Graziers Networks - 2013 Annual Conference



**Saturday, March 2
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lac Courte Oreilles
Community College
Hayward, WI
\$20**



This year's conference is intended to cover a range of topics for beginning and experienced graziers as well as people interested in the potential ecological and nutritional benefits of sustainable grazing practices. Sessions will focus on Native American agricultural practices, livestock, forages, human nutrition related to grazing and environmental issues of interest to farmers, their neighbors, and their communities.

Improving Environment and Well-Being Through Grazing

Agenda

- 8:30** Registration and trade show
- 9:00** **Welcome**
Introduction of participants.
Northwest Graziers update of 2012 activities. Recognition of 2012 pasture walk hosts.
- 9:30** **Keynote Address - "My Story: Building a Productive Beef Operation"**
*Brian Thomas, Idaho Beef Producer
Shoshone Paiute Tribal Member*
- 10:30** **Featured Speaker - "Bison: The Grass-Fed Advantage"**
*Lee Graese, Owner & Producer
Northstar Bison*
- 11:15** **Featured Speaker - "Nutritional Advantages of Grass-Fed Livestock"**
*Dr. Debra Pearson, Assoc. Professor
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*
- 12:00** **Lunch** - Native American cuisine.
Introduction of exhibitors.
Networking with producers and connecting with exhibitors.
- Afternoon Sessions
- 1:15** **Featured Speaker - "Multiple Species Grazing"**
*Kara Berlage, Co-Owner & Producer
North Star Homestead Farms*
- 2:00** **Featured Speaker - "Keys to Success for Genetic Improvement"**
*Brian Thomas, Idaho Beef Producer
Shoshone Paiute Tribal Member*
- 2:45** **Featured Speaker - "Calculating Forage Inventory & Measuring Bale Weights and Forage Quality"**
*Dr. Lynn Johnson, Grazing Consultant
Northwest Graziers*
- 3:30** **Conference Wrap-up**, evaluation forms, and drawing for door prizes.

2013 NW Wis. Graziers & Lake Superior Graziers Networks Annual Conference

Registration Form

Please return this registration form and \$20 program fee to Spooner Area UWEX Ag Agents at the address below. Make checks payable to UW-Extension.

Please register by Friday,
February 25, 2013

Late registration fee: \$30

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If you need additional information about the conference, please contact:

Otto Wiegand, Area Ag Agent

Spooner Area Ag Agents Office
Spooner Agricultural Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spooner, WI 54801
715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914



REGIONAL CONTEXT The [Tribal Relations Strategic Framework for the Eastern Region](#) (2010) establishes the fundamental principles by which we interact with the numerous federally-recognized Tribes affiliated with the Eastern Region. The Framework affirms, in part, that—
The Tribes are full partners in the conservation of shared landscapes.

INTRODUCTION

The Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), P.L. 108-278 (now codified at [25 U.S.C. 3115a](#)), was enacted in July 2004. The Act provides a tool for Tribes to propose work and enter into contracts and agreements with the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management on federal lands that border on or are adjacent to Tribal lands and pose a threat to Tribal forest lands or communities due to fire, disease, or other threats, or are in need of restoration activities.

OVERVIEW

Tribal proposals must focus on National Forest System (NFS) lands that:

- Border on or are adjacent to Tribal lands;
- Pose a threat of fire, disease, or other threat to the Indian trust land or community or is in need of restoration;
- Not be subject to some other conflicting agreement or contract; and
- Involve a feature or circumstance unique to the proposing Tribe.

To qualify, the Indian land must:

- Border or be adjacent to NFS administered lands;
- Be in trust or restricted status;
- Be forested or have grass, brush, or other vegetative cover; and
- If burned over land, be capable of regenerating vegetative cover.

Tribally-related factors to consider:

- The status of the Indian Tribe as an Indian Tribe;
- The trust status of the Indian forest land or rangeland of the Indian Tribe;
- The cultural, traditional, and historical affiliation of the Indian Tribe with the land subject to the proposal;
- The treaty rights or other reserved rights of the Indian Tribe relating to the land subject to the proposal;
- The indigenous knowledge and skills of members of the Indian Tribe;
- The features of the landscape of the land subject to the proposal, including watersheds and vegetation types;

The working relationships between the Indian Tribe and Federal agencies in coordinating activities affecting the land subject to the proposal; and
The access by members of the Indian Tribe to the land subject to the proposal.

PROCEDURES

To initiate a project, a federally-recognized Tribal government must submit a project proposal to the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger. The Forest Supervisor evaluates the proposal and forwards it to the Regional Forester with recommendations for accepting or denying the proposal. Within 120 days of the submittal, the Regional Forester may issue a public notice of either a) initiation of any necessary environmental review, b) potential for entering into an agreement or contract with the Tribe, or c) notice of denial to the Tribe.

- **Emphasis on Collaboration:** Close collaboration in the development of TFPA proposals is strongly encouraged. *“Forest Service officials may provide advice and information to Indian Tribes in advance of Tribes’ submitting proposals for stewardship contracts or agreements to assist Indian Tribes in developing proposals that are consistent with the criteria in the Tribal Forest Protection Act”* ([FSH 2409.16, Chapter 60](#)).

A notice of denial may include specific factors in the denial, identify corrective courses of action, and propose consultation on how to protect the Indian trust land and Tribal interests on NFS land.

Line Officer Responsibilities (FSH 2409.19, Chapter 60)

It is the responsibility of the District Ranger to receive and acknowledge Tribal requests made under the TFPA and make recommendations to the Forest Supervisor.

It is the responsibility of the Forest Supervisor to ensure that all stewardship contracting, including TFPA projects are in accordance with land and resource management plan objectives, and are developed in collaboration with the cooperating Tribal government.

It is the responsibility of the Forest Supervisor to prepare a proposal response and recommendation for Regional Forester decision for TFPA proposals.

It is the responsibility of the Regional Forester to approve or deny any Tribal request under the TFPA through current level of delegated authority appropriate to the type of contract or agreement authority used.

The recommendation of what borders on or is adjacent to Indian forest land, rangelands, or a Tribal community shall be made by the district or forest line officer in consultation with the Indian Tribe and consideration of the threat potential, restoration objective, and other factors of Tribal affiliation with the land under proposal.

- The TFPA provides no definition of “adjacent to.” However, Black’s Law Dictionary defines the word “adjacent” as, *“Lying near or close to; sometimes contiguous; neighboring. Adjacent implies that the two objects are not widely separated, though they may not actually touch.”* Tribal landscape

connections based on subsistence or treaty activities, off-reservation trust resources, cultural practices, traditions and history, are all legitimate factors in helping to determine adjacency. Line officers will find the criteria provided under § 3115a (e)(2), *Give specific consideration to Tribally-related factors*, helpful in making a determination of adjacency (see above).

Project Considerations

- Road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality
- Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values
- Prescribed fires to improve composition, structure, condition, and health of stands or to improve wildlife habitat
- Vegetation removal or other activities to promote healthy forest stands, reduce fire hazards or achieve other land management objectives
- Watershed restoration and maintenance; aquatic passage restoration
- Restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds and reestablishing native plant communities
- Treatments for insect and disease control

Agreement or Contract

While the TFPA specifically says “an agreement or contract,” current directives at FSH 2409.19, Chapter 60 place emphasis on stewardship contacts or agreements to implement the intent of the TFPA. However, the line officer may utilize the full array of appropriate instruments, whether agreement or contract, to implement a TFPA proposal.

- [Current G&A templates](#) are not crafted to respect the unique bilateral relationship which exists between the United States and Tribal governments. A non-standard bilateral agreement using the stewardship model may be more respectful of Tribal sovereignty and may be considered. Additionally, nothing precludes the use of other models, including but not limited to, other participating or partnership agreements or service contract models. (See Addendum)
- In considering entering into Tribal agreements or contracts, the line officer may use a best value basis and give specific consideration to Tribally-related factors, such as historical and cultural affiliation with the land, treaty rights, agency/Tribal working relationships, landscape features, and others found in the Act.
- Combining TFPA and Stewardship authorities allow for:
 - Sole-source contracting/agreement
 - Contract term of up to ten years
 - Product value used to offset service work

CONCLUSION – TFPA UNDERUTILIZED

Out of concern for the lack of projects proposed under TFPA, in 2009 the Deputy Under Secretary, the Chief, and the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) engaged in a study to understand the reasons for the underutilization of the TFPA and to find ways to improve implementation of the TFPA on NFS lands. As of early 2012, only eleven TFPA projects have been proposed, none of them east of the Mississippi.

The study was conducted in three phases: 1) on-line survey of Forest Service staff and Tribes; 2) telephone interviews; and 3) site visits to field locations conducted in 2012. In the Eastern Region, the Chequamegon-Nicolet and the Chippewa National Forests were selected to host national site visits, representing NFS lands where potential for TFPA projects exist but have not yet occurred.

Site visit findings and recommendations:

- Forest Service Regions, National Forests, Congress and the general public are often not familiar with or aware of the TFPA and its potential use to improve collaboration and management of federal lands.

Continue to build this partnership through better integration of local NFS staff, and look for opportunities to leverage activities in ways that provide value to the landscape.

Continue to provide training on TFPA to both Tribes and NFS staff in order to ensure all parties are thinking about how the tool might be used to address joint forest health issues.

Continue to clarify, in policy guidance and forms, what TFPA allows, as well as acknowledge other potential tools that may be more appropriate to accomplish landscape goals.

- TFPA may not always be the most appropriate tool for building Tribal/Agency cooperation and addressing issues of interest to both the Tribe and Agency.

Continue to emphasize the importance of encouraging all local parties to meet regularly and look across boundaries to jointly accomplish broad landscape objectives, using the broad suite of available collaborative direction and initiatives, such as the new USFS Planning Rule, TFPA, Culture and Heritage Cooperation Authority (2008 Farm Bill) and others.

—END—

Contact: LARRY HEADY, Regional Tribal Relations Specialist (218) 626-4332
 MARY RASMUSSEN, Lake States Tribal Liaison (715) 479-2827



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

February 2013

Conservation Reserve Program

Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Benefits

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

CRP Administration

FSA administers CRP, while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts;
- Other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

CRP General Sign-Up

Producers can offer land for CRP general sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods. For information on upcoming sign-ups, contact a local FSA office. To find a local office, visit FSA's website at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=fsa>.

CRP Continuous Sign-Up

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at any time, when authorized, under CRP continuous sign-up. Certain eligibility requirements still apply, but offers are not subject to competitive bidding. Further information on CRP continuous sign-up is available in the FSA fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up."

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to close of the CRP sign-up period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Eligible Land

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity for four of the previous six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and that is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Additional Cropland Requirements

In addition to the eligible land requirements, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be enrolled in a CRP contract that expires Sep. 30 or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP Payments

FSA provides CRP participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments and cost-share assistance:

- **Rental Payments**

In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent using data provided by the National Agricultural Statistical Service or cash-rent equivalent as guidelines. The maximum CRP rental rate for each offer is calculated in advance of enrollment. Producers may offer land at that rate or offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

- **Cost-Share Assistance**

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be an amount not more than 50 percent of the participants' costs in establishing approved practices.

- **Other Incentives**

FSA may offer additional financial incentives of up to 20 percent of the annual payment for certain continuous sign-up practices.

Ranking CRP General Sign-Up Offers

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking. FSA uses the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage;
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff, and leaching;
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion;
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion;
- Cost.

For More Information

For more information on CRP, contact a local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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Patrick J. Pelky, President
 P.O Box 365, Oneida, Wisconsin 54155
 (920) 869-4590, ppelky1@oneidanation.org

WTCAC Donation Form

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC), formed in 2001, provides a forum for the 11 Native American Tribes in Wisconsin to identify and solve natural resource issues on tribal lands. The Council gives a strong voice to Tribes on conservation issues at the state and national level.

WTCAC has been determined to be tax exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to WTCAC are deductible under section 170 of the Code. WTCAC has been classified as a Public Charity under the Code Section 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi).

For WTCAC Records

Received from: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 The sum of \$ _____ as a contribution to the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council on this date of _____.

Donors Receipt

Received from _____ the sum of \$ _____
 as a contribution to the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council on this date of _____.



Signed by WTCAC Treasurer _____

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Forest County Potawatomi Community	Ho-Chunk Nation	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin	Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community	Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

2013 Tribal EQIP

Oneida Project	Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenerio	Payment/Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
			Planned	Units				
Grazing 1	Prescribed Grazing	528	17.1	ac	intensive	66.78	3,426.00	172.59
	Forage/Biomass Planting	512	17.1	ac	introduced species	213.21	3,646.00	
	Fence	382	5764	ft	electric exterior	1.33	7,667.00	
	Livestock Pipeline	516	1615	ft	year-round	2.28	3,683.00	
	Watering Facilities	614	3	ea	permanent 2 hole	590.81	1,773.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	432	sq ft	reinforced concrete flatwork	4.45	1,923.00	
	Obstruction Removal	500	0.2	ac	brush/trees < 6" diam	915.56	184.00	
	Animal Walkway	575	142	ft	construct walkway	0.89	127.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	4260	sq ft	animal access, graded rock, geotex	1.16	4,942.00	
	Total							
Grazing 2	Prescribed Grazing	528	21.6	ac	intensive	66.78	4,328.00	422.59
	Forage/Biomass Planting	512	21.6	ac	introduced species	213.21	4,606.00	
	Fence	382	6074	ft	electric exterior	1.33	8,079.00	
	Livestock Pipeline	516	1072	ft	year-round	2.28	2,445.00	
	Watering Facilities	614	1	ea	permanent 2 hole	590.81	591.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	144	sq ft	reinforced concrete flatwork	4.45	641.00	
	Animal Walkway	575	120	ft	construct walkway	0.89	107.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	3600	sq ft	animal access, graded rock, geotex	1.16	4,176.00	
	Stream Crossing	578	40	ft	culvert > 25" diam. single	64.29	2,572.00	
	Obstruction Removal	500	0.2	ac	brush/trees > 6" diam	1,851.35	371.00	
Livestock Pipeline	516	2060	ft	year-round	2.28	4,697.00		
Total							\$ 32,613.00	
Grazing 3	Prescribed Grazing	528	51.6	ac	intensive	66.78	10,338.00	422.59
	Forage/Biomass Planting	512	51.6	ac	introduced species	213.21	11,002.00	
	Fence	382	7818	ft	electric exterior	1.33	10,398.00	
	Fence	382	1823	ft	electric interior	1.00	1,823.00	
	Livestock Pipeline	516	1795	ft	year-round	2.28	4,093.00	
	Animal Walkway	575	75	ft	construct walkway	0.89	67.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	2250	sq ft	animal access, graded rock, geotex	1.16	2,610.00	
	Watering Facilities	614	1	ea	permanent 2 hole	590.81	591.00	
	Watering Facilities	614	1	ea	permanent 4 hole	905.28	906.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	288	sq ft	reinforced concrete flatwork	4.45	1,282.00	
Total							\$ 43,110.00	

Project	Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/ Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
			Planned	Units				
Bad River	Water Well Decommissioning	351	105	Ft	2 - Drilled Well Sealed with Bentonite	4.47	470.00	350.26
			150	Ft	2 - Drilled Well Sealed with Bentonite	4.47	671.00	
			135	Ft	2 - Drilled Well Sealed with Bentonite	4.47	604.00	
			215	Ft	2 - Drilled Well Sealed with Bentonite	4.47	962.00	
			137	Ft	2 - Drilled Well Sealed with Bentonite	4.47	613.00	
	Herbaceous Weed Control	315	6	Ac	5 - Chemical Aquatic	718.18	4310.00	
Total							\$ 7,630.00	

Project	Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/ Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
			Planned	Units				
Red Cliff	Roof Runoff Mgt	558	200	LF	4 - Trench Drain	10.72	2144.00	334.04
	Underground Outlet	620	250	LT	3 - CPT-8 inch	3.73	933.00	
	Critical Area Planting	342	1	ac	6 - Grass/Legume mix - heavy grading	1,089.57	1090.00	
	Grade Stabilization Structure	410	2176	Sq Ft	1 - Concrete Block or Rock Chute	7.99	17387.00	
	Lined Waterway Outlet	468	4250	Sq Ft	2 - Rock Lined - D50 <=6 inch	2.77	11773.00	
	Critical Area Planting	342	0.5	Ac	6 - Grass/Legume mix - heavy grading	1,089.57	545.00	
	Mulching	484	21780	Sq Ft	2 - Erosion Control Blanket	0.18	3921.00	
	Stream Crossing	578	2250	Sq Ft	2 - Paved Stream Crossing	3.78	8505.00	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	10000	Sq Ft	2 - Rock/Gravel Surfacing with Geotextile	1.04	10400.00	
	Stream Bank Shoreline Protection	580	125	foot	1 - Bioengineering	21.65	2707.00	
Aquatic Organism Passage	396	347.09	Cu Yd	2 - Blockage Removal - Mechanical	8.77	3044.00		
Total							\$ 62,449.00	

Project	Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/ Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
			Planned	Units				
Project 1	Obstructin Removal	500	0.5	ac	No.2 Removal & Disposal of Brush & Trees >6" dbh	1,851.35	926.00	70.37
	Livestock Pipeline	516	2,600	ft	No.4 PVC pipe for filling Aquaculture Ponds	7.54	19,604.00	
	Underground Outlet	620	1,760	ft	No.5 Dual wall >6" <=12"	8.19	14,415.00	
Total							\$ 34,945.00	
Project 2	Herbaceous Weed Control	315	100.75	ac	No. 5 Chemical Aquatic	718.18	72,357.00	356.55
	Total							
Project 3	Access Road	560	55	ft	No. 4 Gravel over Base Course	11.80	649.00	331.21
	Access Road	560	25	ft	No. 5. Gravel over Base course over Geotextile	17.69	443.00	
Total							\$ 1,092.00	

Forest County		Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
Project	Planned			Units					
Upland Hab.	Access Road	560	7340	ft	Gravel	7.27	53,362.00		
	Access Road	560	100	ft	Gravel over Base Course over Geotextile	17.69	1,769.00		
	Stream Crossing	578	60	ft	Culvert installation, < 25" Diam, Single Barrel	53.43	3,206.00		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt	645	1	ea	Snake Hibernaculum	803.03	804.00		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt	645	1	ea	Bat Boxes	86.04	87.00		
Total							\$ 59,228.00		
Wetland Hab.	Wetland Wildlife Management	644	3	ea	Wood Duck Nesting Box	79.79	240.00		
	Wetland Wildlife Management	644	25	ea	Woody Habitat, Off Site	126.13	3,154.00		
	Forest Stand Improvement	666	158	ac	Marking Only, Uneven Aged Stand, Com. Harv.	71.22	11,253.00		
Total							\$ 14,647.00		

Lac du Flambeau		Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
Project	Planned			Units					
Forest	Tree & Shrub Site Preparation	490	75.0	ac	Mechanical - Heavy	282.37	21,178.00		
	Tree & Shrub Establishment	612	75.0	ac	Hardwoods, Noncropland site (no foregone income)	493.38	37,004.00		
	Forest Stand Improvement	666	104.0	ac	Pre-commercial Thinning - Hand tools	266.22	27,687.00		
Total							\$ 85,869.00		
Nesting Boxes	Wetland Wildlife Management	644	10.0	ea	Wood Duck Nesting Box	79.79	798.00		
	Total							\$ 798.00	

Sokaogon		Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
Project	Planned			Units					
Sokaogon	Critical Area Planting	342	0.8	ac	Grass/legume mix-normal tillage	237.32	190.00		
	Forest Stand Improvement	666	154.8	ac	Pre-commercial Thinning - Hand tools	266.22	41,211.00		
Total							\$ 41,401.00		

Lac Courte Oreilles		Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity		Practice Scenario	Payment/Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score
Project	Planned			Units					
LCO	Forest Stand Improvement	666	160	ac	1-Pre-commercial thinning-hand tools	266.22	42,596.00		
	Wetland Wildlife Hab. Mgt.	644	5	ac	2-WildRice seeding	480.53	2,403.00	319.61	
Total							\$ 44,999.00		

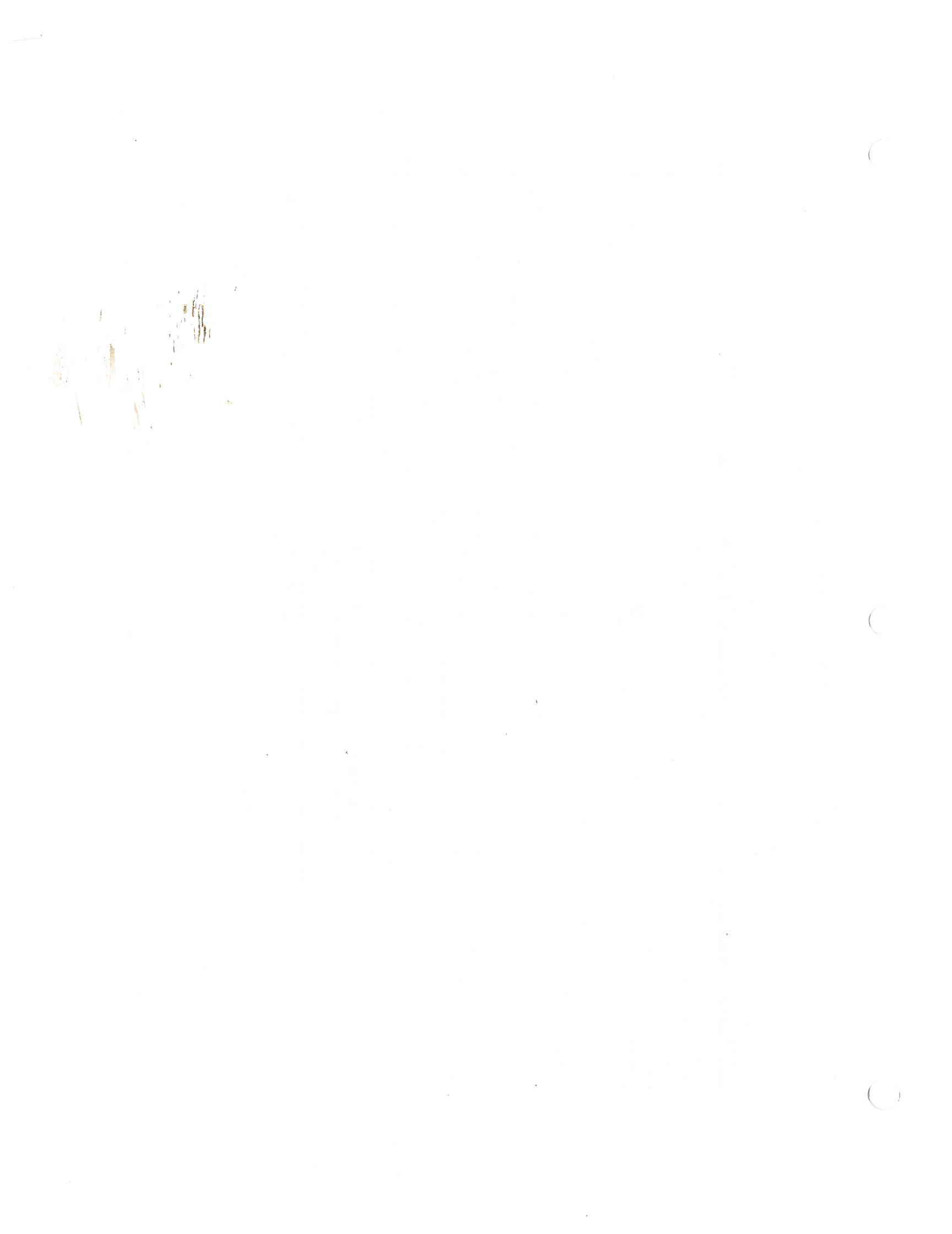
St Croix									
Project	Practice Name	Practice No.	Quantity Planned	Units	Practice Scenario	Payment/ Unit (\$)	Estimated Payment (\$)	Ranking Score	
FMP CAP 1	Forest Management Plan Cap	106	51-100	ac	FMP 51 - 100 acres	1,105.88	1106.00	900.00	
Total							\$ 1,106.00		
FMP CAP 2	Forest Management Plan Cap	106	101-200	ac	FMP 101 - 200 acres	1,690.88	1691.00	900.00	
Total							\$ 1,691.00		
FMP CAP 3	Forest Management Plan Cap	106	101-200	ac	FMP 101 - 200 acres	1,690.88	1691.00	900.00	
Total							\$ 1,691.00		
Tree Planting	Tree Shrub Site Preparation	490	5	ac	mechanical - light	49.18	246.00		
	Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	5	ac	conifer, machine planting	433.80	2169.00		
Total							\$ 2,415.00	311.53	

Applications by Ranking Score

Rank	Tribes - Project	Score	Funding Request	Running Total
1	St. Croix - FMP CAP 1	900.00	\$1,106.00	\$ 1,106.00
1	St. Croix - FMP CAP 2	900.00	\$1,691.00	\$ 2,797.00
1	St. Croix - FMP CAP 3	900.00	\$1,691.00	\$ 4,488.00
4				\$ 4,488.00
5				\$ 4,488.00
6				\$ 4,488.00
7				\$ 4,488.00
8				\$ 4,488.00
9				\$ 4,488.00
10				\$ 4,488.00
11				\$ 4,488.00
12				\$ 4,488.00
13				\$ 4,488.00
14				\$ 4,488.00
15				\$ 4,488.00
16				\$ 4,488.00
17				\$ 4,488.00
18				\$ 4,488.00

Distribution of Tribal 2013 EQIP Funds

Tribe	County	Funds (\$)		
		Requested	Approved	Needed
Bad River	Ashland	7,630.00	7,630.00	0.00
Red Cliff	Bayfield	62,449.00	62,449.00	0.00
Menominee	Menominee	108,394.00	73,449.00	34,945.00
Stockbridge-Munsee	Shawano	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forest County	Forest	73,875.00	59,228.00	14,647.00
Lac du Flambeau	Vilas	86,667.00	85,869.00	798.00
Sokaogon	Forest	41,401.00	41,401.00	0.00
Lac Courte Oreilles	Sawyer	44,999.00	44,999.00	0.00
Oneida	Outagamie	103,094.00	75,723.00	27,371.00
	Brown	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Croix	Burnett	6,903.00	6,903.00	0.00
Ho Chunk		0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals (\$)		535,412.00	457,651.00	77,761.00



Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA)

Public Law 108-278

July 22, 2004



Mary Rasmussen
US Forest Service
Tribal Liaison
906-202-2762

Tribal Forest Protection Act

- A tool for Tribes to propose work and enter into contracts and agreements with the Forest Service or BLM
- Projects occur on federal lands

TFPA Overview

Tribal proposals focus on Forest Service lands that:

- Border on or adjacent to Tribal lands;
- Pose a threat of fire, disease, or other threat to the Indian trust land or community **or is in need of restoration;**
- Not be subject to some other conflicting agreement or contract; and
- Involve a feature or circumstance unique to the proposing Tribe.

Overview Continued

To qualify, the Indian land must

- Border or be adjacent to Forest Service administered lands;
- Be in trust or restricted status;
- Be forested or have grass, brush, or other vegetative cover; and
- If burned over land, be capable of regenerating vegetative cover.

Tribally-Related Factors to Consider

- Federal recognition of the Indian Tribe;
- The trust status of the Tribally owned land;
- Cultural, traditional and historical affiliation of the Tribe with the land subject to the proposal;
- Treaty rights or other reserved rights of the Tribe;
- Indigenous knowledge and skills of tribal members;
- Landscape features of the land subject to the proposal;
- Working relationships between the Tribe and the Forest Service; and
- Access by members of the Tribe to the land subject to the proposal.

Collaboration!



Project Considerations

Before



After
Almost Done!

Stewardship Contracting Authority

- Contracting mechanism for managing Forest Service (FS) lands
- Accomplishes management objectives on FS lands in collaboration with partners
- Ability to trade goods for services

TFPA & Stewardship

- Sole source contracting or agreement
- Best Value basis/Tribally-related factors
- Contract term of up to ten years
- Product value used to offset service work

JW Toumey Nursery & Lac Vieux Desert Tribe Stewardship Contract

Threat = Tree species that could carry and transmit the Diplodia fungus to nursery seedlings



JW Toumey Nursery & Lac Vieux Desert Tribe Stewardship Contract

Goods = Timber

Services = Site Restoration



Conclusion

- TFPA underutilized
- 2009 Intertribal Timber Council, USDA & Forest Service Study

Findings & Recommendations

- Awareness
- Training
- Seek opportunities

Thank You!



FSA-2330
 (01-16-13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Farm Service Agency

Position 3

REQUEST FOR MICROLOAN ASSISTANCE

Instructions: All applicants must complete Part A. Individual applicants complete Parts B, D, F and G. Two or more persons applying jointly, including married persons, are considered an entity. Entities must complete Parts C, D, F and G. Entity members must use the sheets provided on Part E. Non-citizen nationals and qualified aliens must provide appropriate documentation under Federal immigration law. *Race, ethnicity, and gender information is requested by the Federal Government to monitor FSA's compliance with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination against applicants. Applicants are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. Failure to provide this information may result in not receiving targeted funds for which the applicant may be eligible. One or more boxes may be selected for race. This information will not be used to evaluate the application. FSA is required to note race, ethnicity and gender on the basis of observer identification if you do not furnish it.

PART A – APPLICANT

1. Exact Full Legal Name	2. Address	3. Contact Information:
		A. Home Telephone No. (Include Area Code)
		B. Cell Telephone No. (Include Area Code)
		C. E-Mail Address

PART B – INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Social Security Number (9 digit No.)	2. Birth Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	3. County of Operation Headquarters			
4. Veteran Status <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Dates:				
	Branch:				
5. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Unmarried	6. Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Non-citizen National <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified Alien	*7. Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	*8. Race <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	*9. Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	10. FSA Use Only <input type="checkbox"/> Provided <input type="checkbox"/> Observed

PART C – ENTITY APPLICANT INFORMATION

NOTE: Individual liability will be required regardless of the entity type. Informal entities may leave Items 2 through 4 blank, if not applicable. By signing in Part E you certify that you have read and understand the statements and certifications on Pages 4 through 6. Balance Sheet provided in Part E for entity member use.

1. Entity Type <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company		<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Operation (Including married filing together) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust
2. State of Registration		3. Registration Number	
4. Tax Identification Number (9 Digit No.)		5. Exact Full Legal Name of Primary Entity Contact	

Initials: _____ Date: _____

PART D – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF APPLICANT

PROJECTED ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES

1. INCOME:

A. DESCRIPTION <i>(Include income from crops and livestock):</i>	B. \$ Amount
Crop(s):	
Livestock:	
2. Total Annual Farm Income:	

3. EXPENSES:

A. DESCRIPTION:	B. \$ Amount
4. Total Annual Farm Expenses:	
5. Net Farm Income (Subtract Item 4 from Item 2):	
6. Total Annual Non-Farm Income:	
7. Total Annual Family Living Expenses:	
8. Net Non-Farm Income (Subtract Item 7 from Item 6):	
9. Net Total Annual Income (Add Item 5 to Item 8):	

ASSETS AND DEBTS (Farm and Non-Farm) as of:

10. ASSETS:		12. DEBTS:		
A. DESCRIPTION	B. \$ VALUE	A. CREDITOR	B. \$ PAYMENT	C. \$ BALANCE
11. TOTAL ASSETS:		13. TOTAL DEBTS:		
		14. Total Assets from Item 11:		
		15. Total Debts from Item 13: (-)		
		16. Net Worth (Subtract Item 15 from Item 14):		

Initials: _____ Date: _____

PART E – ENTITY APPLICANT INFORMATION

Instructions: Two or more persons, including married persons, who are applying jointly and do not have an entity name or Tax ID Number, will be considered a joint operation. In Part C, married persons applying jointly check the “Joint Operation” box. Complete Items 1A through 1I for each entity member. *Items 1J through 1L are voluntary. Provide balance sheet information for each entity member. Signature and Date blocks below must be completed for all entity members. Use separate Part E pages for each entity member.

NOTE: Individual liability will be required regardless of the entity type. By signing below in Item 9 you certify that you have read and understand the statements and certifications on Pages 4 through 6

1A. Exact Full Legal Name of Entity Member	1B. Social Security No. (9 Digit No.)	1C. Birth Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
1D. Address	1E. Contact Numbers	1F. Percent of Ownership %
		1G. Annual Non-Farm Income \$

1H. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Unmarried	1I. Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Non-citizen National <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified Alien	*1J. Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	*1K. Race <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	*1L. Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	1M. FSA Use Only <input type="checkbox"/> Provided <input type="checkbox"/> Observed
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Complete balance sheet below for entity member listed above in Item 1A. ASSETS AND DEBTS (Farm and Non-Farm) as of: [Enter Date]

2. ASSETS:		4. DEBTS:		
A. DESCRIPTION	B. \$ VALUE	A. CREDITOR	B. \$ PAYMENT	C. \$ BALANCE
3. TOTAL ASSETS:		5. TOTAL DEBTS:		
		6. Total Assets from Item 3:		
		7. Total Debts from Item 5: (-)		
		8. Net Worth (Subtract Item 7 from Item 6):		
9. Signature			10. Date	

Initials: _____ Date: _____

PART F – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Counties Being Farmed	2. Acres Owned	3. Acres Rented
4A. Purpose of Loan	4B. Amount Requested \$	
5. Describe your existing or planned operation, including a description of your existing or planned production:		
6. If not provided previously, describe fully all your farm training (include any applicable education such as animal husbandry, record-keeping, financial analysis, crop production, extension or other seminars, workshops, internships, or mentorships) and experience (include all past and present types of operations, duties and responsibilities). Include number of years farming, if you have ever operated farm. If you have or have had any involvement or membership with any agriculture-related organization (such as 4-H, FFA, National or State Grange organization, or an established community/urban farm initiative), please include details on how this experience will contribute to your operation. If you are working with a mentor for your operation, provide their full name, and describe the process of how this working relationship will provide the skills and knowledge you need to be successful in your farm operation. If you need additional space, use sheets of paper the same size as this page and write applicant's name on each individual sheet.		

PART G – NOTIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

	YES	NO
1. Are you currently or have you ever, and in the case of an entity any member of the entity, conducted business under any other name? <i>If "YES," list names in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you ever, or in the case of an entity any member of the entity, obtained a direct or guaranteed farm loan from FSA or Farmers Home Administration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. If Item 2 is "YES," did you receive any debt forgiveness through write-down, write-off, compromise, adjustment, reduction, charge-off, paying a loss on a guarantee, or bankruptcy? <i>If "YES," provide details in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are you, or in the case of an entity any member of the entity, delinquent on any Federal debt or have any outstanding Federal judgments? <i>If "YES," provide details in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you, or in the case of an entity any member of the entity, involved in any pending litigation? <i>If "YES," provide details in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you, or in the case of an entity any member of the entity, ever been in receivership, discharged in bankruptcy, or filed a petition for reorganization in bankruptcy? <i>If "YES," provide details in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are you, or in the case of an entity any member of the entity, an FSA employee or related to or closely associated with an FSA employee? <i>If "YES," provide details in Item 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Additional answers. Write the Item number to which each answer applies. If you need additional space, use sheets of paper the same size as this page and write the applicant's name on each additional sheet.		

Initials: _____ Date: _____

9. SPECIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Certain FSA programs are, by law, designed to reach targeted applicants. If you are interested in any of the programs described here, or have questions about these programs and whether you may qualify for a specific program, the FSA office processing your application will help you.

- A. SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED APPLICANTS:** A portion of FSA farm ownership, operating, and conservation loan funds are, by law, targeted to applicants who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of a group, without regard to individual qualities. Under the applicable law, groups meeting this condition are: American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women. In addition, FSA has a down payment program, which receives special funding.
- B. BEGINNING FARMER ASSISTANCE:** FSA has the authority to assist beginning farmers through the farm ownership, operating, and conservation loan programs. A portion of FSA farm ownership, operating, and conservation loan funds are, by law, targeted to beginning farmers. In addition, FSA has a down payment program, which receives special funding. In some States, FSA has agreements with State beginning farmer programs to help meet the credit needs of beginning farmers.
- C. LIMITED RESOURCE LOANS:** Limited resource farm ownership and operating loans are available to qualified applicants. This program provides loans at reduced interest rates to low-income farmers whose operations and resources are so limited that they cannot pay the regular rates for FSA loans. The program is also intended to provide beginning farmers the opportunity to start a successful farming operation.

10. RIGHTS AND POLICIES:

- A. RIGHT TO FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT OF 1978 (Public Law 95-630):** FSA has a right of access to financial records held by financial institutions in connection with providing assistance to you as well as collecting on loans made to you or guaranteed by the Government. Financial records involving your transaction will be available to FSA without further notice or authorization but will not be disclosed or released by this institution to another Government Agency or Department without your consent except as required by law.
- B. THE FEDERAL EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT:** Prohibits creditors from discriminating against applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), because all or a part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program, or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.
- C. FEDERAL COLLECTION POLICIES:** Delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures and abuses of mortgage loans involving programs of the Federal Government can be costly and detrimental to your credit, now and in the future. The mortgage lender in this transaction, its agents and assigns as well as the Federal Government, its agencies, agents and assigns, are authorized to take any and all of the following actions in the event loan payments become delinquent on the mortgaged loan described in the attached application: (1) Report your name and account information to a credit bureau; (2) Assess additional interest and penalty charges for the period of time that payment is not made; (3) Assess charges to cover additional administrative costs incurred by the Government to service your account; (4) Offset amounts owed to you under other Federal programs; (5) Refer your account to a private attorney, collection agency or mortgage servicing agency to collect the amount due, foreclose the mortgage, sell the property and seek judgment against you for any deficiency; (6) Refer your account to the Department of Justice for litigation; (7) If you are a current or retired Federal employee, take action to offset your salary, or civil service retirement benefits; (8) Refer your debt to the Department of the Treasury for cross-servicing and offset against any amount owed to you by any Federal Agency such as an income tax refund; and (9) Report any resulting written-off debt to the Internal Revenue Service as taxable income. All of these actions can and will be used to recover debts owed to the Federal Government when in its best interests.

11. RESTRICTIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:**A. The applicant:**

- (1) Certifies that if any funds, by or on behalf of the applicant, have been or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant or Federal loan, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, or loan, the applicant shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
- (2) Shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including contracts, subcontracts, and subgrants, under grants and loans) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Initials: _____ Date: _____

RESTRICTIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES: (CONTINUED)

B. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352.

12. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

The applicant certifies that as an individual, or any member of an entity applicant, has not been convicted under Federal or State law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance within the previous 5 crop years. See the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-198). The applicant also certifies that as an individual, or any member of an entity applicant, is not ineligible for Federal benefits based on a conviction for the distribution of controlled substances or any offense involving the possession of a controlled substance under 21 U.S.C. § 862.

13. DISQUALIFICATION DUE TO FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE FRAUD:

The applicant certifies that as an individual or any member of the entity, has not been disqualified for Federal benefits as provided in Section 515(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA). Applicants who willfully and intentionally provide false or inaccurate information to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or to an approved insurance provider with respect to a policy or plan of FCIC insurance, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, will be subject to one or more of the sanctions described in Section 515(h)(3) of FCIA.

14. TEST FOR CREDIT:

The applicant certifies that the needed credit, with or without a loan guarantee, cannot be obtained by (1) the individual applicant; (2) in the case of an entity, considering all assets owned by the entity and all of the individual members.

15. PERMISSION TO FILE FINANCING STATEMENT, ORDER A CREDIT REPORT, AND VERIFY CREDIT INFORMATION:

Under the Uniform Commercial Code, you do not have to sign the financing statement which allows FSA to obtain a security interest in your property. If the loan is approved and funded, FSA will file a financing statement at the earliest possible date, before you enter into a **SECURITY AGREEMENT. BY SIGNING BELOW OR PART E, I GIVE FSA PERMISSION TO FILE A FINANCING STATEMENT PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF THE SECURITY AGREEMENT AS WELL AS TO FILE AMENDMENTS AND CONTINUATIONS OF THE FINANCING STATEMENT THEREAFTER. I FURTHER AUTHORIZE FSA TO ORDER A CREDIT REPORT AND VERIFY ANY OTHER CREDIT INFORMATION.**

16. CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information provided is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and is provided in good faith to obtain a loan. (WARNING: Section 1001 of Title 18, United States Code, provides for criminal penalties to those who provide false statements to the Government. If any information is found to be false or incomplete, such finding may be grounds for denial of the requested action).

17A. SIGNATURE OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED ENTITY REPRESENTATIVES	17B. TITLE/RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL IF SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY	17C. DATE
PART H - FSA USE ONLY		
1. Date FSA-2330 Received	2. Amount of Credit Report Fee and Date Received \$	

NOTE: *The following is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1921 et. seq.). The information will be used to determine eligibility and feasibility for loans and loan guarantees, and servicing of loans and loan guarantees. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, and local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in the applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-14, Applicant/Borrower. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information may result in a denial for loans and loan guarantees, and servicing of loans and loan guarantees. The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is ~~0560-0237~~. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 90 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.***

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 or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited 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.

**REQUEST FOR MICROLOAN ASSISTANCE
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION**

Purpose: This form is used to obtain information from applicants applying for FSA operating loans through the microloan application process.	
Handbook Reference: 1-FLP and 3-FLP	Number of Copies: Original only
Signatures Required: Original by Individual applicant or Authorized Entity Representative	
Distribution of Copies: County Office Case File	
Automation-Related Transactions: DLS	

All applicants complete Part A. Individual applicants complete Parts B, D, F and G. Entities complete Parts C, D, F and G; Part E if applicable. FSA completes Part H.

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
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PART A – Applicant

Items 1 – 3 are completed by all applicants.

1 Exact Full Legal Name	Enter the applicant’s exact full legal name, and list all names the business is currently using.
2 Address	Enter applicant’s complete mailing address, physical address if different from mailing address. If operating as an entity, list where incorporated or otherwise registered.
3 Contact Information	Enter the applicant’s home or cell telephone number, as applicable, and e-mail address.

PART B – Individual Applicant Information

*Items 1 – 9 are completed by the applicant. *Items 7-9 are voluntary. Item 10 is for FSA use only.*

1 Social Security No.	Enter applicant’s Social Security Number (9-digit number).
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<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
2 Birth Date	Enter applicant's date of birth.
3 County of Operation Head-Quarters	Enter the county where the operation headquarters is located.
4 Veteran Status	Check "YES" if applicant is a veteran and enter the appropriate dates of service and branch of the military. Check "NO" if not a veteran.
5 Marital Status	Check the appropriate block depending on whether the applicant is married, separated or unmarried.
6 Citizenship	Check "Citizen" if applicant is a U.S. citizen. Check "Non-citizen National" if applicant is a non-citizen national. Check "Qualified Alien" if applicant is a qualified alien. If non-citizen national or qualified alien, applicant must provide a copy of appropriate documentation of immigration status.
7 *Ethnicity	Check the appropriate box indicating applicant's ethnicity.
8 *Race	Check the appropriate box indicating the applicant's race. More than one box may be checked.
9 *Gender	Check the appropriate box indicating the applicant's gender.
10 FSA Use Only	Check the appropriate box indicating if the information collected was provided or observed.

PART C – Entity Applicant Information

Items 1 – 5 are applicable to entities. Informal entities may leave Items 2-4 blank, if not applicable.

1 Entity Type	Check the appropriate box indicating the entity type.
2 State of Registration	Enter the State where the entity is registered.
3 Registration No.	Enter the entity's registration number.
4 Tax ID No.	Enter the entity's Tax Identification number (<i>9-digit number</i>).
5 Exact Full Legal Name of Primary Entity Contact	Enter the exact full legal name of the primary entity contact.

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
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PART D – Financial Statements of Applicant

Individual applicants and entities will fill out this part. Entity members will provide their financial statement information on Part E.

1A Income Description	Describe the projected farm income source (type of crop(s), livestock, etc).
1B Amount	Enter the projected annual dollar amount for each source.
2 Total Annual Farm Income	Enter the total dollar amount of projected annual farm income.
3A Expenses Description	Describe the projected farm expenses.
3B Amount	Enter the projected annual dollar amount for each of the farm expenses listed in Item 3A.
4 Total Annual Farm Expenses	Add the amounts entered for 3B and enter the total amount here.
5 Net Farm Income	Subtract Item 4 from Item 2 above and enter dollar amount here. This is your total projected net farm income.
6 Total Annual Non-Farm Income	Enter the dollar amount of total annual projected non-farm income (do not include farm income in this estimate).
7 Total Annual Family Living Expenses	Enter the dollar amount of total projected annual family living expenses (do not include farm expenses in this estimate).
8 Net Non-Farm Income	Subtract Item 7 from Item 6 above and enter dollar amount here. This is your total projected net non-farm income.
9 Net Total Annual Income	Add Item 5 to Item 8 and enter dollar amount here. This is your total projected net annual income from farm and non-farm sources.
10A Assets Description	Enter description of assets owned by applicant.

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
10B Value	Enter the dollar value of each asset listed.
11 Total Assets	Add the value of each asset listed in Item 10B above and enter the total dollar value here.
12A Creditor	List the name(s) of creditors.
12B Payment	Enter the annual dollar amount of payments due to each of the creditors listed.
12C Balance	Enter the total balance due (as of Balance Sheet Date) to each of the creditors listed.
13 Total Debts	Add the balance due for each debt listed in Item 12C above and enter the total dollar value here.
14 Total Assets	Enter the dollar amount from Item 11.
15 Total Debts	Enter the dollar amount from Item 13.
16 Net Worth	Subtract Item 15 from Item 14 and enter the dollar amount here.

PART E – Entity Applicant Information

*Items 1A – 10 are applicable to entity members. *Items 1J – 1L are voluntary. Each entity member will complete Part E. Part E can be duplicated as needed.*

1A Exact Full Legal Name of Entity Member	Enter the individual member’s exact full legal name.
1B Social Security Number	Enter the individual member’s social security number (<i>9 digit number</i>).
1C Birth Date	Enter the individual member’s birth date.
1D Address	Enter the individual member’s complete address.
1E Contact Numbers	Enter the individual member’s contact numbers.
1F Percent of Ownership	Enter the individual member’s percentage of ownership in the entity.
1G Annual Non	Enter the individual member’s gross annual non-farm income in U.S. dollars.

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
Farm Income	
1H Marital Status	Check the appropriate box to indicate the individual member's marital status as married, separated or unmarried.
1I Citizenship	Check the appropriate box to indicate the individual member's status as a citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien.
1J *Ethnicity	Check the appropriate box to indicate the individual member's ethnicity.
1K *Race	Check the appropriate box to indicate the individual member's race.
1L *Gender	Check the appropriate box to indicate the individual member's gender.
1M FSA Use Only	Check the appropriate box indicating if the information collected was provided or observed.
2A Assets Description	Enter description of assets owned by the individual member.
2B Value	Enter the dollar value of each asset listed.
3 Total Assets	Add the value of each asset listed in Item 2B above and enter the total dollar value here.
4A Creditor	List the name(s) of creditors.
4B Payment	Enter the annual dollar amount of payments due to each of the creditors listed.
4C Balance	Enter the total balance due (as of Balance Sheet Date) to each of the creditors listed.
5 Total Debts	Add the balance due for each debt listed in Item 4C above and enter the total dollar value here.
6 Total Assets	Enter the dollar amount from Item 3.
7 Total Debts	Enter the dollar amount from Item 5.
8 Net Worth	Subtract Item 7 from Item 6 and enter the dollar amount here.
9 Signature	Enter the individual member's signature to indicate that they have read the statements and certifications on Pages 3 through 5.
10 Date	Enter the date the individual member signed the form.

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
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PART F – General Information

Items 1 – 6 are completed by all applicants.

1 Counties Being Farmed	Enter the names of the counties which are being farmed by the operation.
2 Acres Owned	Enter the number of acres that the individual/entity owns.
3 Acres Rented	Enter the number of acres that the individual/entity rents.
4A Purpose of Loan	Enter the purpose the loan funds will be used for.
4B Amount Requested	Enter the amount of loan funds requested.
5 Description of Operation	Enter a description of the operation.
6 Description of Training	Enter a description of the applicant’s farm training and experience. Include number of years farming, involvement with agriculture-related organizations, and details of apprenticeship, if applicable.

PART G – Notifications, Certification and Acknowledgement

Items 1 – 17C are completed by all applicants.

1 Business Under Other Name	Check “YES” if you or any member of the entity ever conducted business under any other name, otherwise check “NO”. If “YES” provide names used in Item 8.
2 Previous FSA or FmHA Loans	Check “YES” if you or any member of the entity ever obtained a direct or guaranteed farm loan from FSA or the Farmers Home Administration; if not check “NO”.
3 Debt Forgiveness	If Item 2 is “YES”, check “YES” if the government ever forgave any debt through a write-down, write-off, compromise, adjustment, reduction, charge-off, paying a loss on a guarantee, or bankruptcy. If “YES”, provide details in Item 8; otherwise check “NO”.
4 Delinquent on Federal Debt	Check “YES” if you or any member of the entity is delinquent on any federal debt (i.e. “Federal Debt” includes but is not limited to education loans, delinquent taxes, obligations at Natural Resources Conservation Service, obligations to FCIC, etc.) If “YES,” provide details in Item 8, otherwise check

<i>Fld Name / Item No.</i>	<i>Instruction</i>
	"NO".
5 Pending Litigation	Check "YES" if you or any member of the entity or the entity itself is involved in any pending litigation. If "YES," provide details in Item 8, otherwise check "NO".
6 Bankruptcy	Check "YES" if you or any member of the entity has ever been in receivership, been discharged, or filed a petition for reorganization in bankruptcy. If "YES," provide details in Item 8, otherwise check "NO".
7 Employee Relationship	Check "YES" if you are an employee, related to an employee, or closely associated with an employee of the Farm Service Agency. If not, check "NO." If "YES" provide details in Item 8.
8 Additional Answers	Provide explanations to any "YES" responses for Items 1 – 7. Use additional sheets as necessary.
9 – 16 Statements	Read statements and certifications in Items 9 – 16.
17A Signature	Enter the signature of the individual applicant or the authorized entity representatives.
17B Title/relationship	Enter the title/relationship of the individual if signing in a representative capacity.
17C Date	Enter the date the applicant signed.

Part H – FSA Use Only

Items 1 – 2 completed by FSA.

1 Date Received	Enter the date FSA-2330 Received in Service Center.
2 Credit Report Fee	Enter the credit report fee and the date it is received in the Service Center.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Columbia County FSA Office
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-5361
Fax: 608-742-0194

Farm Service Agency (FSA) REPORT TO WTCAC – February 21, 2013

By Susan Hunter, FSA Tribal Liaison, (608) 742-5361 ext 104, susan.hunter@wi.usda.gov

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Possibly Sequestration March 1 – Congress reconvenes next week and unless they take action prior to March 1, FSA will have to enact an additional 5% cut if the sequestration takes effect. This could possibly include employee furloughs in FSA from the county to the national levels. All USDA agencies are funded differently. Some agencies, such as FSA, receives funding for salaries and expenses SEPARATELY from program dollars. Others, like NRCS, receive some salary and expense money from program dollars. For this reason, sequestration will impact all USDA agencies a bit differently. WI FSA has been preparing for this and enacted a 2% cut in staffing and expenses last December and are preparing for the possible additional 5% cut. The current Continuing Resolution (CR) period for USDA runs through March 27, 2013 which includes a hard freeze on hiring. Hopefully USDA can agree on a 2013 Budget before March 27th.

NEW - MICROLOANS: (see attached fact sheet) The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations by modifying its Operating Loan (OL) application, eligibility and security requirements. The program will offer more flexible access to credit and will serve as an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). These smaller farms, including non-traditional farm operations, often face limited financing options. Maximum loan amount is \$35,000 and can be a one-year annual loan for inputs or a 2-5 year term loan. Applicants must not be able to get funding elsewhere to be eligible. Operating loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises, including earthworms, exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs or horses used for non-farm purposes (racing, pleasure, show and boarding).
February Interest Rates: 1 year annual and 7-year operating loans – 1.125%

NEW – 45th General CRP SIGNUP: May 20 – June 14 (see attached fact sheet) FSA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from May 20 to June 14. Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP nationwide. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife will be announced in spring 2013.

Hispanic and Women Claim Process (HWCP) Hispanic and women farmers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades have until March 25, 2013 to participate in the claim process. This process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. Claimants may register for a claims package by calling 1-888-508-4429 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Central Time or by downloading the forms from the website. Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

2013 Guide to FSA Programs (see attached fact sheet) This fact sheet gives a brief overview of all 2013 programs that are administered by FSA nationwide.



Microloans

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

FSA Supports Local Farmers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations by modifying its Operating Loan (OL) application, eligibility and security requirements. The program will offer more flexible access to credit and will serve as an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). These smaller farms, including non-traditional farm operations, often face limited financing options.



Use of Microloans

Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan Program, including but not limited to:

- Initial start-up expenses;
- Annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents;
- Marketing and distribution expenses;
- Family living expenses;
- Purchase of livestock, equipment, and other materials essential to farm operations;
- Minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers;
- Hoop houses to extend the growing season;
- Essential tools;
- Irrigation;
- Delivery vehicles.

Simplified Application Process

The application process for microloans will be simpler, requiring less paperwork to fill out, to coincide with the smaller loan amount that will be associated with microloans.



Requirements for managerial experience and loan security have been modified to accommodate smaller farm operations, beginning farmers and those with no farm management experience. FSA understands that there will be applicants for the ML program who want to farm but do not have

traditional farm experience or have not been raised on a farm or within a rural community with agriculture-affiliated organizations. ML program applicants will need to have some farm experience; however, FSA will consider an applicant's small business experience as well as any experience with a self-guided apprenticeship as a means to meet the farm management requirement. This will assist applicants who have limited farm skills by providing them with an opportunity to gain farm management experience while working with a mentor during the first production and marketing cycle.

Security Requirements

For annual operating purposes, microloans must be secured by a first lien on a farm property or agricultural products having a security value of at least 100 percent of the microloan amount, and up to 150 percent, when available. Microloans made for purposes other than annual operating expenses must be secured



by a first lien on a farm property or agricultural products purchased with loan funds and having a security value of at least 100 percent of the microloan amount.

Rates and Terms

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates are based on the regular OL rates that are in effect at the time of the microloan approval or microloan closing, whichever is less.

More Information and Eligibility Criteria

Additional information on the FSA microloan program may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.



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

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



How Can You Be Involved?

The sooner you become involved, the sooner restoration projects will take place. Ask your stewardship contact if there are any ongoing projects or ones in the developmental stages. You can get involved and help others get involved in an existing stewardship project or even start one.

Contact

Contact the regional Forest Service office or the national office to ask specific questions about Stewardship Contracting.

Contacts and more information may be found at the following Web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml>

For information about your local national forest, grassland, and ranger district, visit

<http://www.fs.fed.us/>



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

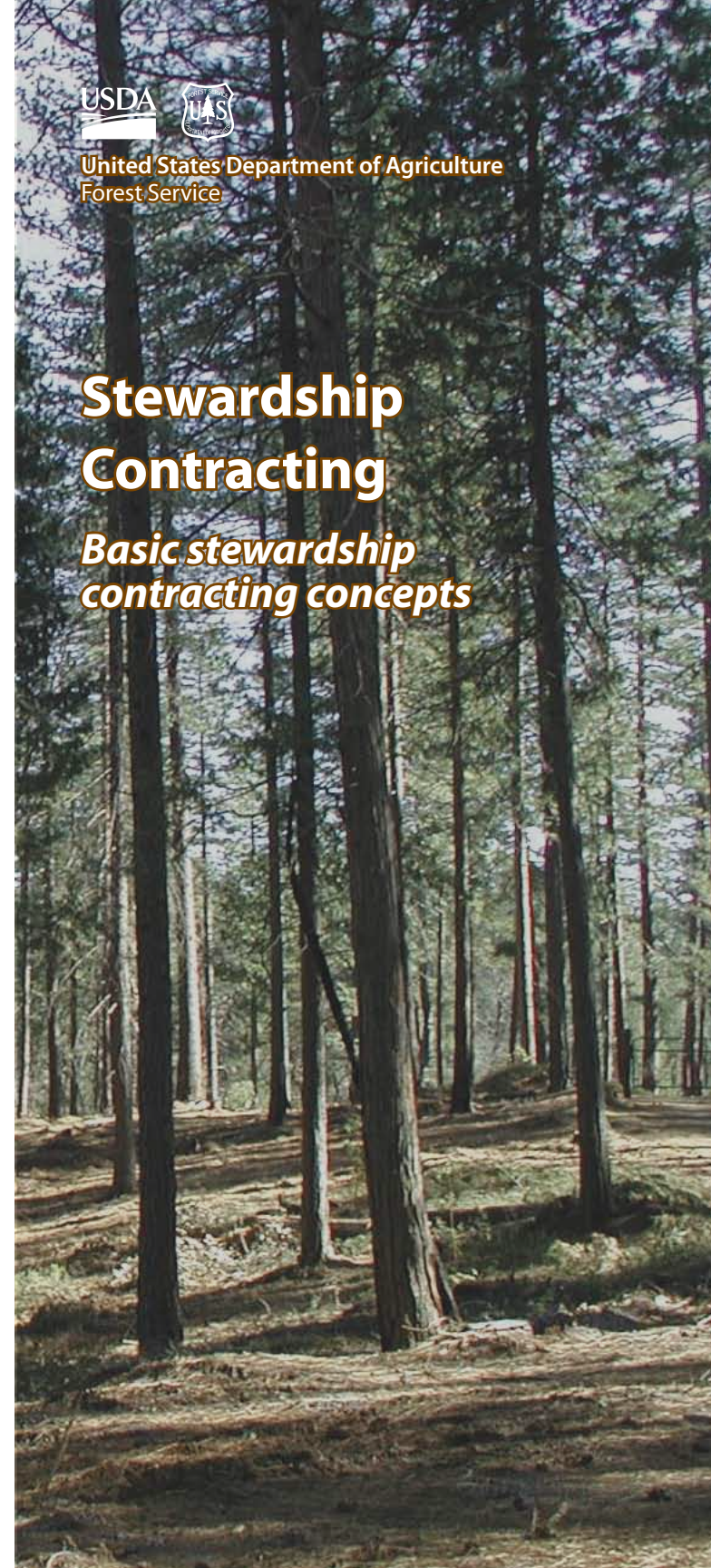
FS-893
August 2009



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Stewardship Contracting

Basic stewardship contracting concepts



Key Stewardship Goals Include:

- **Improve, maintain, and restore forest and rangeland health**
- **Restore/maintain water quality**
- **Improve fish/wildlife habitat**
- **Re-establish native plant species and increase their resilience**
- **Reduce hazardous fuel**

What Is Stewardship Contracting?

Stewardship contracting helps achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities and providing a continuing source of local income and employment. It focuses on the “end result” ecosystem benefits and outcomes, rather than on what’s removed from the land.

Under Section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Land Management have been granted authority, until September 30, 2013, to enter into stewardship contracting projects for up to 10 years in length.

How Are Stewardship Contracts Used?

Stewardship contracting combines restoration activities on National Forest System lands into contract or agreement packages. Forest Service staff may use stewardship contracting as a tool to achieve restoration objectives identified through forest planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes.

Forest Service staff collaborate to build community partnerships with cooperating Federal, State, and local government agencies; tribal governments; nongovernmental organizations; and any interested groups or individuals to develop projects. Examples of interested groups or individuals include resource advisory committees, fire safe councils, resource

conservation districts, conservation groups, and watershed councils. Project proposals can be initiated from external sources as well as from within the agency.

What Is Unique About Stewardship Contracting?

Stewardship contracting provides the ability to...

- Bundle several contracts into one to treat a landscape
- Trade goods for services
- Retain receipts from forest products that need to be removed to meet restoration objectives and apply the receipts to needed service work within the stewardship project area
- Retain receipts and transfer them to another approved stewardship project
- Use multiyear and multiple-year contracts and agreements up to 10 years in length
- Collaborate upfront and throughout project development and implementation with government agencies, tribal governments, local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and any interested groups or individuals
- Use Best Value contracting to evaluate contractors’ proposals

How Does It Work?

When the Forest Service trades goods for services, most projects are incorporated into a single Integrated Resource Contract (IRC). An IRC includes forest product removal (goods) and restoration projects (services), which are offset by the value of the goods. One contractor is responsible for completing all work. The contractor may use subcontractors. The Forest Service solicits proposals from individuals and groups to accomplish land management goals. The quality of a proposal, expertise, and past performance of a contractor, as well as price, are key factors in awarding a contract or entering into an agreement on a Best Value basis.



What Are the Steps to Project Approval?

All project proposals created from a national forest/community partnership are coordinated with a district ranger. The district ranger submits a written proposal to the forest supervisor, who coordinates with the regional forester for project approval.

What Is the Stewardship Area?

A stewardship area is designated by the partnership. It can range from a stream corridor to an entire basin. Forest product removal and restoration projects can be implemented anywhere within the designated area.

How Can Funds Be Spent?

The exchange of goods for services must implement on-the-ground projects, such as removing vegetation to promote healthy forests or reduce wildfire hazards, restoring watershed areas, and restoring wildlife and fish habitat. In cases where the value of the goods is greater than the costs of the services, the Forest Service collects and retains the excess receipts. These retained receipts may be used to implement other stewardship contracts/agreements. Stewardship contracting funds may not be spent on such things as Forest Service overhead and salaries, construction of administrative or major developed recreation facilities, research, and land acquisition.



PUBLIC LAW 108-278—JULY 22, 2004

TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Public Law 108–278
108th Congress

An Act

July 22, 2004
[H.R. 3846]

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement or contract with Indian tribes meeting certain criteria to carry out projects to protect Indian forest land.

Tribal Forest
Protection Act
of 2004.
25 USC 3101
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004”.

25 USC 3115a.

SEC. 2. TRIBAL FOREST ASSETS PROTECTION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means—

(A) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) **INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.**—The term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means land that—

(A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction against alienation by, the United States for an Indian tribe or a member of an Indian tribe; and

(B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined in section 304 of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103)); or

(II) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any similar vegetation; or

(ii) formerly had a forest cover or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration.

(3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits to the Secretary a request to enter into an agreement or contract to carry out a project to protect Indian forest land or rangeland (including a project to restore Federal land that borders on or is adjacent to Indian forest land or rangeland) that meets the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary may issue public notice of initiation of any necessary environmental review or of the potential of entering into an agreement or contract with the Indian tribe pursuant to section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note; Public Law 105-277) (as amended by section 323 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003 (117 Stat. 275)), or such other authority as appropriate, under which the Indian tribe would carry out activities described in paragraph (3). Deadline.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—Following completion of any necessary environmental analysis, the Secretary may enter into an agreement or contract with the Indian tribe as described in paragraph (1).

(3) ACTIVITIES.—Under an agreement or contract entered into under paragraph (2), the Indian tribe may carry out activities to achieve land management goals for Federal land that is—

(A) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(B) bordering or adjacent to the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in subsection (b), with respect to an Indian tribe, are whether—

(1) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe borders on or is adjacent to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management land bordering on or adjacent to the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe—

(A) poses a fire, disease, or other threat to—

(i) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; or

(ii) a tribal community; or

(B) is in need of land restoration activities;

(3) the agreement or contracting activities applied for by the Indian tribe are not already covered by a stewardship contract or other instrument that would present a conflict on the subject land; and

(4) the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management land described in the application of the Indian tribe presents or involves a feature or circumstance unique to that Indian tribe (including treaty rights or biological, archaeological, historical, or cultural circumstances).

(d) NOTICE OF DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies a tribal request under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may issue a notice of denial to the Indian tribe, which—

(1) identifies the specific factors that caused, and explains the reasons that support, the denial;

(2) identifies potential courses of action for overcoming specific issues that led to the denial; and

(3) proposes a schedule of consultation with the Indian tribe for the purpose of developing a strategy for protecting the Indian forest land or rangeland of the Indian tribe and interests of the Indian tribe in Federal land.

(e) PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION FACTORS.—In entering into an agreement or contract in response to a request of an Indian tribe under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may—

(1) use a best-value basis; and

(2) give specific consideration to tribally-related factors in the proposal of the Indian tribe, including—

(A) the status of the Indian tribe as an Indian tribe;

(B) the trust status of the Indian forest land or rangeland of the Indian tribe;

(C) the cultural, traditional, and historical affiliation of the Indian tribe with the land subject to the proposal;

(D) the treaty rights or other reserved rights of the Indian tribe relating to the land subject to the proposal;

(E) the indigenous knowledge and skills of members of the Indian tribe;

(F) the features of the landscape of the land subject to the proposal, including watersheds and vegetation types;

(G) the working relationships between the Indian tribe and Federal agencies in coordinating activities affecting the land subject to the proposal; and

(H) the access by members of the Indian tribe to the land subject to the proposal.

(f) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) prohibits, restricts, or otherwise adversely affects the participation of any Indian tribe in stewardship agreements or contracting under the authority of section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note; Public Law 105-277) (as amended by section 323 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003 (117 Stat. 275)) or other authority invoked pursuant to this Act; or

(2) invalidates any agreement or contract under that authority.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that

describes the Indian tribal requests received and agreements or contracts that have been entered into under this Act.

Approved July 22, 2004.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3846:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 108-509, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 150 (2004):

June 21, considered and passed House.

June 25, considered and passed Senate.





Why Microloans?

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

Is a Microloan right for me?

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations by modifying its Operating Loan (OL) application, eligibility and security requirements. The program will offer more flexible access to credit and will serve as an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). These smaller farms, including non-traditional farm operations, often face limited financing options. Below is a side by side comparison of FSA's traditional operating loan program and the new Microloan program.



Differences between Regular Operating Loans (OL) and Microloans

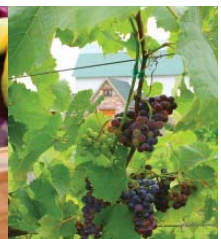
Regular OL	Microloan
Standard application form	Microloan application form
All debt verifications and Credit Bureau Report	Credit Bureau Report only
\$300,000 max	\$35,000 max
Standard farm assessment & credit presentation	Abbreviated credit presentation
Full balance sheet	Simplified balance sheet
Detailed income & expense sheet	Cash flow budget-summary only
Verification of employment	Verify income only if needed for repayment
Three years of production records	Past yield only if available & practicable
Standard policy on loan security	Other options available for loan security
Lien on personal residence/non-essential assets if necessary	No lien on residence or non-essential assets
One full year experience and managerial ability	Having a mentor or other experience allowed

More Information and Eligibility Criteria

Additional information on the FSA microloan program may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.



A small farm operation selling at a farmers markets qualify for microloans!



Even though I sell my produce in shares (CSA) and do not have individual yields, I still qualify for microloans!



There is a lot less paper-work with a microloan.



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

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



An Overview of NFWF



WTCAC
February 21, 2013



NFWF

ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior
 - Includes FWS Director & NOAA Administrator

WHAT WE DO

- Sustain, restore, enhance the nation's natural heritage
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies & private funders
- Create common ground among diverse interests

HOW WE DO IT

- Leverage private money with public funding – average 3:1
- On-the-ground conservation projects through grant making

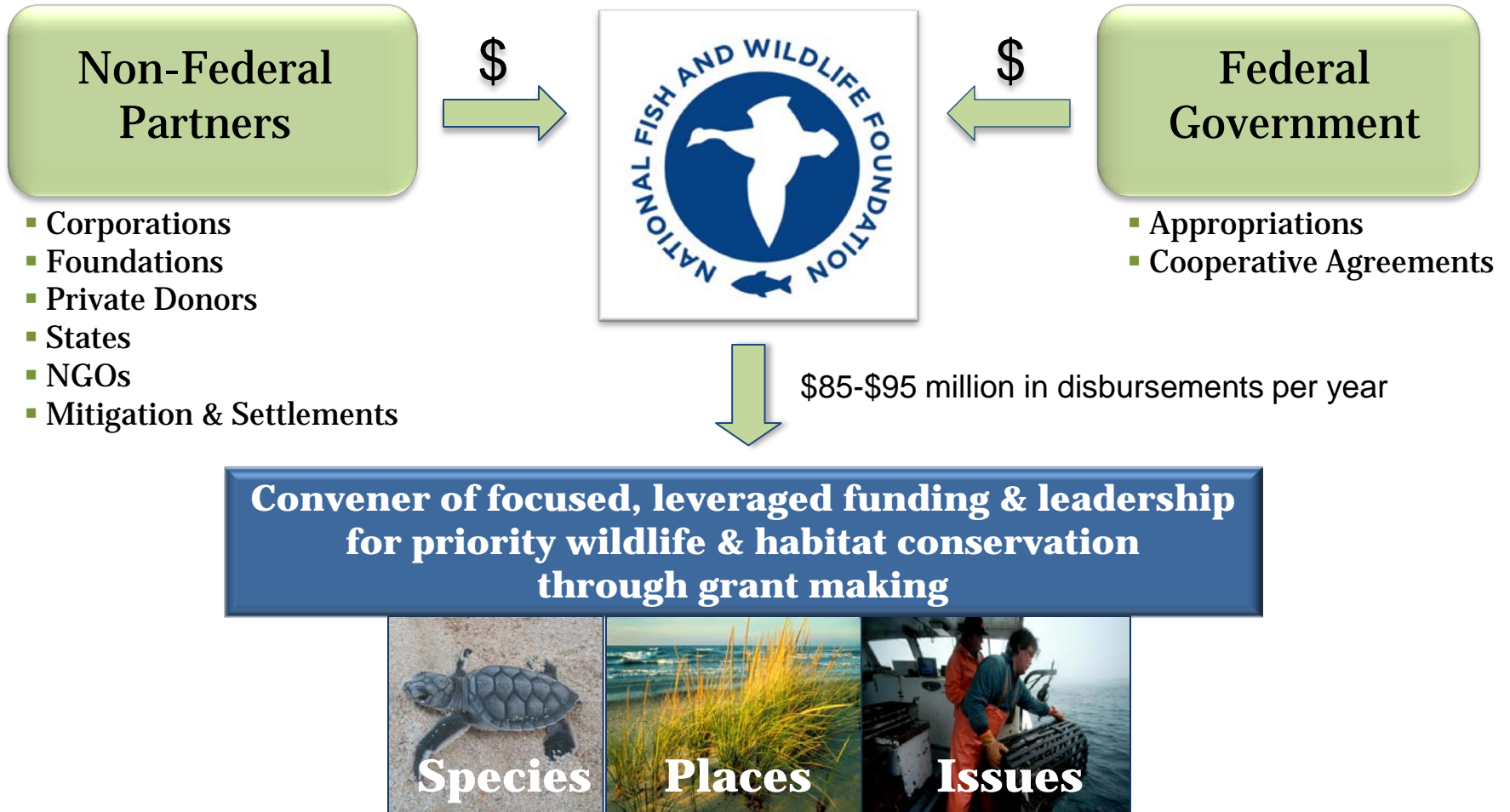


UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF NFWF

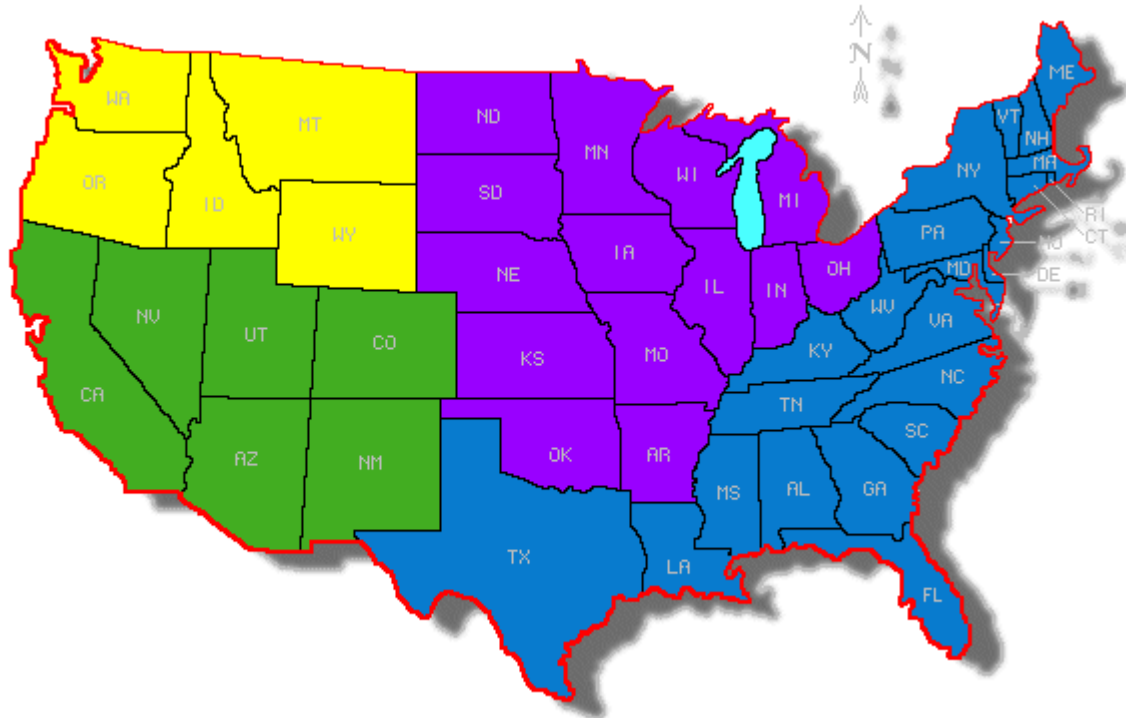
- Congressionally chartered
- Neutral politically
- Reports to Congress
- Subject to GAO & IG review
- Congressional notification
- Fully transparent



How We Do It



NFWF REGIONAL CONTACTS



-  Eastern Partnership Office
-  Central Partnership Office
-  Western Partnership Office
-  Southwestern Partnership Office

Krystyna Wolniakowski

Western

(503) 417-8700

Mike Chrisman

Southwestern

(415) 243-3101

Donn Waage

Central

(612) 564-7284

David O'Neill

Eastern

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Tim DiCintio

Nationwide – Mitigation & Settlements

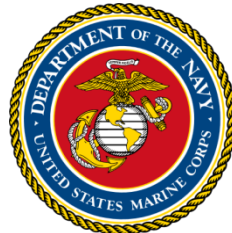
(202) 595-2466



NFWF

CURRENT FEDERAL PARTNERS

14 Major Federal Partners



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



NFWF

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS



NFWF PROGRAMS IN WISCONSIN

- **Sustain Our Great Lakes (watershed)**
- **Conservation Partners/Upper Mississippi River**
- **America's Great Outdoors: Next Generation of Cons. Leaders**
- **Early Successional Habitat**
- **Environmental Solutions for Communities (Wells Fargo)**
- **Kirtland's Warbler (MI)**
- **Pulling Together Initiative**
- **Acres for America**



SUSTAIN OUR GREAT LAKES

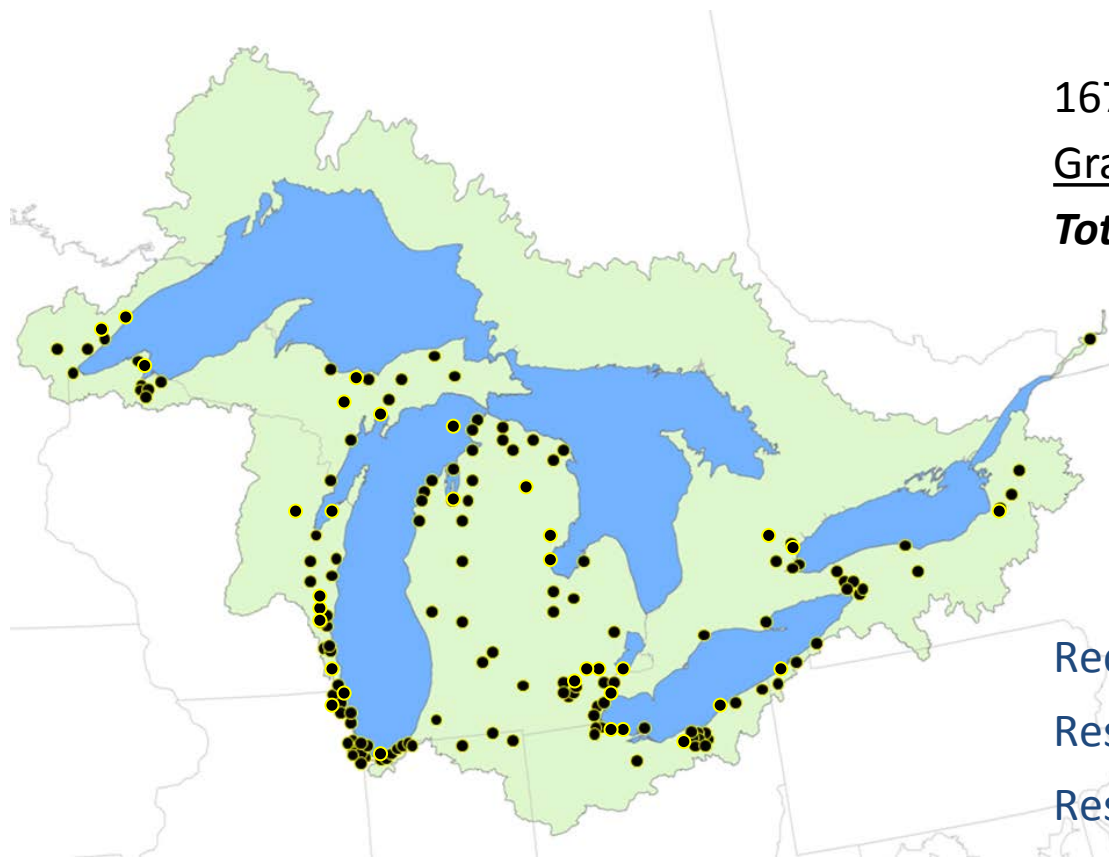


NFWF

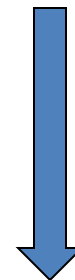
- Sustain and restore fish, wildlife and habitat in the Great Lakes basin
- Public–private partnership
 - ✓ 5 federal agencies (EPA, FWS, FS, NOAA, NRCS)
 - ✓ 1 corporate sponsor (ArcelorMittal)
- Funding for:
 - ✓ Habitat restoration
 - ✓ Delisting of AOC Beneficial Use Impairments
 - ✓ Private landowner technical assistance



PROJECTS: 2006-2012



167 grants: \$28.9 million
Grantee match: \$29.7 million
Total investment: **\$58.6 million**



Reconnect 846 stream miles
Restore 27,000 habitat acres
Restore 104 stream/riparian miles

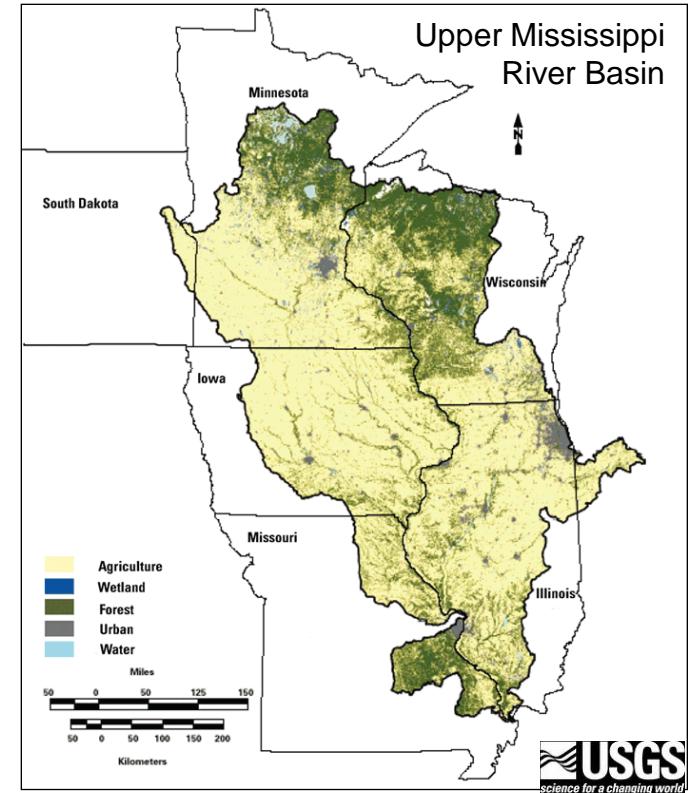
**CONSERVATION
PARTNERS/MISSISSIPPI
RIVER WATERSHED FUND**



NFWF

MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED FUND

- Fund to restore the ecological and, economic values of the Mississippi River Watershed
- Goals:
 - ✓ Reduce farm externalities
 - ✓ Improve water quality & aquatic habitat
 - ✓ Restoration of bottomland hardwoods
 - ✓ Reverse loss of migratory bird habitat



MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED FUND

STRATEGIES

- Enhance effectiveness of NFWF's \$2.5 billion Gulf Coast Program
- Build a coalition of funders to increase impact
- Target priority watersheds
- Create models larger than farm scale but small enough to measure impact
- Measure specific agricultural, forestry and land use practices



MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED FUND

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Upper Mississippi River Watershed Fund 2005-2010
 - ✓ NFWF and NE Area with State Foresters
 - ✓ 30 grants \$1.6 million, \$4 million match
- Highly leverage S&PF resources with other program funding:

✓ Corporate:	Wells Fargo	\$100,000
✓ Foundations:	Walton Family, McKnight	\$550,000
✓ Federal:	NRCS	\$800,000
✓ <u>Grantee match (minimum)</u>		<u>\$1,450,000</u>
		\$2,900,000



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Contact Information

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WTCAC-EQIP CONCERNS FOR 2013/2014

1. Access Roads in Forested settings. Under what conditions may EQIP funding be used to construct an access road in a forested setting? What pre conditions must exist? (i.e. Forest Management Plan, Planned activity) What are eligible management activities? What Resource Concerns are applicable? What has changed? WTCAC was unable to obtain funding through EQIP for any Access Roads in 2013.
2. Endangered Species. What is the NRCS perception of when Tribes must address State listed Threatened or Endangered Species to implement an EQIP practice? Does the issue change based on how the land is held? (Trust, Tribal Owned, Tribal Member owned/Fee Land)? What about State Permits?
3. Fish Cribs. Currently there is no WI-NRCS Standard under which this practice can be included in the EQIP Practice Schedule. A Standard (Fish Pond) needs to be added to the Technical Guide to accommodate this practice in the 2014 EQIP practice schedule.
4. Aquaculture Pond. Currently the only Resource Concern under which an Aquaculture facility can be funded by EQIP, is based on an existing facility not being adequate to produce fish. WTCAC would like to have an eligible Resource Concern based on Tribal Concerns about inadequate stocks of fish species that are of Tribal importance for subsistence farming.
5. Bio-Engineering for Streambank restoration. WTCAC would like to have an EQIP practice scenario developed to allow funding of the use of non-living bio materials such as, root wads, wood posts, or other materials. Many sites on Tribal Lands are not accessible with machinery and need to be restored with manual labor.
6. Aquaponics. WTCAC is interested in pursuing the development of an EQIP practice scenario to fund the installation of Aquaponic facilities for tribal food production.
7. Practice scenario under standard 396 (Aquatic Organism Passage) earth fill removal, the cost share level is too low.
8. Practice scenario under standard 516 (Pipeline) the cost share level for HDPE pipe is far too low, will not even cover the cost of the pipe for Aquaculture Ponds.
9. WTCAC would like to add *Betula papyrifera* (White Birch) to the list of eligible tree species for planting under Standard 612 (Tree & Shrub establishment)
10. WTCAC would like to request that the unit of measure for Practice 395 (Stream Habitat Improvement & Management) be changed from Acres to Feet. This may be a National Issue.