

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
NRCS State Office, Madison

Meeting called to order at 8:06 am by Pat Pelky.

1. Roll Call

Present: Bad River (Lacey Hill), FCPC (Nate Guldán), Ho-Chunk (Randy Poelma), LCO (Brett McConnell), Menominee (Jeremy Pyatskowitz), Mole Lake (Tina VanZile), Oneida (Pat Pelky), Red Cliff (Chad Abel), St. Croix (Katie Stariha, Tony Havranek)

A quorum is present.

Others Present: Susan Hunter (FSA), Duane Voy (Risk Management Agency), Juan Hernandez (NRCS), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS), Jim Ruppel (EPA), Chris Borden (NRCS), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Greg Bussler (NASS), JoAnn Cruse (APHIS – PPQ), Pam Engstrom (APHIS – WS), Mary Rasmussen (USFS), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC)

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve agenda. Motion by Menominee, seconded by St. Croix. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the January 7, 2014 WTCAC Meeting Minutes. Motion by Red Cliff, seconded by Menominee. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried.

4. NRCS Update

Juan Hernandez, Maine State Conservationist, has 5 tribes in Maine that he works with all individually. He would like to form a group similar to WTCAC in Maine.

Jimmy - Budget – EQIP – they have \$8 million less than they started last year with, \$12 million less than where they finished last year. For technical agreements they are \$5 million less than last year. The high tunnel with traditional materials has been finalized and approved. The Farm Bill passed on Feb 7. EQIP and CSP pretty much remained intact. Authorizations for funding were a little less. Easement programs – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program now contains WRP and a combo of farm and grassland reserve programs. Authorizations for funding were cut in half to \$400 million/year. New program called Regional Conservation Partnership Program – 1) Competition for proposal for national, competition for multi-state regions, and an in state competition. Conservation compliance – issues for farms on former wetlands. Tribal outreach and collaboration plan – they are being asked to do specific tribal listening sessions on consultation on the Farm Bill. Details are still being put together. Partnership with USFS to improve coaster brook trout habitat. Chris is going to help Gary Haughn with the effort. They have a “honey bee effort” designed to help provide additional habitat for bees that are housed here over winter and bees that come in from other states. They have \$3 million in the multi-state region to improve habitat, deadline is March 21 if anyone is interested. It is part of the EQIP Program. At least 5% of EQIP funds have to be addressing wildlife related habitat

improvements. They had originally dedicated \$450,000 to WTCAC. Last week, they looked internally and they added an additional \$200,000 to fund all projects including the Lac du Flambeau aquaculture project.

Chris Borden – Aquaculture Subcommittee – they were able to take background information back on how Tribes assess the need for stocking and they were able to figure out how they could make resource concerns that match up with this. In the past they could not fund expansion of facilities or construction of new facilities. They were able to find resource concerns for raising fry to fingerlings for release so they think they can fund expansions and new facilities. Resource concern – *“fish and wildlife habitat – inadequate habitat – cover shelter”*.

Jimmy - Pathways – Greg will be contacting past WTCAC interns for this program. Dan Cornelius stopped by yesterday and asked him about syrup coops. Jimmy thought the harmony training we discussed would have other state conservationists come to Red Cliff, somewhere along the way it got morphed into the traditional 5 day training. They are looking at the week of August 11th. USFS would be interested as well. Could EPA attend as well? State personnel could participate but they may have to contribute. It appears there is a decent amount of interest.

4. FSA Update

Susan Hunter –handout attached

5. APHIS Update

JoAnn – Project proposals for Farm Bill funding went through however she doesn't know what was approved yet and is not sure when they will find out. EAB – they are short on funding this year but they gave them the approval to move forward and contract EAB trapping that is going on in Wisconsin. More traps are proposed for this year. There will be some trapping in the southern part of state. No new finds to report at this time outside of quarantined areas. Iowa quarantined their whole state, they just had 2 new finds in the central part of the state. Now is a good time to look for woodpecker damage. They are quarantining Iowa County for gypsy moth. Lake and Cook Counties in MN being quarantined for gypsy moths. Highest gypsy moth year on record last year.

APHIS has something called AgDiscovery. Focus on education about APHIS and what the different agencies within APHIS do. It is a 2 – 4 week program at schools, student only responsible for getting to the location but tuition and lodging is paid for. 17 universities that are participating in 2014. Iowa State is the closest. End of March is deadline, the age group is 14 – 17. Menominee College and APHIS are signing an agreement to put on a 2 week program focusing on APHIS activities, “safe guarding natural heritage summer program.”

Pam Engstrom – Wildlife Services handout attached.

Rumor about harsh winter knocking back EAB, it might knock it back, but it won't eliminate it.

6. USFS Update

Mary Rasmussen (update attached) – Farm Bill permanently authorized stewardship contracting. One of the tools under the Tribal Forest Protection Act. White House announced a proposal

about fire suppression funding. A new emergency fund that provides more of a budget certainty to help fund the fire effort so less is taken from other forests across the country. The Forests are looking at implementing subpart A of the travel management rule. Subpart B has been implemented in all forests. They had to develop a map of motorized routes/roads/trails on the forest. Subpart A requires the Forest to do a roads study. The study involves identifying what is the absolute minimum road system you need. They have road systems they cannot fund to maintain, effort to get road systems down to a manageable size. She handed out cards on this (attached). Important for Tribes to comment on this. This is just the study and there will be formal consultation in the future. New Deputy Forest Supervisor – Linda Riddle – she will be starting in a couple of weeks. She is replacing Owen Martin. They will be filling the Washburn District Ranger. Ottawa – Tony Scardina is moving on in a couple of months and they are working on filling his position. Looking at Forestry subcommittee meeting next month. Mary will email me info to include in the minutes. They have a ton of summer employment opportunities right now. Paul reached out to former WTCAC students and he contacted them before it became public and sent them all the info.

7. NASS Update

Greg Bussler – They will be releasing entire data set in May of this year which will include the American Indian statistics. He handed out the preliminary numbers (attached). They are now doing a census of aquaculture.

8. Risk Management Agency Update

Duane Voy – At the RMA website you can get a link to farm risk plans. There is a library of information on risk management and a risk management checklist. There is also an Ag Risk Library that has several tools for beginning record keeping, references, and information for people who are just beginning. Training on how to apply for grants is being offered, let him know if any Tribes are interested. Farm Bill has given them some new incentives to reach out to beginning and new farmers and it has a linkage to conservation compliance. In their policy they built in a link to the NRCS website to discuss cover crops.

9. Rural Development Update

Stan – He and Brad met with the small business administration in Milwaukee last week. There is an MOU between the Secretary and the small business administration in regards to working closer together. SBA has been asked to collaborate and work closely with them. Two weeks ago in was in Washington DC for a briefing on the new Farm Bill. It was the Secretary's opinion that RD was treated well by the Farm Bill. In spite of the fact that some of the toughest areas to build economies are in rural America he wanted them to leave no stone unturned to reach out to local leaders and community groups to try and build these economies. Rural America is only 14% of population. Their travel budget will be a little higher so they will be able to get out more. Emphasis on local, organic, and native foods is still a priority.

10. EPA Update

Jim Ruppel – Last week was RTOC meeting in Chicago and another meeting with Tribal Chairs and Susan Hedman as well as TEPM conference. Right now they are underway with early retirement and voluntary separation process to try and shed staff. Hoping to avoid layoffs. Not clear the impact on the AIEO. Staff will be moved around. The acting IEO Director will

probably be there for a while. EPA is engaging in a climate health assessment and as part of that they are looking for input from the public on climate changes effect on public health but there is also a request for scientific studies or any information. On funding, the NTOC is engaging in an annual exercise to try and figure out how much money Tribes need. They summarize the info and it goes to National Headquarters. Current budgets right now, the Air Program had 16 proposals and \$1.7 million was requested, there was about \$1.2 million available. All 16 will get funded but not at 100%. Water funding – they are pretty much expecting to be able to fund the 106 program at FY12 levels. 319 is fully funded at \$30k per Tribe. Brownfields was not expecting anything to change from previous years.

11. IAC Update

Dan wasn't present but Jerry handed out his update (attached).

12. 2014 Tribal Environmental Summit at UW-Madison

Paul Robbins and Larry Nesper – American Indian Studies Program. They are looking to put together a Summit. He gave a presentation. They work for the Nelson Institute. They know the summit needs to be driven based on what Tribes need. They would like to put together a committee that would work together on the Summit that would be held in October (information attached).

13. Internship Program

2 applicants so far for up to 10 positions. Jerry has not heard anything on the pathways MOU. March 31 is the application deadline and hope to have them selected by April 15. Currently we have \$32,000 from last year's USFS Grant. We need to come up with the match. May need to ask for match waiver, Jerry applied with FCP Foundation for funds as well.

14. Next Meeting

The next WTCAC meeting is scheduled for April 29 at Oneida and we plan to hold an APHIS training on April 30.

15. Grant Update

GLRI – June 2 will be the start date for GLRI employees and can go 19 weeks after that.

APHIS Grant – We got that \$7,000 for instate training and it ends at the end of July.

NRCS Grant – Keith and Jerry will look at the grant on Thursday and look at transferring some money from Randy to Keith to do technical assistance.

CIG Grant – Closes at the end of the month. Thought was to do an aquaculture/aquaponics enclosed system.

16. Audit

He continues to ask Jerry questions. He is down to 2 last things 1) Jerry had to make a request to OAO for documentation of all payment requests and they have not responded 2) He is missing one travel voucher from a Louisiana Tribe.

17. Northeast Wisconsin Forest Improvement Collaborative (NEWFIC)

Nate will send out invites to NEWFIC to Tribal Chairs and copy WTCAC reps.

18. NRCS Technical Review Public Meeting

Recommendations attached.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Mole Lake, seconded by Red Cliff. All ayes, zero opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

EMAIL MINUTES 02/14/2014

MOTION: Motion to approve the grant management contract with Innovative Funding. Motion by FCPC, seconded by St. Croix. Six ayes (St. Croix, FCPC, Stockbridge-Munsee, LCO, Menominee, and Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

EMAIL MINUTES 04/22/2014

MOTION: Motion to approve placing the student interns into the following positions - John Glover, USFS Civil Engineering Position, Forrest Gauthier, USDA RMA/St. Croix Position. Miriam Waupoose, USFS Northern Research Station/Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies Position, and Melissa Lewis, APHIS Natural Resources Aid Position. Motion by FCPC, seconded by Stockbridge-Munsee. Seven ayes (St. Croix, FCPC, Stockbridge-Munsee, LCO, Menominee, Red Cliff, and Lac du Flambeau), zero opposed, motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS



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 4, 2013

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

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

FARM BILL – Secretary Vilsack rolled out the Farm Bill this past Friday at a Commodity event and we hope to have some information on the Farm Bill soon.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) - Compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality retroactive back to October 1, 2011 due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the feds or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predator. Payments are equal to 75% of the market value on the livestock on the day before the date of death. Signup on April 15th? (See attached fact sheet)

LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM (LFP) - Producers in counties that met the national drought criteria are eligible to apply for *GRAZING losses* that occurred or after October 1, 2011. Payments are equal to 60% of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. Signup on April 15th? (See attached fact sheet)

FARM LOAN PROGRAM:

- Youth Loans – now can be made to any youth no matter size of town. Debt forgiveness to youth if due to circumstances beyond their control. Otherwise they are restricted from future loans with FSA if they have debt forgiveness unless they pay it back.

NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) – March 17th is the deadline for producers to purchase loss coverage from FSA on spring planted fruit and vegetable crops that cannot be insured by local crop insurance companies. We offer catastrophic coverage at this time, but that may increase with the new Farm Bill

SHORT-TERM LOW INTEREST CROP LOANS – FSA can provide 9-month loans on eligible farm or warehouse stored 2013 harvested crops. These can provide some very quick, very low interest operating cash while producers are waiting to market or feed their stored crops. The loan rate for loans disbursed in March is 1.125 % and is fixed throughout the loan period.

LOW INTEREST FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS (FSFL) – FSA can provide 7 year, 10 year, and 12 year financing to anyone who is determined short of regular or refrigerated storage for their crops. Interest rates for March range from 2.125% - 3.125%.

CRP – Not sure if there will be a signup this year.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE – (Highly Erodible Land Compliance (HEL) and Wetland Compliance (WC) will be tied to crop insurance with the new Farm Bill. Still waiting for details....



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Disaster Assistance

2014 Farm Bill
FACT SHEET
February 2014

Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

Sign-up will begin on or before April 15th, 2014, at any local Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Please consult a local FSA office for details.

Eligible Livestock Owners

An eligible livestock owner must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock death loss occurred.

Eligible Contract Growers

Eligible contract growers must be in possession of the eligible livestock at the time death occurred.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock includes:

- Beef cattle
- Dairy cattle
- Bison
- Poultry
- Sheep

- Swine
- Horses, and
- Other livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Livestock Death Loss Documentation

Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as:

- Photographs or video records to document the loss, dated if possible
- Purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents
- Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Additional information regarding LIP or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at fsa.usda.gov.

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Disaster Assistance

2014 FARM BILL
FACT SHEET

February 2014

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Sign-up will begin on or before April 15, 2014, at any local Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Please consult your local FSA office for details.

Eligible Counties for Drought

An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) in a county for eight consecutive weeks or more during the normal grazing period: assistance equals **one monthly payment**;
- D3 (extreme drought) in a county anytime during the normal grazing period: assistance equals **three monthly payments**;
- D3 (extreme drought) in a county for four weeks or more during the normal grazing period or D4 (exceptional drought) anytime during the normal grazing period: assistance equals **four monthly payments**;
- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (consecutive weeks unnecessary) during the normal grazing period: assistance equals **five monthly payments**.

Counties eligible for LFP assistance can be found at fsa.usda.gov. The Drought Mitigation Center has developed a tool to assist producers in determining potential LFP eligibility that may be found at: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/fsa/FsaEligibility-County.aspx>

Additional information regarding LFP or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at fsa.usda.gov.

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WTCAC Wildlife Services Update

- MOU's in place with Lac Courte Oreilles, Red Cliff, Lac du Flambeau Chippewa, and Forest County Potawatomi.
- Assisted Sokaogan Chippewa Community with [beaver damage management to protect coldwater ecosystems](#) and wild rice lake protection.
- Assisted Red Cliff Tribe with beaver and dam removal on Lake Superior tributary stream using [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) funding. (Focus Area of "Fish Passage")
- Assisted Bad River Tribe with resolution of beaver flooding problem that threatened a road and recycling center under a cooperative service agreement.
- Conducted research wolf trapping efforts for the purpose of monitoring under cooperative agreement with Bad River Tribe.
- Conducted [beaver damage management for wild rice protection](#) for ten wild rice lakes under a cooperative service agreement with GLIFWC.
- Deer culling project in Apostles Islands National Lake Shore resulted in over 150 deer deer donated to Red Cliff Tribe for venison distribution through Tribal food pantry since 2009.
- Requested/conducted three co-investigations with Tribal wildlife biologists (Bad River, Menominee & Stock Bridge Munsee) to assess wolf depredations that were < 6 miles from Tribal lands and consulted with Tribal members on two verified wolf depredation (Menominee & Stock Bridge Munsee).
- Last field season, assisted the St. Croix Tribe with two bear complaints which resulted in the relocation of one nuisance black bear for a Tribal member.
- The WI WS program is currently in the process of updating our Statewide Bird Damage Management Environmental Assessment. State Director, Jason Suckow, has sent a letter to each WI Tribal Chairman / President and also their natural resources contact person to invite them to participate and offer consultation. (Pass out template letter.) We look forward to hearing back from the Tribes on any comments and concerns.
- The USDA Wildlife Services program will be involved in a multiyear national initiative to control feral swine. WI has few feral swine on the landscape. (Less than 50 statewide) In fact, currently there is only one known breeding population in SW WI. The goal of the WI Feral Swine Task Force is to continue to reduce feral swine numbers in the state for numerous reasons. The WI WS program will be reaching out to partners, including the Tribes, to determine the level of supporting interest and any concerns. Anyone that has immediate questions or concerns is encouraged to contact Jason, in the WI WS State Office.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wisconsin
Wildlife Services
State Office

732 Lois Drive
Sun Prairie, WI
53590
608-837-2727

The Honorable (name)
Chairperson (or appropriate title)
(Name of Tribe)
(Address of Tribe)

Date

Re: Request for participation and consultation in the development of a Wisconsin Bird Damage Management Environmental Assessment.

Dear

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) is in the very early process of updating a Statewide Bird Damage Management Environmental Assessment (EA) on alternatives for WS involvement in wildlife damage and conflict management in Wisconsin. The Statewide Bird Damage Management EA is being completed to update information on wildlife damage management, to review past program actions, and to re-evaluate management options. Once completed, the new Bird Damage Management EA will replace the current EA, which was completed in 2004. A list of wildlife species associated with the proposed EA is enclosed. Most of the species listed are associated with WS efforts to protect aircraft and the flying public from wildlife hazards.

We want to make certain that tribal values and concerns regarding the management of wildlife species are included in the analysis. We are inviting your Tribe to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA. If there may be direct substantial impacts on your tribe as a result of APHIS WS' proposed damage management actions in Wisconsin, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and other representatives of the (name of Tribe) in order to begin government-to-government consultation on the matter. It is important to note that very little wildlife damage management by WS is being conducted on Tribal properties. Wildlife Services has received written authorization in the instances where we are providing assistance to Tribes and would continue to do so in the future.

WS is requesting the assistance of the _____ as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA. The U.S. Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, other Wisconsin tribes, and various state agencies, are also being asked to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA.

The scope of the statewide EA will include activities to protect various public and private resources, including human health and safety. The EA will review options for wildlife damage management activities in Wisconsin. WS does not have regulatory

authority for wildlife damage management: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service laws and regulations cannot be changed through this analysis, nor can state species-specific wildlife management plans. This EA can only determine the extent, if any, of WS' participation in wildlife damage management.

We would appreciate learning your interest on behalf of the _____ to provide support for such things as: 1) identifying issues and values which should be considered; 2) reviewing and commenting on the EA; 3) reviewing comments from the public; 4) sharing information related to various aspects of wildlife damage management; and 5) identifying and developing appropriate management actions to be addressed in the EA.

To be involved in all stages of the project, please notify us of your interest by April 4, 2014. If the Tribe chooses to decline government-to-government consultation and participation as a "Cooperating Agency", or there is no Tribal Response prior to April 5, 2014, APHIS WS will proceed with the EA process. At any subsequent time, however, APHIS WS is ready to engage the Tribe on this matter at the Tribe's request. We will also notify all Wisconsin Tribes and other interested parties again when the document is available for public comment.

We look forward to working with you on these important plans. If you have questions about this request please call me at (608) 837-2727.

Sincerely,

Jason Suckow
Wisconsin State Director

Enclosures:

WI WS Bird EA List



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339

The Wisconsin Bird EA will be an updated version from 2004 to address and evaluate the potential impacts on the human environment from alternatives for WS involvement in the protection of agricultural resources, natural resources, property, livestock, and public health and safety from damage and risks associated with birds in Wisconsin. Damage problems can occur throughout the state. Under a Proposed Action, Bird Damage Management (BDM) could be conducted on private, federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal lands in Wisconsin upon request. The proposed species most likely to be included and the annual maximum take associated with WS BDM activities in Wisconsin:

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) - 100
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) - 1000
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) – 2000
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) – 500
European Starling (starlings) (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – 200,000
House Sparrow (sparrows) (*Passer domesticus*) – 2500
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - 5000
Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – 50
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) – 500 –
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) – 3000
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) - 50
Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) – 3500
Snow geese (*Chen caerulescens*) – 50
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) – 20
Mallard (domestic/wild) (*Anas platyrhynchos*) - 500
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) - 50
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) - 10
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) - 200
Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) – 400
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - 50
Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) - 50
Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) – 50
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – 50
Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) – 20
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) – 30
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) 5
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – 35
Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) - 5
Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) - 10
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) – 25
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) – 15
Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - 10
Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) – 30
Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) – 10
Pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – 5
Hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) – 10
Downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) – 10



**Forest Service Update
WTCAC Meeting**
March 4, 2014



Statement from Robert Bonnie, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, concerning the Farm Bill:

“America’s forests face a number of threats including catastrophic wildfire, insects and disease and climate change. The Farm Bill includes a number of provisions, which will benefit efforts to restore and manage forests. Language permanently authorizing stewardship contracting will allow the Forest Service to work with conservation groups, forest industry and communities to restore public forest lands. Additionally, the bill allows USDA to partner with States and with private forest owners to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The Farm Bill also contains a provision that allows USDA, working with States, to select areas impacted by pests and disease for coordinated forest health management. The provisions of this bill, coupled with the President’s recent announcement of a proposal to change the way we budget for wildland firefighting, will allow the Forest Service to work with the Department of Interior, States, Tribes and private partners to responsibly manage forest lands in a way that will benefit people, wildlife, and the environment.”

Statement from Robert Bonnie, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, concerning the White house announcement about fire suppression funding:

"The President’s proposal is an important step toward solving a recurring problem in the Forest Service budget. In many recent years, because of severe fire seasons, the Forest Service has run through its fire suppression budget and has had to “borrow” funds from other budget areas, most notably funds used to restore forest health. This has affected USDA’s ability to manage forests in a way that could reduce the incidence of wildfires in the future. The new emergency fund as proposed by the Obama Administration provides budget certainty to the agency as it plots upcoming forest health projects. I salute Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Interior Secretary Jewell for their work on this proposal, which has attracted bipartisan support in Congress. We look forward to working with the Interior Department and with our State, Tribal and regional partners in this area.”

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announces new and returning members to the Forestry Research Advisory Council

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 2014 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the appointment of nine new members and two reappointed members to the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC).

The council's many responsibilities include providing advice to Secretary Vilsack on national and regional research planning projects and on coordination of forestry research within federal and state agencies, forestry schools and forest industries. In addition, the council provides advice to the U.S. Forest Service's Research and Development program—the world's largest forestry-research organization.

FRAC is composed of 20 members representing a broad range of groups interested in forestry research, including industry, state and federal agencies, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. The council is chaired by Cassandra Moseley, director of the Ecosystem Workforce Program for the Institute for a Sustainable Environment in Eugene, Ore. Nominations for new members were reviewed by both the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Forest Service. The new and reappointed members and their affiliations are as follows:

Reappointed members:

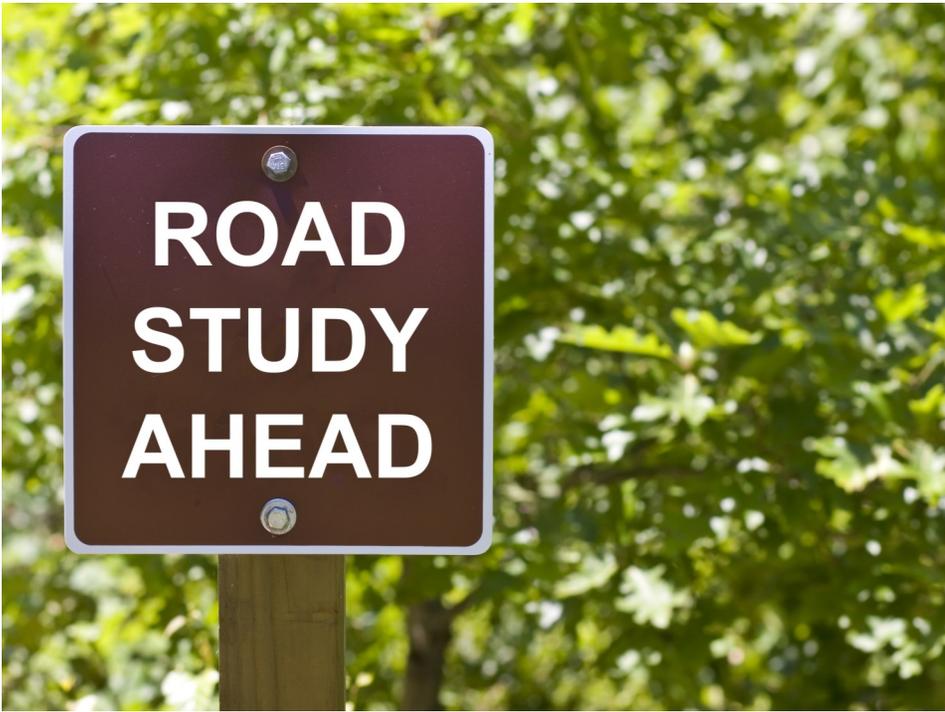
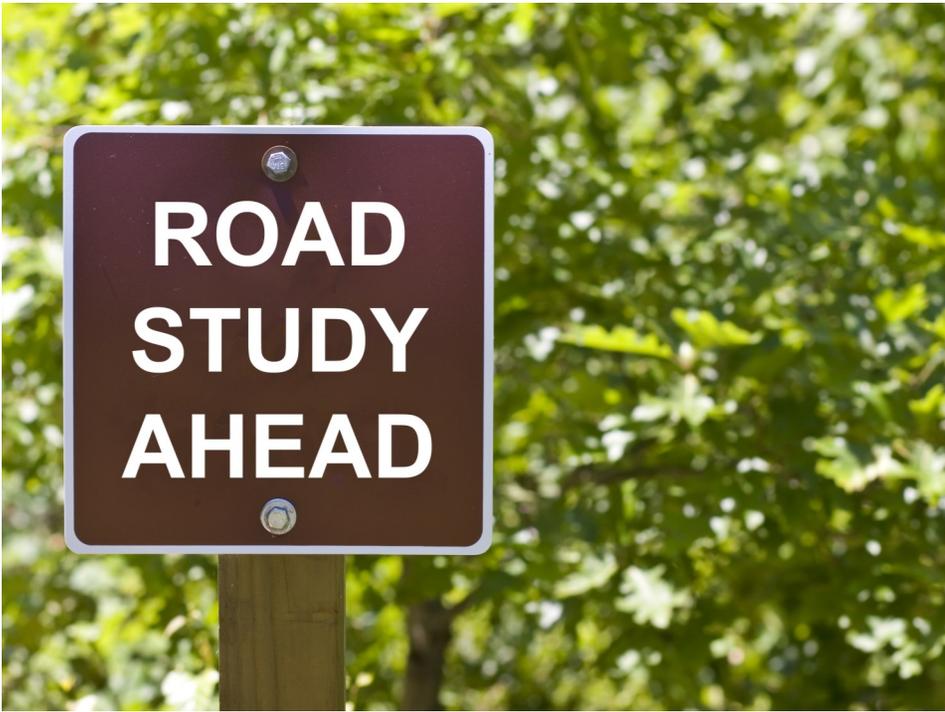
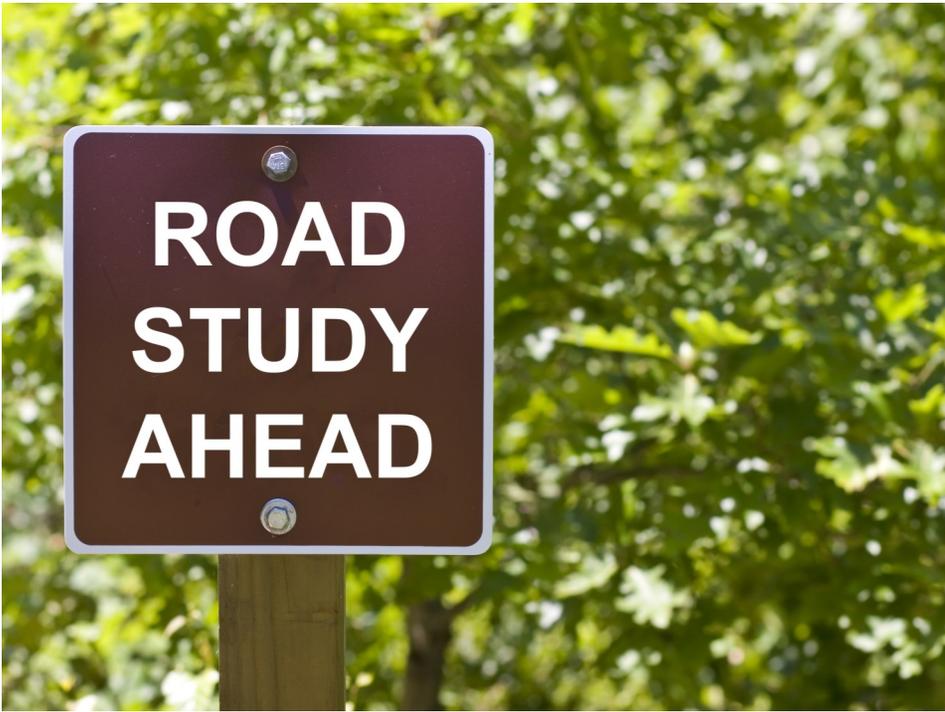
- Cassandra Moseley, director, Ecosystem Workforce Program, Institute for a Sustainable Environment, Eugene, Ore.
- Charles (Buck) Vandersteen, executive director, Louisiana Forestry Association, Alexandria, La.

Newly appointed members:

- Nicole Cavender, vice president of Science and Conservation, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill.
- Kevin Cheung, chief engineer, Western Wood Products Association, Portland, Ore.
- Myron Floyd, professor and director of Graduate Programs, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, College of Natural Resources, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.
- Shibu Jose, professor and director of Department of Forestry/Center for Agroforestry, School of Natural Resources/College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
- Henry (Gene) Kodama, state forester, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Columbia, S.C.
- Adrian Leighton, co-chair, Intertribal Timber Council Research Subcommittee, Pablo, Mont.
- Eric Norland, USDA National Program Leader, Forest Resource Management, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment, Washington, D.C.

- Shannon Ramsey, founding president and CEO, Trees Forever, Inc., Marion, Iowa
- Ronald Reed, cultural biologist, Karuk Tribe, Orleans, Calif.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.



Chequamegon-Nicolet, Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa National Forests will be conducting a road study that analyzes all national forest roads for their:

- existing use and characteristics,
- need for management activities,
- access for hunting, fishing and gathering,
- environmental risks and benefits,
- maintenance costs.



It will help us find a way to use our limited resources to balance the needs for access to the forest with the protection of clean water and a healthy forest. Please help us recommend opportunities that lead to a safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable road system.

For more information, contact :

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Table 4. American Indian or Alaska Native Principal Operators - Selected Operation and Operator Characteristics: 2012 and 2007 (continued)

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	West Virginia			Wisconsin			Wyoming		
	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total
	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS									
Farms number	44	27.6	38	63	11.2	100	162	16.7	235
Land in farms acres	4,314	59.9	6,547	19,209	6.2	31,990	409,060	8.0	727,943
Farms by size:									
1 to 9 acres	1	(H)	2	7	46.9	18	28	28.7	14
10 to 49 acres	8	31.4	11	23	23.0	35	24	23.4	43
50 to 179 acres	33	43.5	23	19	24.5	29	36	15.1	72
180 to 499 acres	1	(H)	-	9	66.7	10	33	25.6	54
500 acres or more	1	(H)	2	5	0.5	8	41	33.3	52
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS									
Market value of agricultural products sold\$1,000	(D)	(D)	316	5,590	19.1	7,462	11,132	19.7	9,902
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops\$1,000	(D)	(D)	96	3,336	4.7	2,669	2,411	11.6	1,654
Livestock, poultry, and their products\$1,000	(D)	(D)	220	2,254	46.0	4,793	8,722	22.3	8,248
Government payments\$1,000	(D)	(D)	-	258	5.2	146	126	43.0	284
Farms by economic class:									
Less than \$50,000	41	29.6	37	47	15.0	80	120	19.8	179
\$50,000 or more	3	(H)	1	16	14.5	20	42	32.5	56
SELECTED PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS									
Operators number	44	27.6	38	63	11.2	100	162	16.7	235
Sex of operator:									
Male	33	37.0	27	46	11.3	73	136	17.3	178
Female	11	29.9	11	17	32.1	27	26	33.4	57
Primary occupation:									
Farming	28	40.7	9	21	16.3	31	73	18.7	114
Other	16	23.7	29	42	15.3	69	89	23.4	121
Years on present farm:									
2 years or less	-	-	2	5	19.0	6	8	79.1	3
3 or 4 years	2	(H)	4	1	(H)	19	16	33.5	10
5 to 9 years	9	33.3	7	13	32.6	18	33	26.5	40
10 years or more	33	41.6	25	44	12.2	57	105	10.5	182
Age group:									
Under 25 years	-	-	-	2	47.4	3	-	-	-
25 to 34 years	3	63.2	1	-	-	1	10	53.7	19
35 to 44 years	8	67.4	2	3	5.1	18	21	51.0	10
45 to 54 years	4	71.2	21	23	14.9	37	53	18.5	63
55 to 64 years	14	37.1	12	27	23.3	20	53	12.5	64
65 to 74 years	14	42.3	1	5	50.2	15	16	47.1	47
75 years and over	1	2.3	1	3	44.7	6	9	44.7	32
Average age	56.5	4.8	54.2	55.0	2.5	53.1	54.1	2.1	58.1

Table 4. American Indian or Alaska Native Principal Operators - Selected Operation and Operator Characteristics: 2012 and 2007

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	United States			Alabama			Alaska		
	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total
	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS									
Farms number	37,857	8.1	34,706	488	12.7	465	28	10.2	25
Land in farms acres	50,859,413	1.8	49,680,678	73,415	10.3	64,198	307,213	(Z)	314,141
Farms by size:									
1 to 9 acres	12,558	15.6	13,108	62	19.4	45	6	27.4	2
10 to 49 acres	8,967	10.5	8,312	167	17.0	202	9	21.1	7
50 to 179 acres	7,710	8.7	6,740	150	10.6	149	2	(L)	1
180 to 499 acres	4,004	7.2	3,471	80	16.0	49	1	(L)	1
500 acres or more	4,621	10.3	3,075	29	19.6	20	10	(L)	14
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS									
Market value of agricultural products sold\$1,000	1,781,416	4.6	1,399,725	43,245	39.3	28,687	(D)	(D)	(D)
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops\$1,000									
.....\$1,000	693,086	7.7	564,470	10,112	56.7	2,438	(D)	(D)	16
Livestock, poultry, and their products\$1,000	1,088,330	3.5	835,256	33,133	34.5	26,249	(D)	(D)	(D)
Government payments\$1,000	51,889	7.7	40,462	788	34.7	734	(D)	(D)	(D)
Farms by economic class:									
Less than \$50,000	34,788	8.6	32,024	419	13.9	417	23	12.4	21
\$50,000 or more	3,069	9.6	2,682	69	33.5	48	5	(L)	4
SELECTED PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS									
Operators number	37,857	8.1	34,706	488	12.7	465	28	10.2	25
Sex of operator:									
Male	26,434	7.8	24,603	419	12.5	411	16	(L)	21
Female	11,423	14.2	10,103	69	19.5	54	12	23.7	4
Primary occupation:									
Farming	20,764	9.3	17,682	166	29.5	171	12	23.7	15
Other	17,093	8.3	17,024	322	13.6	294	16	(L)	10
Years on present farm:									
2 years or less	1,178	17.6	1,451	24	34.0	45	1	(L)	.
3 or 4 years	1,811	13.9	2,399	31	46.0	29	4	41.1	.
5 to 9 years	5,225	12.0	5,997	79	17.1	91	7	27.1	.
10 years or more	29,643	7.4	24,859	354	11.1	300	16	(L)	22
Age group:									
Under 25 years	293	21.0	227	-	-	2	-	-	.
25 to 34 years	1,864	28.9	1,975	56	18.5	38	1	(L)	.
35 to 44 years	4,135	13.8	4,645	77	20.7	90	4	(L)	.
45 to 54 years	8,791	9.7	8,860	150	13.5	136	8	35.6	.
55 to 64 years	10,202	11.2	8,586	99	16.5	129	9	(L)	1
65 to 74 years	7,741	9.5	6,651	80	25.5	52	4	(L)	.
75 years and over	4,831	12.2	3,762	26	40.1	18	2	(L)	.
Average age	58.1	1.3	56.6	52.8	3.6	52.0	55.0	1.4	55.

--contin

Table 1. Selected Operation and Principal Operator Characteristics: 2012 and 2007 (continued)

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	West Virginia			Wisconsin			Wyoming		
	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total
	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS									
Farmsnumber	21,489	4.9	23,618	69,756	3.6	78,463	11,742	15.6	11,069
Land in farmsacres	3,606,674	4.2	3,697,606	14,569,743	1.8	15,190,804	30,363,938	3.4	30,169,526
Average size of farmacres	168	2.0	157	209	2.5	194	2,586	9.9	2,726
Median size of farmacres	95	2.6	90	96	4.0	95	200	6.7	230
Farms by size:									
1 to 9 acres	956	9.0	1,207	4,602	9.0	4,861	1,089	42.3	652
10 to 49 acres	5,128	6.3	5,749	17,829	5.4	19,895	2,293	24.9	2,004
50 to 179 acres	9,692	4.7	10,739	25,500	3.5	29,765	2,353	17.8	2,461
180 to 499 acres	4,457	4.5	4,681	15,690	2.9	17,837	1,744	13.6	1,712
500 to 999 acres	894	8.2	908	3,882	1.9	4,149	1,109	10.2	1,107
1,000 acres or more	362	7.7	334	2,253	0.8	1,956	3,154	7.1	3,133
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS									
Market value of agricultural products sold\$1,000									
Average per farmdollars	809,175	4.3	591,665	11,746,109	0.9	8,967,358	1,690,846	3.7	1,157,535
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops\$1,000	139,092	12.6	78,308	4,601,969	0.9	2,669,326	438,958	7.0	213,808
Livestock, poultry, and their products\$1,000	670,083	3.7	513,357	7,144,139	1.0	6,298,032	1,251,888	4.5	943,728
Government payments\$1,000	7,034	3.5	2,929	237,145	1.5	195,787	28,146	7.2	28,157
Farms by economic class:									
Less than \$50,000	20,093	5.1	22,432	45,919	4.8	56,121	7,995	20.1	7,877
\$50,000 to \$249,999	896	4.9	751	13,923	2.5	14,049	2,260	9.1	2,208
\$250,000 to \$999,999	318	1.8	314	7,624	1.7	6,783	1,236	5.3	817
\$1,000,000 or more	182	4.1	121	2,290	0.7	1,510	251	3.6	167
SELECTED PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS									
Operatorsnumber	21,489	4.9	23,618	69,756	3.6	78,463	11,742	15.6	11,069
Sex of operator:									
Male	18,784	4.9	20,399	62,408	3.5	69,287	10,124	14.9	9,465
Female	2,705	5.7	3,219	7,348	5.0	9,176	1,618	20.7	1,604
Primary occupation:									
Farming	9,164	4.3	9,799	34,757	2.6	37,047	5,851	11.6	5,445
Other	12,325	5.5	13,819	34,999	4.8	41,416	5,891	19.8	5,624
Years on present farm:									
2 years or less	583	11.1	738	2,266	10.2	2,677	447	41.2	546
3 or 4 years	1,006	8.4	1,407	2,830	7.1	4,151	639	21.0	807
5 to 9 years	2,936	7.0	3,761	8,112	5.3	11,395	2,046	22.0	1,914
10 years or more	16,964	4.2	17,712	56,548	3.0	60,240	8,610	12.6	7,802
Age group:									
Under 25 years	60	15.6	98	346	10.2	485	59	54.1	53
25 to 34 years	834	10.0	903	3,745	6.9	4,281	663	28.9	562
35 to 44 years	1,988	9.0	2,662	7,764	5.6	11,550	1,100	23.6	1,076
45 to 54 years	4,234	5.9	5,618	18,497	4.2	23,359	2,383	18.2	2,924
55 to 64 years	6,309	4.0	6,732	21,211	3.2	20,613	3,905	13.8	3,275
65 to 74 years	5,235	4.2	4,915	12,238	3.0	11,795	2,442	12.8	2,112
75 years and over	2,829	4.0	2,690	5,955	2.9	6,380	1,190	10.5	1,067
Average age	59.7	0.4	58.1	56.4	0.3	55.0	58.2	1.0	57.1
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin	122	21.3	138	283	20.4	245	277	85.6	152
Race:									
American Indian or Alaska Native	44	27.6	38	63	11.2	100	162	16.7	235
Asian	20	28.1	19	177	19.8	168	12	(H)	17
Black or African American	29	23.8	35	42	26.5	44	6	63.3	6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	67.1	4	9	31.6	8	4	41.1	8
White	21,340	4.9	23,463	69,376	3.6	78,058	11,498	15.4	10,762
More than one race reported	54	26.9	59	89	8.3	85	60	26.3	41

Table 1. Selected Operation and Principal Operator Characteristics: 2012 and 2007

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	United States			Alabama			Alaska		
	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total	2012		2007 total
	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)		Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS									
Farmsnumber	2,109,363	1.6	2,204,792	43,228	4.1	48,753	762	1.8	686
Land in farmsacres	914,603,026	0.9	922,095,840	8,905,236	3.1	9,033,537	833,861	0.2	881,585
Average size of farmacres	434	1.2	418	206	1.7	185	1,094	1.8	1,285
Median size of farmacres	80	(L)	80	75	3.3	70	33	20.8	60
Farms by size:									
1 to 9 acres	223,642	6.1	232,849	2,919	9.8	3,374	247	4.2	165
10 to 49 acres	589,571	2.2	620,283	13,267	4.7	16,215	181	3.1	164
50 to 179 acres	634,056	1.1	660,530	16,079	3.5	17,808	145	1.5	156
180 to 499 acres	346,062	2.4	368,368	7,242	3.4	7,612	103	2.1	111
500 to 999 acres	142,549	1.8	149,713	2,230	10.5	2,235	37	7.3	38
1,000 acres or more	173,483	1.1	173,049	1,491	4.0	1,509	49	(L)	52
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS									
Market value of agricultural products sold\$1,000									
Average per farmdollars	394,646,980	2.0	297,220,491	5,574,379	8.0	4,415,550	58,925	0.8	57,019
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops\$1,000	187,093	2.0	134,807	128,953	8.0	90,570	77,329	1.9	83,119
Livestock, poultry, and their products\$1,000	212,403,631	1.6	143,657,928	1,314,943	6.2	676,987	24,857	1.6	24,749
Government payments\$1,000	182,243,350	2.8	153,562,563	4,259,436	8.6	3,738,563	34,068	0.2	32,271
Farms by economic class:									
Less than \$50,000	8,053,137	1.0	7,983,922	88,158	5.0	124,692	2,432	4.9	1,645
\$50,000 to \$249,999	1,578,758	1.9	1,709,509	36,703	4.4	42,493	627	2.3	554
\$250,000 to \$999,999	275,687	1.4	278,173	2,580	3.5	2,422	90	3.0	93
\$1,000,000 or more	173,284	1.3	159,818	2,459	24.4	2,527	33	(L)	28
	81,634	3.3	57,292	1,486	22.4	1,311	12	(L)	11
SELECTED PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS									
Operatorsnumber	2,109,363	1.6	2,204,792	43,228	4.1	48,753	762	1.8	686
Sex of operator:									
Male	1,821,094	1.4	1,898,583	37,813	3.9	42,309	512	1.3	518
Female	288,269	3.9	306,209	5,415	5.8	6,444	250	3.6	168
Primary occupation:									
Farming	1,007,950	1.2	993,881	19,116	3.3	19,416	412	2.7	365
Other	1,101,413	1.9	1,210,911	24,112	4.7	29,337	350	3.4	321
Years on present farm:									
2 years or less	68,194	6.8	84,883	1,425	12.6	2,230	39	19.9	29
3 or 4 years	103,373	4.7	138,858	2,205	8.5	3,423	79	5.9	46
5 to 9 years	297,571	2.9	359,545	6,195	5.6	8,093	146	3.5	130
10 years or more	1,640,225	1.0	1,621,506	33,403	3.2	35,007	498	1.4	481
Age group:									
Under 25 years	10,719	9.0	11,878	231	12.9	240	6	22.4	1
25 to 34 years	109,146	6.6	106,735	1,814	9.4	2,259	31	12.6	25
35 to 44 years	214,135	4.6	268,818	4,289	7.6	5,959	81	9.5	77
45 to 54 years	466,048	2.2	565,401	8,686	4.5	11,251	169	3.8	223
55 to 64 years	608,060	1.6	596,306	12,381	3.6	13,765	287	2.2	203
65 to 74 years	443,558	0.9	412,182	10,265	3.2	9,934	120	(L)	108
75 years and over	257,697	0.7	243,472	5,562	4.5	5,345	68	6.7	49
Average age	58.3	0.3	57.1	59.3	0.4	57.6	57.1	0.6	56.2
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin	67,014	8.2	55,570	332	32.5	260	12	(L)	7
Race:									
American Indian or Alaska Native	37,857	8.1	34,706	488	12.7	465	28	10.2	25
Asian	13,699	18.3	11,214	67	27.7	54	4	(L)	3
Black or African American	33,372	11.8	30,599	2,779	6.9	2,709	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,468	20.3	1,356	2	94.9	1	-	-	-
White	2,012,674	1.5	2,114,325	39,591	3.9	45,124	725	1.9	656
More than one race reported	10,293	9.3	12,592	301	12.6	400	5	(L)	2

--continued

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

March 4, 2014

Proposed: UW-Madison hosting a Tribal Environmental Summit on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the meeting of the Society of American Indians that took place at UW-Madison in October of 2014.

Issues for a University-tribal planning committee to address:

1. What are the most pressing environmental problems facing tribal communities and how can researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the tribal communities collaborate to address these?
2. Who should make presentations at this event?
3. How should the event be organized?



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March 4, 2014

*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*

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mr. Jimmy Bramblett, NRCS State Conservationist
8030 Excelsior Drive, Madison, WI 53717

Dear Jimmy,

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council appreciates the opportunity to clarify program questions and to make suggested improvements to programs for 2015 that have Tribal impact. We would like to begin with clarification and additional information in relation to last year's Public Meeting and WTCAC's 2014 program recommendations.

1. Access Roads in Forested settings. WTCAC was not very successful in finding projects that were eligible to obtain funding through EQIP for most Access Roads in 2013.

NRCS Status: NRCS must ensure that the Access Road practice addresses, or supports another practice that addresses, a resource concern eligible for EQIP. Additional clarification will be provided to WTCAC Members on the identification of resource concerns and how to identify the appropriate practice standards to address those resource concerns.

WTCAC Recommendation: Please provide the clarification.

2. Endangered Species. What is the NRCS opinion on 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?

NRCS Status: NRCS will visit with DNR – BER to communicate the Tribal Nation interests and desires, and to inform them of NRCS's responsibility to adhere to Tribal Laws. WI NRCS will also confirm this approach with the national office.

WTCAC Recommendation: Please provide results of meetings.

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, or other Standard) needs to be added to the Technical Guide to accommodate this practice in the 2014 EQIP practice schedule.

NRCS Status: Completed



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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, in waters of Tribal concern, and that are of Tribal importance for subsistence farming.

NRCS Status: As a reminder, NRCS is a conservation organization and not a production agriculture organization. NRCS will work with WTCAC to establish a sub-committee for investigating this issue over the long-term.

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC has worked with NRCS staff to form a Fisheries Subcommittee and has resolved the resource concern issue surrounding aquaculture ponds and associated fisheries practices. Livestock related eligible resource concerns under EQIP to renovate existing facilities will continue to be applicable. The eligible resource concern for new or expanded facilities designed to raise fry to fingerling will be Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Habitat-Cover/Shelter. New or expanded facilities will allow Tribes to raise fish to fingerling or larger size, resulting in less predation and improved fisheries. The Fisheries Subcommittee has produced a draft form for NRCS to use to document resource concerns and desired future conditions related to the fishery in each lake (see handout).

The Fisheries Subcommittee continues to work on fisheries related resource concern issues, and to develop additional practices. WTCAC will provide a needs assessment for Wisconsin Tribes and recommendations on flat rates for fisheries practices to be included in the 2015 EQIP document by June 1, 2014.

Other items the fisheries subcommittee continues to develop and plan to coordinate with NRCS staff on are:

- Stream side incubators
- Inclusion of new EQIP practices that are currently not available in WI
- Aquaculture pond design criteria
- Separation of aquaculture practices (liner, kettle, outlet structure)
- Raceways
- Resource concern related to establishing new fisheries

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.

NRCS Status: Completed



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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, and utilization of hatchery waste water.

NRCS Status: NRCS will plan to use the same sub-committee established under item 5 above to investigate this matter as well. This topic will also be a long-term collaboration to determine how we might be able to provide technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC will continue to coordinate the development of Aquaponics technical recommendations for future consideration of NRCS.

7. Practice Scenario under standard 396 (Aquatic Organism Passage) earth fill removal, the cost share level is too low. Perhaps second Scenario needed to address smaller structures.

NRCS Status: Completed

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. Change from PVC to HDPE.

NRCS Status: NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to this concern, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process.

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC has the cost data from two Tribal projects and will finalize the cost recommendations to NRCS by June 1st.

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).

NRCS Status: Completed

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.

NRCS Status: Completed

11. Under practice 315, WTCAC would like to have Scenarios developed for mechanical (hand pulling and disposal of invasive species) for both uplands, and water bodies that would more accurately reflect the true cost of this type of management. When using Chemical control, scenarios are needed that clearly differentiate Chemical Spot Treatment, Chemical Aquatic Spot Treatment, and Chemical Aquatic Treatment.

NRCS Status: NRCS will work to include a Practice Scenario, related to mechanical invasive species removal in wetlands, for the FY-2014 Regional Payment Schedule Process as well as provided additional guidance on existing scenarios.

WTCAC Recommendation: Request that NRCS bring back the scenario components of 2,4D amine salt, granular and liquid, for Eurasian Milfoil control and other aquatic species.



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12. When dealing with Stream Crossings, consider changing from a Stream Crossing Scenario to an Aquatic Organism Passage Scenario if it is anticipated that a minimum Stream Crossing will result in obstruction of organism passage. Don't create a problem to go back and fix! Also consider adding additional Scenarios to accommodate small stream channels or drainage ways (intermittent) with lower cost options than culverts or constructed crossings.

NRCS Status: Completed

13. Not all invasive species that are often controlled by tribes are currently listed on the WI-DNR invasive species list, which is referenced in the EQIP Practice Schedule. It is recommended that this reference be eliminated and defer to the judgment of local resource managers to determine what species are invasive locally.

NRCS Status: Completed

14. For many reasons, particularly securing partner funding, and Tribal Council approval, it would be very helpful to WTCAC if the EQIP Practice Schedule could be available to make application decisions much earlier in the Fiscal year, (August) rather than mid-December.

NRCS Status: Completed

15. Consider adding Fire prevention as a Resource Concern to some activities to facilitate the addition of practices to prevent Wild Fire; i.e. Woody residue Mgt, Timber Stand Improvement, Tree Pruning.

NRCS Status: Completed

2014 Practice Concerns

There continues to be confusion about NRCS Forestry Practices (firebreaks, tree plantings, clarification of scenarios, fencing, etc.) that is leading to uncertainty about Tribal use of the practices.

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC would like to request Forestry Practice Standards training from the NRCS Forester.

NRCS Website is extremely difficult to use

- o Standards never load
- o Can't get EQIP application form
- o WTCAC Cookbook not readily available
- o Need more detailed "new program" information for producer access

WTCAC Recommendation: WTCAC would post this type of NRCS information on our Website for Tribal use and access if NRCS could make it available.



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WTCAC greatly appreciates the effort put forth by the NRCS staff to address all the issues that we have brought forth over the years. The partnership of WTCAC and NRCS has contributed to the success of Tribal conservation and environmental programs. WTCAC looks forward to continuing and strengthening this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick J. Pelky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Patrick J. Pelky, WTCAC President