



# Northeast Region

## *Native American Tribes A Summary of Tribal Wildlife Grants and Tribal Landowner Incentive Program Activities*

“Just as the ‘dreamcatcher’ catches the good dreams and allows the bad dreams to pass through the net...”, the Service intends to “capture only good government-to-government relationships...” with Native American Tribes, said former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie. “As our relationship with Native American people continues to evolve...” the Service also continues to uphold its trust responsibilities to Tribes and “...capture the good visions...”

In the Service’s effort to continue working on a government-to-government relationship with Native American Tribes, the Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) and the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) are means to help Tribes better manage fish and wildlife resources on their lands. Though TWG and TLIP funds are not guaranteed from fiscal year to the next, the Service trusts that TWG and TLIP will continue to be captured in the dreamcatcher.

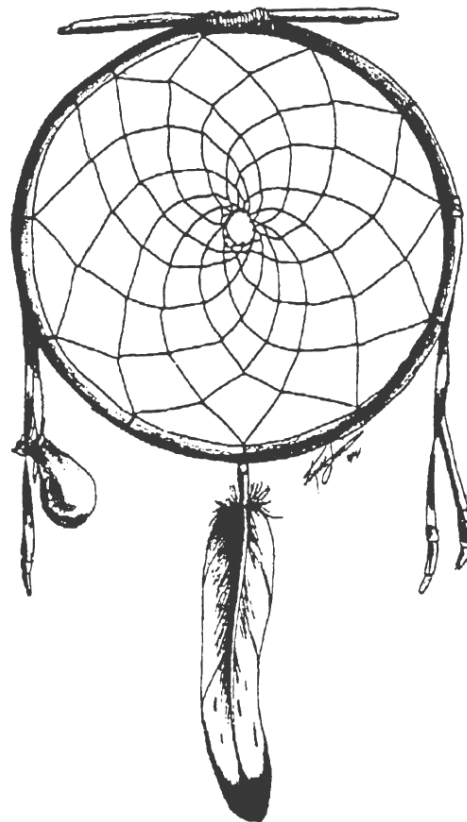
### **Tribal Wildlife Grants**

#### *Background:*

The TWG program falls under the wildlife conservation grants also known as the State Wildlife Grants to States and to the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Tribes under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The grants are for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, species of tribal cultural or traditional importance, including species that are not hunted or fished. TWG originates from the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P. L. 107-63), when Congress first specified that the Service use a portion of the funds under the State Wildlife Grants to establish a competitive grant program available to federally recognized Tribes. This language allowed the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to establish a separate Tribal grant program, known as TWG, not be subject to the provisions of the formula-based State Wildlife Grant program or other requirements of the State Wildlife Grants portion.

Examples of eligible project activities that can be funded, may include, but are not limited to, planning for fish and wildlife and habitat conservation, ongoing and/or new fish and wildlife conservation and management actions, fish and wildlife related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, habitat mapping, field surveys and population monitoring, habitat preservation, land acquisition, conservation easements, and public education that is relevant to the project. A project that proposes a land purchase must clearly justify the necessity and long-term conservation benefit of the acquisition.

Since the inception of the TWG program, the Service, under the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act(s) for fiscal year’s 2002 (\$5 million), 2003 (\$4.9 million) (Note: FY 2002 and FY 2003 were combined to equal \$9.9 million), 2004 (\$5.9 million) and \*FY 2005 (\$5.9 million), has been authorized a combined total of \$21.8 million, to fund Native American Tribes under a national competitive grant process over the past four fiscal years.



The final guidance for TWG in the Northeast can be found at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nativeamerican/twgap04.pdf> .

TWG Application Kits can be found at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nativeamerican/TWG05kit.pdf> .

\*Please note, a 60-day request for proposals for the fiscal year 2005 TWG funds was published in the Federal Register on Feb. 3, 2005, and proposals were awarded on Aug. 11, 2005.



## Highlights of TWG Activities

### Fiscal Year 2003 TWG:

Final guidance for TWG was not completed until fiscal year 2003: therefore, FY 2002 and FY 2003 funds were combined for the FY 2003 funding cycle. In FY 2003, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed a total of nine TWG proposals submitted by nine Tribes requesting a total of \$1.4 million in federal funds. As a result, four Tribes received awards totaling \$481,554. Below is a summary of FY 2003 TWG activities by those Tribes.

### Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

*Examination of Population Status, Habitat Needs, and Home Range Size of Significant Predator and Prey Species in a Suburban Environment in Connecticut*

TWG Award Amount: \$82,040  
Contributed Funds: \$107,500  
Project Total: \$189,540

#### Project Description:

This project examines aspects of predator and prey ecology and consists of two jobs. One job examines the status and habitat selection of the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) on Tribal lands.

The second job expands an ongoing research project on fox (the spiritual animal of the Mashantucket Pequots) in southeastern Connecticut. Although this project is primarily research, the long-term implications are wide reaching for information sharing, habitat management and habitat protection. Information obtained will be shared with Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection, the Service, the scientific community (through published manuscripts), and the public (via newspaper articles and presentations). Through these research projects, previously nonexistent information will be available to the Tribe and public in order to best preserve and manage for these species.

Questions to be addressed are: Where are New England cottontails found on Tribal land and what habitat characteristics are they selecting for? What type of large-scale features do fox select for or against when choosing den sites?

#### Project Activities:

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation received funding for two research projects under the Tribal Wildlife Grant. Once funding was obligated to the Tribe on June 1, 2004, two technicians were hired and equipment needed to conduct this research was purchased. In an effort to determine if New England cottontails are present on Tribal lands, trapping was started at two sites in January 2005 to initiate the first job in the grant. Traps will be rotated among approximately 12 sites this year. So far, nine cottontails have been captured, four of which were recaptures. Preliminary analysis suggests that these rabbits were all eastern cottontails, but the final determination will not be made until ear samples undergo DNA analysis. All rabbits are ear tagged, weighed, sexed, measured and released.



Shelley Spohr/MPTN

*Eastern cottontail in live trap.*



Shelley Spohr/MPTN

*Radio collaring gray fox.*

The second job funded by the grant is a continuation of research begun in 1999. This research entails examining the population ecology, den site selection, and movements of red fox (*Vulpes fulva*) and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) in a suburban environment. Since funding was obligated, two foxes (a red and a gray) were captured and radio-collared. These animals (along with a third fox captured before grant funding) are tracked at least five times/week. Trapping continued this past spring in efforts to radio-collar additional fox. In addition, radio-collared animals will be tracked to their den sites this coming winter and spring in order to analyze characteristics of den sites.



Shelley Spohr/MPTN

*Radio collaring gray fox.*



**Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians**

*Aroostook Band of Micmacs Brown Ash Management and Reintroduction Project*

TWG Award Amount: \$80,647  
 Contributed Funds: \$1,200  
 Project Total: \$81,847

*Project Description:*

The brown ash (*Fraxinus nigra*, more commonly known as black ash) tree is of special cultural significance to Native American Tribes in the Northeastern United States, including the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians. In particular, the brown ash tree is utilized in the ancient traditional practice of constructing hand-woven baskets.

Despite the cultural significance of weaving brown ash baskets, the future viability of this activity is severely threatened by the decline of this species in the Northeastern United States.

This project will improve the health and sustainability of brown ash species on the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indian Reservation and will protect the future viability of the ancient Tribal tradition of basket/making through the implementation of management activities of the project.

*Project Activities:*

Funding was obligated to the Tribe on May 15, 2004. A management plan for the approximately 28.7 acres of current brown ash stands on Tribal land identifies brown ash management zones on Tribal land, includes maps of the management zones, and provides specific recommendations for improving stand growth and wildlife habitat (see attached photo and management plan). Approximately 250,000 brown ash seeds were collected in the fall of 2004 (see attached photo). The seeds were stratified over the 2004-2005 winter and germinated in the Tribal nursery. By May 2005, approximately 4,000 seedlings had sprouted. An additional 50,000 seeds are undergoing stratification.



Fred Corey/ABMI

Left: Brown ash seed collection.  
 Below: Brown ash seed in preparation for stratification.



Fred Corey/ABMI



Fred Corey/ABMI

Left and Below: Brown ash seedlings.



Fred Corey/ABMI



© Cindie Brunner

Ash



## Penobscot Indian Nation

*Development of a Management Strategy for Moose and White-tailed Deer on Penobscot Nation Trust Lands*

TWG Award Amount: \$250,000  
Contributed Funds: \$28,789  
Project Total: \$278,789

### *Project Description:*

Through the employment of a professional wildlife manager and a wildlife technician over a two-year period, this project will develop an applied management strategy based on existing habitat conditions and population status of deer and moose. This strategy will give the Penobscot Indian Nation the capacity to make informed decisions in its forest management planning process and in its fish and game regulations development process. This will help to insure the continuation of healthy populations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and moose (*Alces alces*) on the Penobscot Indian Nation reservation lands.

### *Project Activities:*

Funding was obligated to the Tribe on July 5, 2004. The Tribe hired wildlife biologist Kristin Dilworth this past April to serve as the project coordinator and is currently in the process of hiring a technician to assist with data collection this fall. Dilworth has attended two conferences, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference in Choctaw, Miss., and the second International Chronic Wasting Disease Symposium. Both conferences were informative and gave Dilworth ideas to implement the Penobscot Indian Nation's big game program.

Over the past three months Dilworth has traveled to Penobscot Indian Nation trust lands throughout Maine, familiarizing herself with the access and the different forest stand types. Dilworth and Tribal Game Warden Jim Pardilla, are organizing a second CWD workshop for hunters this fall. The CWD workshop will be a hands-on workshop where hunters will observe and conduct real life dissection and removal of the obex (or brain stem) and lymph node in the head of domestic sheep slaughtered previously at a sheep farm. This will enable them to better understand what parts of the white-tailed deer will be extracted during hunting season. Additionally, the Tribe is working on replacing their weigh station (beams) on Indian Island in order to have it in working condition by fall 2005.

On July 26, 2005, a local doctor provided information on lyme prevalence in Maine as well as tick identification in a lecture hosted by the Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources. A similar lecture is planned for the spring of 2006 before peak tick emergence.



*White-tailed deer*

**Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**

*Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program*

TWG Award Amount: \$68,867

Contributed Funds: \$32,919

Project Total: \$101,786

*Project Description:*

This project will enhance wildlife habitat on the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indian reservation for species biodiversity and to help sustain Tribal cultural uses of natural resources. Specifically, the project will address four priority wildlife habitat needs through a variety of wildlife habitat enhancement activities, including: 1) invasive plant species (purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)) survey; 2) snag tree management and nest box installation; 3) release wild apple trees (*Malus spp.*); and, 4) plant American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) trees.

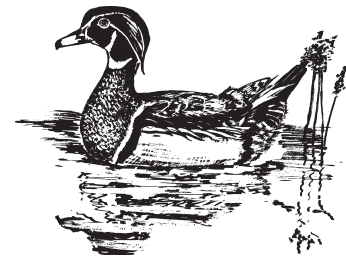
*Project Activities:*

Since the funding was obligated to the Tribe on June 1, 2004, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Natural Resources field staff inventoried approximately 69 acres of Tribal land for standing live trees and snags. As a result, 30 snags were created. Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Natural Resources staff installed 10 American kestrel nest boxes, 55 wood duck nest boxes and 56 bluebird nest boxes throughout the reservation. The apple tree release and American chestnut planting, are expected to resume in spring 2006.

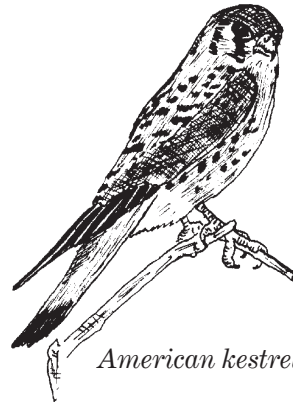


David Lombard/HBIMI

Above: Wood duck box installation.



Wood duck



American kestrel



David Lombard/HBIMI

Above: Installed kestrel nest box.



Purple loosestrife



David Lombard/HBIMI

Above: Installing the Groundmaster Post System.



**Fiscal Year 2004 TWG:**

In FY 2004, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed a total of seven TWG proposals submitted by five different Tribes requesting a total of \$1.2 million in federal funds. As a result, three Tribes received awards totaling \$603,396. Below is a summary of FY 2004 TWG activities by those individual Tribes.

**Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point Reservation**

*Restoring Native Diadromous Fish in the Little River and Boyden Lake Watershed, Maine*

TWG Award Amount: \$105,896  
 Contributed Funds: \$15,300  
 Project Total: \$121,196

*Project Description:*

The project will restore native sea-run fish (e.g., alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)) and their spawning and rearing habitats in the Little River and Boyden Lake by repairing a fish ladder and installing an eel passageway at the Passamaquoddy Water District dam in the Little River in Northeast Maine.

*Project Activities:*

Since the funding was obligated to the Tribe on Feb. 1, 2005, correspondence with Sandra Lary, Fish and Wildlife biologist with the Service, was initiated on March 18 to determine a final design on the eel ladder. The expertise of Skip Zink, Fisheries Biologist of Maine Department of Natural Resources was incorporated to help with the design. A. E. Hodsdon Engineers, consultant for this project, held a mandatory prebid meeting with bidding contractors on May 12, 2005, at the Passamaquoddy Water District Treatment Plant (and location of the fish ladder). Three bidders attended and were informed of the contract requirements and needs. A clarification on the original contract was prepared and amended to the original contract to address the need for pressure injection to repair certain cracks. Downeast Contractors was the low bidder.

A meeting was held on June 3, 2005, with Downeast Contractors and Hodsdon Engineers, Randy Newcomb, Acting Superintendent - Passamaquoddy Water District, and Steve Crawford, Environmental Director - Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point Reservation, to discuss the timing of the construction in regards to the alewife run. Traditionally the run is

strongest in the first two weeks of June, ending around June 20. Return of spent alewives usually begins in middle July. It was determined that construction was to begin June 20 and be completed by July 15, 2005.

Weather proved to be an inhibiting factor to this schedule. Heavy rains and cold weather apparently affected the alewife run; the fish never came up the Little River. Furthermore, the flow over the Little River dam was so high that the fish ladder and dam could not safely be closed and water diverted to a secondary spillway until July 5. Construction began on that date and is currently underway. The contractor anticipates to have the fish ladder completed by August 2005. Because no adult fish attempted to enter the broken fishway, there is no concern of any fish returning from Boyden Lake after spawning.

The final design of the eel ladder has not been decided, though the designs should be completed by early August 2005 and construction done before Sept. 2005.



Steve Crawford/PT-PPR

*Above and below: fish ladder repair work*



Steve Crawford/PT-PPR



*American eel*

Duane Raver/USFWS



*Alewife*

Duane Raver/USFWS



Steve Crawford/PT-PPR

*Existing fish ladder where eel passage will be constructed.*



**Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians**

*Aroostook Band of Micmac Aroostook River Land Conservation Project*

TWG Award Amount: \$250,000

Contributed Funds: \$327,000

Project Total: \$577,000

*Project Description:*

TWG Funding will assist the Tribe with acquiring and permanently protecting from development approximately 4,128 acres of high value habitat for rare and endangered species (e.g., Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), pygmy snaketail dragonfly (*Ophiogomphus howei*) and the extra-striped snaketail dragonfly (*Ophiogomphus anomalus*)). The property is located along the Aroostook River in Oxbow Township, Maine.

*Project Activities:*

After negotiations with the landowner a draft purchase and sale agreement was presented to the landowner in early summer of 2005. Unfortunately, the seller had received an offer from a different buyer and rejected the Tribe's offer. As a result, the Service directed the Tribe to locate and identify another tract of land with similar attributes as the original land acquisition proposal. If the Tribe is unsuccessful in locating a parcel, the money will revert back to the Service to fund another project.



Fred Corey/ABMI

*ABMI Tribal Council Member's site visit to the property*

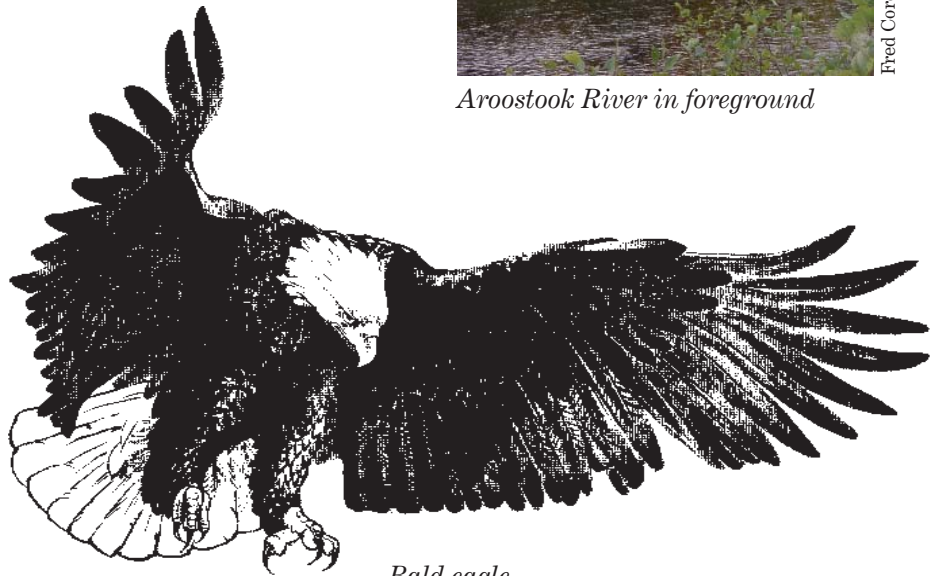


*Dragonfly*

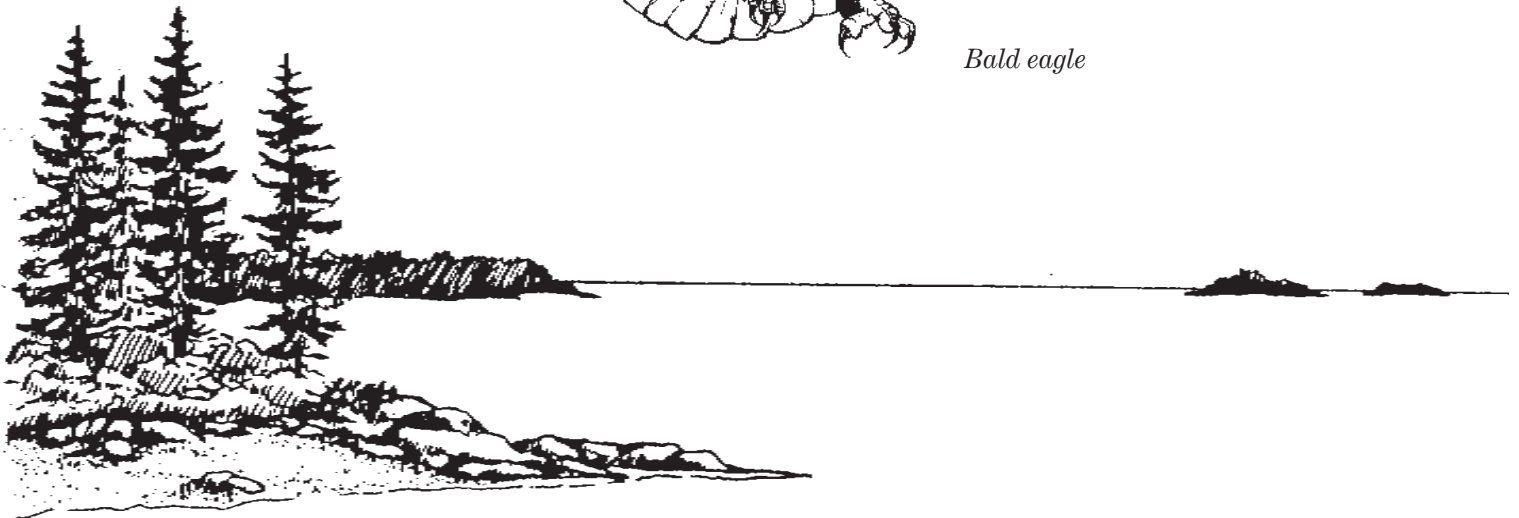


Fred Corey/ABMI

*Aroostook River in foreground*



*Bald eagle*



**Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)**

*Development of a Comprehensive Bay Scallop Population Enhancement Program for Menemsha Pond, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts*

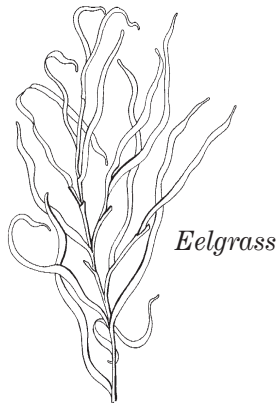
TWG Award Amount: \$247,500  
 Contributed Funds: \$171,480  
 Project Total: \$418,980

*Project Description:*

The three-year project will use a multi-pronged approach to identify effective components for a comprehensive bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*) restoration program for Menemsha Pond. The Tribe owns and operates a shellfish hatchery on Tribal land on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Project activities include: population enhancement through culture and release of bay scallop seed; habitat improvement through eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) restoration; reduce predation through predator control of green crabs; and water quality improvement through monitoring water quality.

*Project Activities:*

In April 2005, 60 broodstock scallops (purple shells) were brought into the hatchery for spawning. On May 12, 2005, four million larvae were spawned. Other activities include: collaboration with Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory; Environmental Protection Agency will perform video bottom surveys to create a model to maximize production; Brown University will partner to expand the program.



*Eelgrass*



*Inside Tribal Shellfish Hatchery*

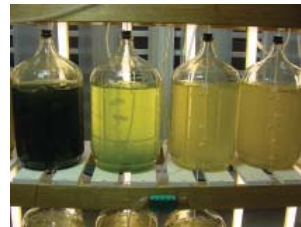
Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)

*Photos below show scallop from the time they are spawned to their release in the bay to maturation.*



*Scallop seed on screen*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



*Algae (food for seed)*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



*Phytoplankton (food for seed)*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



*Seed on screen being fed by algae and phytoplankton*



*Seed on Handi-wipe*



*Seed on Handi-wipe in cage*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



*Scallops in cages released in Menemsha Pond*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



*Three-year-old scallop (mature adult)*

Rob Garrison/WTGH(A)



**Fiscal Year 2005 TWG:**

In FY 2005, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed a total of four TWG proposals submitted by four Tribes requesting a total of \$617,819 in federal funds. As a result, three Tribes received awards totaling \$544,159. Below is a summary of FY 2005 TWG activities to be anticipated by those Tribes.

**Passamaquoddy Tribe -Pleasant Point Reservation**

*Monitoring the Water Quality at Boyden's Lake Tributaries After the Re-Introduction of Alewives*

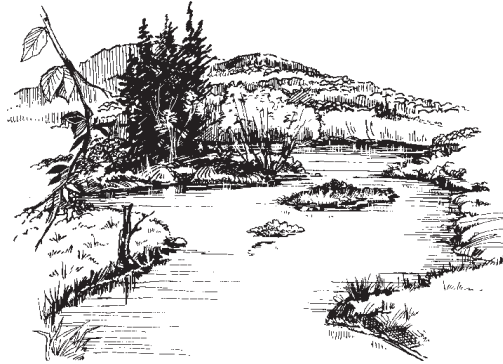
TWG Award Amount: \$106,218  
Contributed Funds: \$21,575  
Project Total: \$127,793

*Project Description:*

The three-year project will monitor water quality at Boyden Lake tributaries. This project was designed as a result of a fiscal year 2004 TWG project to repair fish passage at a dam at the Passamaquoddy Water District Treatment Plant on the Little River.

The project includes the following activities: gather information on the alewife populations in the Boyden Lake watershed to help develop a plan to allow a sustainable harvest; assess changes in biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia, turbidity and other chemical parameters of Boyden Lake that may impact the water treatment at Passamaquoddy Water District for processing drinking water; and, investigate the impact of the magnitude of nutrient additions associated with the new run of alewife populations and impacts on the food web structure, providing a model for shallow eutrophic lakes in the Northeast.

*Project Activities:* None



© June Henshaw

**St. Regis Mohawk Tribe**

*Inventory and Evaluation of Suitable Wetland Habitat for Blanding's and Snapping Turtles on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation*

TWG Award Amount: \$187,941  
Contributed Funds: \$0  
Project Total: \$187,941

*Project Description:*

The three-year project will inventory and evaluate populations of Blanding's and snapping turtles in their preferred habitats within the reservation boundaries. The Blanding's turtle is listed as threatened in New York, and both turtles play an important role in the Mohawk culture and tradition.

The project includes the following activities: determining population status of the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) by setting live-traps to inventory turtle populations; identifying management/preservation methods; and developing and implementing a management plan.

*Project Activities:* None

**Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township Reservation**

*A Comprehensive Plan to Protect, Enhance and Manage Freshwater Fish*

TWG Award Amount: \$250,000  
Contributed Funds: \$0  
Project Total: \$250,000

*Project Description:*

The four-year project will develop a comprehensive freshwater fish management plan.

The project includes the following activities: complete inventory of all Tribal fisheries on 143,573 acres of Passamaquoddy Tribal Land; individual inventories for each lake, pond, and stream for water quality, fish species present (and population), available spawning habitat, and its current fishery; and develop an individual fisheries goal and management plan for each lake, pond and stream based on the collected data.

*Project Activities:* None



*Blanding's turtle*

Scott Ballard/Courtesy of Illinois DNR



**Tribal Landowner Incentive Program**

*Background:*

The Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) originates from the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002. Funds were allocated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for conservation grants to states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and Tribes under the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). In recent years, natural resource managers have recognized that private lands play a pivotal role in linking or providing important habitats for fish, wildlife and plant species. To protect and enhance these habitats through incentives for private landowners, Congress appropriated these funds for the Service to administer a new Landowner Incentive Program for states and Tribes. The Service awards grants for actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. A primary objective of LIP is to establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs. These programs provide technical and financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners for protecting and managing habitat to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands as stated in the appropriations language. LIP complements other federal private lands conservation programs that focus on conserving habitat.

Similar to LIP, the TLIP provides conservation monies, under a competitive process, to federally recognized Tribes for actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on Tribal lands. TLIP was created because of the unique relationship between the federal government and Tribes and because Tribal lands are not private lands and would not be eligible for funding under a state-administered LIP with a private lands grant distribution system. Because the Tribes directly administer the funds rather than distribute them further to individual

landowners, the criteria used in evaluating program proposals differ to some extent from those used in the LIP. The results of both the LIP and TLIP are similar because both encourage voluntary conservation of natural resources.

Examples of eligible projects include those by Indian Tribes to improve, preserve or maintain habitat for endangered, threatened, candidate or other at-risk species including species designated by Tribes to be at-risk. Examples of the types of projects the Service might fund include prescribed burning to restore grasslands that support imperiled species, fencing to exclude animals from sensitive habitats, or planting native vegetation to restore degraded habitat. A project that proposes a land purchase must clearly justify the necessity and long-term conservation benefit of the acquisition.

Since the inception of the TLIP, the Service, under the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act(s) for FY 2002 (\$3.9 million), FY 2003 funds were rescinded by Congress, FY 2004 (\$2.9 million) and \*FY 2005 (\$2.1 million), has been authorized a combined total of \$9.06 million to fund Native American Tribes under a national competitive grant process over the past four fiscal years.

The final guidance for TLIP in the Northeast can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nativeamerican/tlipap04.pdf>.

TLIP Application Kits can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nativeamerican/TLIP05kit.pdf>.

\*Please note, a 60-day request for proposals for the fiscal year 2005 TLIP funds was published in the Federal Register on Feb. 3, 2005, and proposals were awarded on Aug. 11, 2005.



*Bald eagle head*



*Bald eagle feathers*



## Highlights of TLIP Activities

### Fiscal Year 2003 TLIP

Final guidance for TLIP was not completed until FY 2003, and FY 2003 funds were rescinded by Congress; therefore, FY 2002 funds were used for the FY 2003 funding cycle. In FY 2003, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed a total of five TLIP proposals submitted by five different Tribes requesting a total of \$700,865 in federal funds. As a result, two Tribes received awards totaling \$379,325. Below is a summary of FY 2003 TLIP activities by those Tribes.

### Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township Reservation

*Population Assessment and Forest Management Planning for the Canada Lynx and Other Rare and Endangered Forest Carnivores on Passamaquoddy Tribal in Maine*

TLIP Award Amount: \$180,700  
Contributed Funds: \$60,233  
Project Total: \$240,933

#### Project Description:

The three-year project will partner with the Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and the University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology to: 1) conduct surveys for federally endangered gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and eastern cougar (*Felis concolor*); federally threatened Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and other furbearing species including bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*), pine marten (*Martes americana*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes fulva*), weasel (*Mustela spp.*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), mink (*Mustela vison*) and otter (*Lutra canadensis*) on Tribal lands; 2) develop habitat models to assess the suitability of Tribal lands for snowshoe hare, Canada lynx and pine marten and assess the effects of past, present and future forest management practices on these species; and 3) use newly developed habitat models for snowshoe hare and Canada lynx (as an umbrella for early successional species) and pine marten (as an umbrella for mid-to-late successional species) to revise Tribal forest management plans and promote the recovery and management of these species on Tribal lands.

#### Project Activities:

Funding was obligated to the Tribe on July 1, 2004. Snowmobiles and other needed equipment were purchased in January 2005, and surveys were attempted. The Tribe conducted one survey on the Indian Township area and has three other survey routes plotted on Tribal Trust land throughout western Maine, but inclement weather halted the survey. The survey window of 24 to 72 hours after a snow or wind event is the major factor in survey timing. Many snow and wind events had occurred, and a window of opportunity for surveying was not available.

From February 28 through March 4, 2005, Tribal biologists were in Jackman, Maine, on Tribal Trust land attempting another survey. A major storm hit the area with a heavy wind preventing them from accomplishing their surveying efforts. However, many things were accomplished, such as plotting and using Global Positioning System to depict the routes and finding the 62 miles needed to survey using a model developed by the University of Maine. Surveying will begin again during winter 2005-2006.



Canada lynx tracks

John Organ/USFWS



Snowmobile stuck in snow during survey

Karl Nichols/PIT-TTR



Surveying on snowmobile

John Sewell/PIT-TTR



## Penobscot Indian Nation

*Katahdin to the Sea: Restoring the Penobscot River Ecosystem*

TLIP Award Amount: \$198,625  
Contributed Funds: \$769,980  
Project Total: \$968,605

### *Project Description:*

Overall, the Penobscot River Restoration Project is a multi-year effort to restore the Penobscot River. It is one of the largest, most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history. Successful implementation of the project will revive not only native fisheries, but social, cultural and economic traditions of New England's second largest river.

A coalition called Penobscot Partners includes the Penobscot Indian Nation, American Rivers, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Maine and Trout Unlimited working with the Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service), the State of Maine, and Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation (the dam owners). The coalition has negotiated a final agreement to redefine the Penobscot River over the coming years.

### *Project Activities:*

Negotiation of a Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (the final binding legal agreement addressing a multitude of legal, financial and technical issues) was signed by all parties on June 25, 2004. Signatories include: the Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation; the U.S. Department of the Interior's bureaus; four State of Maine natural resource agencies – the State Planning Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Atlantic Salmon Commission; the Penobscot Indian Nation; American Rivers; Atlantic Salmon Federation; Maine Audubon; Natural Resources Council of Maine; Trout Unlimited; and the Penobscot River Restoration Trust – a Maine non-profit corporation established in May 2004.

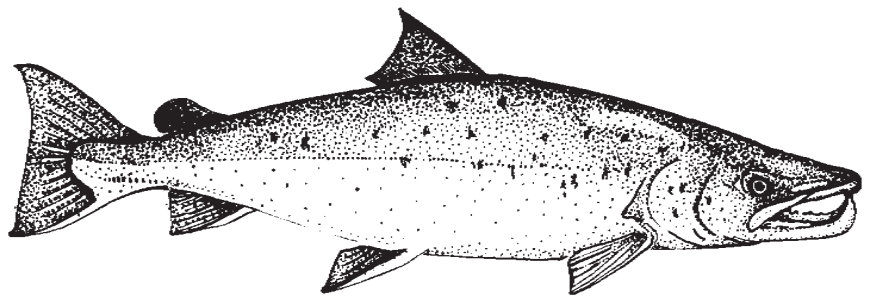
TWG funding was obligated to the Tribe on July 5, 2004. Critical scientific, political and community assessments, including sediment, archaeological (ongoing) and engineering analyses of the proposed dam removals have been completed. Building a diverse and broad base of public support for the Penobscot River Restoration Project is an ongoing part of the project.



*Left to right, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton; Maine Governor John Baldacci; and former Penobscot Indian Nation Chief Barry Dana at the agreement signing June 25, 2004*



***We are the river – the river is us . . .***  
*“This river is the backbone of who we are as a Nation. Our name is derived from the description of the land here in this region. And the river that flows through it bears our name or we bear its name. And so then we would call ourselves ‘Pana `wampskik.’ We are people of that place.” Jerry Pardilla, former Tribal Governor*



*Male Atlantic salmon*

**Fiscal Year 2004 TLIP:**

In FY 2004, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed only one TLIP proposal from an individual Tribe requesting \$25,500 in federal funds. As a result, the Tribe received an award in the amount of \$25,500. Below is a summary of FY 2004 TLIP activities.

**St. Regis Mohawk Tribe**

*Habitat Protection Project Within the Benedict Property on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation*

TLIP Award Amount: \$25,500  
Contributed Funds: \$8,500  
Project Total: \$34,000

*Project Description:*

Funding from TLIP will be used to develop environmental protection and conservation capacity through habitat preservation by acquiring a 51-acre parcel of land on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe’s reservation that is known habitat for at-risk species and Tribally significant species (e.g., wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), Blanding’s turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)).

*Project Activities:*

The Tribe has submitted an appraisal to the Service for the Benedict property. Once an accepted appraisal is in place and all of the environmental compliance issues are addressed, the Tribe can make an offer to acquire the property from the current landowner. The acquisition will likely occur sometime this fall.



Les Benedict/SRMT

*Above and below: Wetlands on the Benedict property*



Les Benedict/SRMT



*Wood turtle*



**Fiscal Year 2005 TLIP:**

In FY 2005, the Northeast Region of the Service received and reviewed a total of three TLIP proposals submitted by three Tribes requesting a total of \$354,472 in federal funds. As a result, one Tribe received an award totaling \$149,490. Below is a summary of FY 2005 TLIP activities planned by the Tribe.

**Penobscot Indian Nation**

*Katahdin to the Sea: Restoring the Penobscot River Ecosystem (Phase 2)*

TLIP Award Amount: \$149,490  
Contributed Funds: \$50,372  
Project Total: \$199,862

*Project Description:*

This project is Phase 2 of a TLIP project begun in FY03. The project will restore and reopen 500 miles of river habitat for shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*, Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*). The Penobscot Indian Nation is working with numerous partners to remove two large dams, decommission a third and boost power production at six more dams in the Penobscot River watershed. For the first time in more than 200 years, 100 percent of migratory fish historical habitat will be reopened.

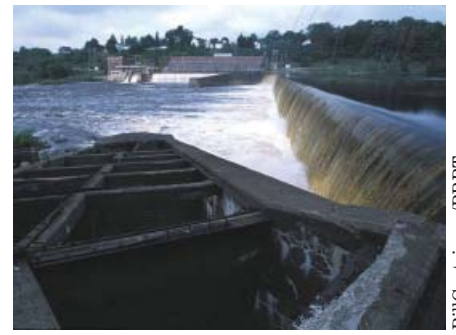
Activities for Phase 2 of the project include: address multiple legal, regulatory and management issues needed to successfully implement the Comprehensive Settlement Agreement signed June 25, 2004 by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation; the Department of the Interior's bureaus: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Park Service; four State of Maine natural resource agencies – the State Planning Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission; the Penobscot Indian Nation; American Rivers; Atlantic Salmon Federation; Maine Audubon; Natural Resources Council of Maine; Trout Unlimited; and the Penobscot River Restoration Trust – a Maine non-profit corporation established in May 2004; and, maintain project momentum through expanding the base of diverse and broad public support through consistent and direct contact with local communities and people throughout the Penobscot River watershed.

*Project Activities:* None

The Penobscot River Restoration Trust was established to implement the core aspects of the restoration effort, particularly the purchase and removal of the Veazie and Great Works dams and bypass or, if necessary, removal of the Howland Dam. The Trust's board of directors is comprised of members of the conservation groups and the Penobscot Indian Nation.

This unprecedented and innovative agreement will allow: the Penobscot River Restoration Trust the option to purchase three dams from PPL Corporation and subsequently remove the two lowermost dams on the river; Veazie and Great Works; the PRRT, after obtaining the Service's approval, to decommission and pursue construction of a state-of-the-art fish bypass around the third dam, Howland, that will, if found feasible, maintain the impoundment; PPL Corporation to improve fish passage at four additional dams; and, PPL Corporation the opportunity to increase generation at six existing dams, resulting in more than 90 percent of the current energy generation being maintained (see map and chart, facing page).

The agreement, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in June 2004 laid out a roadmap for restoring the river that will: restore self-sustaining populations of native sea-run fish, such as the endangered Atlantic salmon, through improved access to more than 500 miles of historic habitat; renew opportunities for the Penobscot Indian Nation to exercise sustenance fishing rights; create new opportunities for tourism, business and communities; and, resolve longstanding disputes and avoid future uncertainties over the regulation of the river.



BillCurtsinger/PRRT

*Veazie Dam - scheduled for removal*



Heather Perry/PRRT

*Great Works Dam - scheduled for removal*



NRCM/PRRT

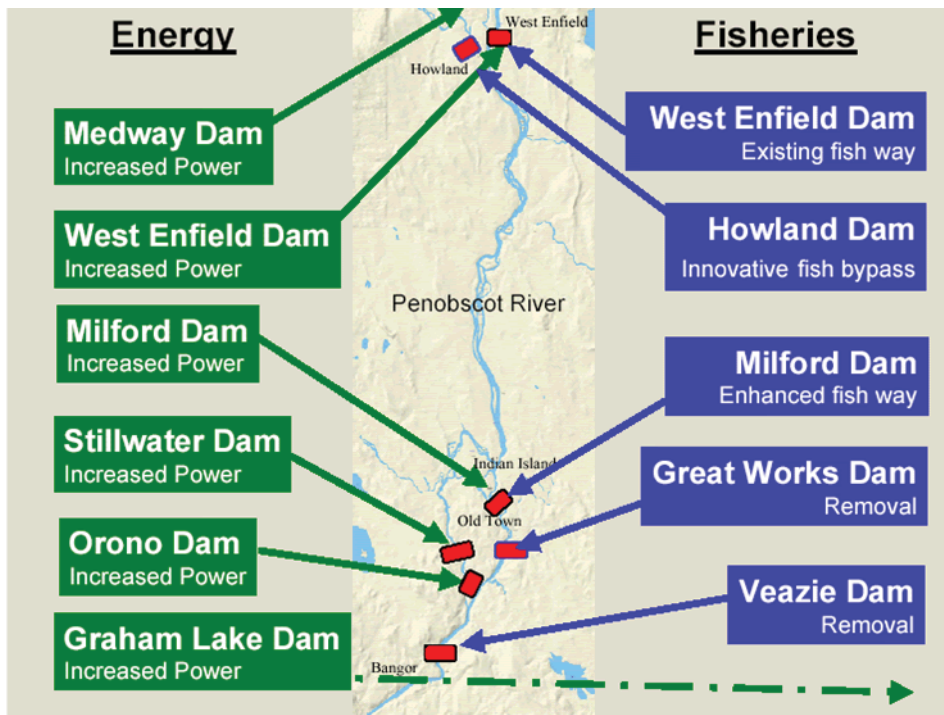
*Milford Dam - scheduled for future fish passage (fish lift)*



NRCM/PRRT

*Howland Dam - possible removal or fish passage*



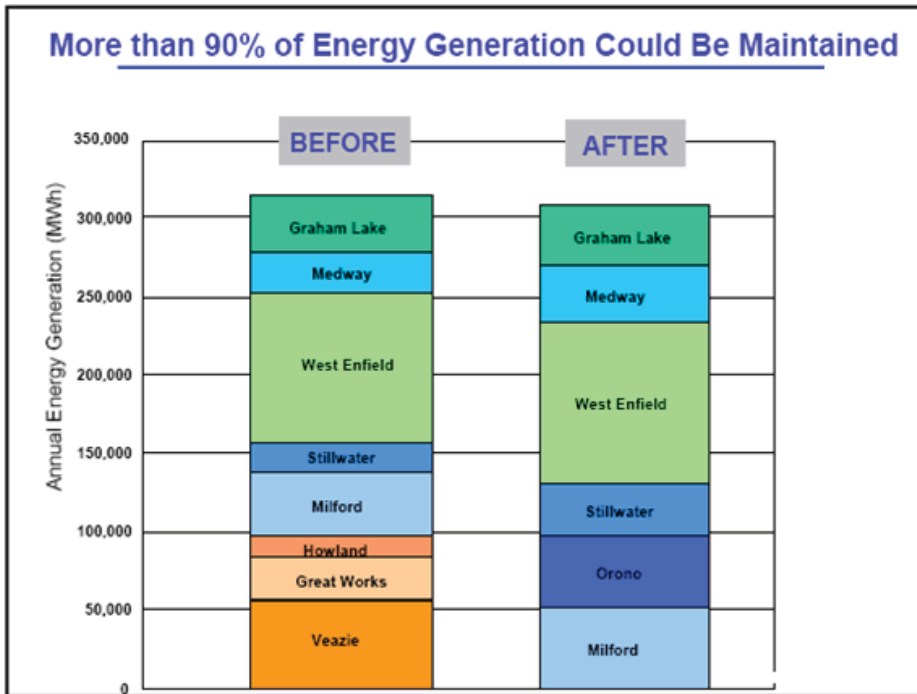


PRRT

### TWG and TLIP Training Activities

#### Northeast Region Hosts Four Hands-on Tribal Grant Writing Workshops

The Northeast Region of the Service hosted four hands-on Tribal grant writing workshops in the past two fiscal years for the Northeast Tribes. On Aug. 19, 2003, and May 13, 2004, the workshops were held at the Regional Office in Hadley, Mass. On Aug. 21, 2003, a workshop was held at the Penobscot Indian Nation's Department of Natural Resources office and another workshop was held May 12, 2004, at the Maine Fisheries Program Complex in East Orland, Maine. The purpose of the workshops was to assist Tribes in preparing and developing grant proposals for TWG and TLIP. The objectives of the workshops were to provide an overview of TWG and TLIP administrative requirements and to provide technical assistance to Tribes in preparing and drafting competitive proposals. Many Tribes from the Northeast were in attendance, including: the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Passamaquoddy Tribes (Indian Township Reservation and Pleasant Point Reservation) and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).



PRRT



## Federal Assistance Grants Management and Project Leaders Training Course for Tribes

The Northeast Region of the Service hosted a Federal Assistance Grants Management and Project Leaders Training Course for Tribes at the Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2004. The Federal Assistance Training Program at the Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, W.Va. developed the pilot course, and Native American Liaison D.J. Monette coordinated Tribal participation. The training course was developed to support Tribal grants that the Service began to administer in fiscal year 2003 as part of the Service's training commitment to the Tribes.

The training course focused on topics such as: writing a good grant proposal, managing and administering grants, using information resources in the Federal Assistance Toolkit to manage and administer grants, Tribal and Service roles, modifying grants, reporting requirements, and eligibility and compliance requirements.

Tribal natural resource and fiscal staff from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Penobscot Indian Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians attended the course.

"Any grants management training we can provide to meet the needs of the Tribes participating in the Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program is time well spent," said Federal Assistance course instructor Blake Weirich. "The success of these two programs promises to open a vital link in not only sustaining the natural resources on Tribal lands, but also in re-establishing part of the cultural heritage of all Native Americans."

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe wetlands biologist Joyce Barkley said, "I've been writing for and managing federal grants for over six years now, and I thought I knew almost everything. This course opened my eyes to the complexities on the federal side of grants and has made me a better grant writer."

If you are interested in participating in future training opportunities conducted by the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please contact Native American Liaison D.J. Monette at 413/253-8662.



D.J. Monette/USFWS

*Tribal Grants Management and Project Leaders Training Course Participants*

### Message from the Regional Director

The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) and Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) are part of the Service's ongoing commitment to working in a government-to-government partnership with Native American Tribes. The Service in the last three years has granted nearly \$31.1 million to federally recognized Tribes under these programs. I am proud to say that the 16 Tribes in the Northeast, which constitute less than 3 percent of the 562 Tribes nationwide, have received over \$2.18 million – or 7 percent – of the available funding to date.

Although TWG and TLIP funds are not guaranteed from one fiscal year to the next, the Service will continue to the greatest extent possible to support natural resources programs on Tribal lands. I trust that the Tribes in the Northeast will continue to be active in developing creative fish and wildlife projects as these competitive dollars are available. I am very excited about these two grant programs, as it is the first time that the Service has solely administered a grant program designed specifically for Tribes.



The Service values relationships and partnerships with Tribes in addressing fish, wildlife, and other natural resource issues of mutual concern. I encourage you to utilize our staffing capabilities at the Regional Office and field office level for technical assistance when preparing future grant applications.

Keep up the great work that you all do in your effort to conserve and protect the valuable natural resources on your respective Tribal lands.



Tammy Hogan/USFWS

*Left to right, Native American Liaison D.J. Monette and Regional Director Marvin E. Moriarty*

If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Wildlife Grants, Tribal Landowner Incentive Program or Native American fish and wildlife activities in the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please contact Native American Liaison D.J. Monette at 413/253-8662, or e-mail at [dj\\_monette@fws.gov](mailto:dj_monette@fws.gov)

Federal Relay Service for deaf and hard-of-hearing 1 800/877-8339

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Northeast Regional Office  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nativeamerican>

September 2005

