
Name of Organization: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Type of Organization: Tribal Organization

Contact Information: Ms. Lisa Miotke
Environmental, Health, & Safety Department
PO Box 365
Oneida WI 54155

Phone: (920) 497 - 5812 **Extension:** 166

Fax: (920) 496 - 7883

E-Mail: lmiotke@oneidanation.org

Project Title: Wetland Exotic Species Program

Project Category: Exotic Species

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 32,577 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

Introduction:

The Oneida Reservation covers approximately 100 square miles (65,000 acres) lying west of the Fox River and south of the bay of Green Bay. The Oneida Nation Geographic Land Information System reports the following water resources within the exterior boundaries of the Oneida Reservation:

About 1453 acres of wetlands which equates to approximately 2.2% of the Reservation's landscape. Of this, 354 acres are on tribally owned lands (24% of wetlands or .5% of the total Reservation landscape)

Approximately 233 miles of rivers, creeks, & streams;

Seventy eight (78) lakes and ponds covering 112 acres; and

All surface waters within the Oneida Reservation drain to the Great Lakes Basin (Lake Michigan). There are four separate water drainages, bearing numerous tributaries which all have wetlands adjacent:

Duck Creek River - Fish Creek, Oneida Creek, Trout Creek, Lancaster Brook, Beaver Dam Creek, Silver Creek (Lower Green Bay Basin);

South Branch of the Suamico River - (Upper Green Bay Basin);

Ashwaubenon Creek - North Branch, South Branch, Hemlock Creeks (Fox River Basin);

Dutchmans Creek (Fox River Basin)

All waters of the Reservation drain to the bay of Green Bay, an Area of Concern (AOC) in Lake Michigan. Exotic species are one of the major problems in the AOC and given the proximity and connection of the Oneida Reservation to this AOC, this is a shared issue. The condition of the waters of the Reservation is relatively impaired in terms of water quality and quantity; this largely stemming from land based sources of aquatic impairment.

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is a federally recognized Indian Tribe consisting of 12, 843 enrolled members, nearly one-third of whom live on or near the 65,000 acre semi-rural reservation. The Oneida Tribe exists to protect, maintain and improve the standard of living and the environment in which the Oneida people live.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

Lakes:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Geographic Initiatives:

- | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Fox River/Green Bay, WI

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has estimated that the bay of Green Bay region has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands through farming and development. The value of wetlands has only recently been studied and accepted by scientists and laypeople to include such functions as: flood control, nutrient and pollutant uptake, habitat, bank stabilization, and recreation.

At this time, the Tribe owns and controls only 354 acres of the wetlands on the Reservation. It is imperative to keep the existing wetlands healthy, restore historic wetlands to their former diversity, and where the topography, hydrology, and geology allow, create new wetland habitats. This can only be done successfully by managing exotic, invasive species.

Unfortunately, in the recent past, the Oneida Reservation wetlands, along with many regional wetlands, have been impacted by exotic plant species such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Although Reed Canary grass is native in origin, the Eurasian strain has effectively assimilated the native strain and become an aggressive invader. Areas of infestation by these two exotics have rapidly converted from diverse wetlands or wet meadows into monotypic stands. Without control and management practices, these aggressive invasive species will eventually consume any suitable habitat.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Year 1:

1. Map, photograph, and describe areas of known infestation by communicating with community members and staff, Brown and Outagamie County Land Conservation Department staff and local Department of Natural Resources staff. With the aid of our Global Position System (GPS) unit and Geographic Land Information System Department, we will map these areas to measure the success of control strategies.
2. Research methods of eradication and control from various agencies, such as the County Extension Office or the Arm Corp of Engineers to determine which method is applicable on Reservation lands. This may include: burning, earthmoving (scrapes or dikes), breaking tile, chemical or biological methods. Where appropriate, different methods will be tested to provide comparative study information for other sites.
3. Train Oneida Conservation Crew (OCC) members and other tribal staff on these method
4. Implement the practices on selected sites. This will require approval of the Oneida Division of Land Management Oneida Land Commission, and the Oneida Environmental Resources Board. Educational presentations will be given these

groups to aid in the decision making process. Once approvals are given to implement the desired practices, Environmental, Health & Safety Department staff will coordinate the activities with the OCC and any other tribal staff necessary. Depending on the practice implemented, further site visits the first year may be necessary.

5. Documentation of the effects of the practice and mapping the change in area will occur, at the minimum, on an annual basis.

Year 2 and beyond:

1. Site visits to document the process of the implemented practices will occur during the growing season to determine success of the methods used.

2. Implement practices on selected sites.

Project Milestones:	Dates:
Map of areas of known infestation by GIS	07/2000
Matrix of eradication methods and sites	07/2000
Trained staff: eradication methods	07/2000
Implement practices (2 yrs)	10/2001
Document successes (2 yrs)	10/2001
Followup, Review & Report	12/2001
	/
Project End	12/2001

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

Community members and students will need basic information on why exotic species are a problem and how to identify areas of infestation.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	7,061	2,614
Fringe:	1,906	706
Travel:	2,000	0
Equipment:	0	0
Supplies:	300	200
Contracts:	0	0
Construction:	20,000	0
Other:	0	0
Total Direct Costs:	31,267	3,520
Indirect Costs:	1,310	485
Total:	32,577	4,005
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Tribal funds will match some of the project funds.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

Past education on Purple Loosestrife through the community newspaper, Kalihwisaks ("She who looks for news"), has set the stage for Tribal staff to work with community members to identify areas of infestation. Many community members do understand the problems of exotic species on the Reservation and would like to see action taken. Depending on the method of eradication, tribal school classes may be encouraged to assist in the process if safety is not an issue (ie. heavy equipment or chemical use).

Contact with plant biologists, Army Corp of Engineer staff, Natural Resource Conservation Service, County Extension offices, Land Conservation Offices, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to assist in the project.