



# Tribal Grants

## Current Status

In the two grant cycles spanning 2006 and 2007, the Department of the Interior awarded over \$16 million in grants to federally recognized Native American tribes to help conserve and recover endangered, threatened and at-risk species and other wildlife on tribal lands. Projects supported by tribal grants reflect the spiritual, cultural, traditional and economic importance of fish and wildlife to Native American tribes. During the 2006 and 2007 grant cycles, 13 tribes in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest Region received nearly \$2.1 million for 14 conservation projects. This included four grants to tribes in Michigan, four grants to tribes in Minnesota and six grants to tribes in Wisconsin.

The Service awarded the grants under two programs, the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (TWG). These programs are similar to programs recently developed by the department to assist states, local communities, private landowners and other partners to undertake wildlife conservation projects.

Of the \$4.5 million available in the TLIP program nationwide, federally recognized tribes in Region 3 competed successfully for nearly \$.5 million to help fund 5 projects. Contributions from tribes and other partners raised the total value of these projects to \$.8 million. The grants were chosen through a competitive process to address tribal needs for the protection, restoration, and management of habitat to benefit at-risk species, including federally listed endangered or threatened species and proposed or candidate species. The maximum award under this program is \$120,000 with a required minimum 25



## Hot Topics:

The Midwest Region partners with 35 Native American tribes in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Since the inception of the tribal grant program in 2003, tribes in the Midwest Region have been awarded 51 grants.

The 2006 and 2007 tribal grants awarded in the Midwest Region totaled \$1,547,000 under the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program and \$536,000 for the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program.

percent match of total project dollars from non-federal funds.

Meanwhile, under the TWG program about \$1.6 million helped fund 9 regional tribal projects. Contributions from tribes and other partners increased the total value of these projects to \$2.3 million. These grants are awarded to benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitat, including non-game species. Although matching funds are not required for the TWG grants, they are considered to be an indicator of a tribe's commitment. The maximum grant award under this program is \$200,000.

## Quick Facts

Conservation projects supported by tribal grants awarded in May 2006 or May 2007 include:

- Comprehensive wildlife and fish planning
- Walleye and sturgeon population studies
- Wildlife habitat assessments/rare and culturally important species
- Monitoring, management, reintroduction of gray wolf
- Status and trends of moose populations
- Vessel procurement and operation
- Wild rice and wetland restoration
- Spring source water restoration

## Management Goals

- Coordinate resource needs to maximize benefits for fish and wildlife
- Feature tribal cultural, traditional and spiritual values in activities benefiting natural resources
- Identify tribal resource needs and blend with partner's resource priorities
- Seek to assist tribes in fully using tribal grant programs for personnel development and training
- Increase outreach and information exchange by exploring publication and presentation venues