

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

January 2013, Wisconsin

Volunteers Install Wooden Logs for Improving Stream Flow and Fish Habitat

Members of the Youth Conservation Crew working out of the Great Lakes Visitor Center in Northern Wisconsin recently teamed up with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee (WTCAC) as Earth Team Volunteers to install large woody debris fish habitat in the Iron River of Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

WTCAC was organized in March 2001 to identify tribal conservation issues and to advise the NRCS on more effective ways to deliver USDA programs and assist the Indian Nations of Wisconsin.

The fish habitat improvement project is a partnership with a private land owner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) -Ashland Service Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Volunteers installed large woody debris in the Iron River to provide fish habitat and improve stream conditions for local trout species. This was the second year of a multi-year project.

In 2012, the volunteers installed 55 logs into the river bed. Steel rebar is driven into the logs to pin them to the



Volunteers installed logs in the river bed to provide improved stream flow and fish habitat.



Back row L-R, Brittany Seihr, Kara MapleThorp, Danny Bourassa, Matthew Biahnich, Austin Mika, Izaak Pederson, Dylan Jennings. Bottom row L-F, Mike Mlynarek, Christine McCormick, Kelsey Wilmer, Jordan Jagol, Allissa LaGrew.

stream bottom. Installing the logs is an art of reading the water and stream bed to create the proper habitat.

Landowner Danny Bourassa enjoyed working with the crew and believes volunteers are a great way to get conservation restoration on the land. The young men and women who volunteered gained a valued educational opportunity. Stream ecology, wildlife, biology, ground water resources from springs and hydrology were among the many things discussed with the volunteers during the project.



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.usda.nrcs.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.