



# Voluntary Restoration and Protection: Tribal Wetland Programs Addressing this Core Element

## Examples for Tribal Wetland Programs

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GEOSPATIAL SERVICES

Tribes and states are allowed to choose which of the EPA’s four core elements they include in their wetland program plan (WPP). Not all tribes have the opportunity, resources, and capacity to take on voluntary wetland restoration and protection. Two tribes that have made plans for this core element are the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community (SMC) in Wisconsin. Below are tables from their WPPs, summarizing planned restoration and protection-related activities.

**Table 1.** The Nez Perce Tribe’s Voluntary Restoration and Protection planned actions (adapted from their [2019 WPP](#)). Note: WESP = Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol

<b>Objective:</b> Working with the Wetland Work Group, develop an action plan and prioritized map of wetland restoration/enhancement on reservation						
<b>Action (a):</b> Establish and develop strong working relationships among Wetland Work Group and local agencies and the community						
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
1. Coordinate with partners; work to outline wetland restoration and protection goals, opportunities and timeframes (when and where projects are being done and where we should target planning)	x					
<b>Action (b):</b> Consider watershed planning, wildlife habitat, and other objectives when selecting restoration/protection sites						
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
1. Integrate restoration /protection efforts on a watershed scale for upcoming projects.	x					
<b>Action (c):</b> Track restoration opportunities for wetlands across the reservation by watershed						
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
1. Using the WESP results, refine a GIS framework to include tracking of “restoration opportunities”, traditional and cultural information, as well as protected wetlands, utilizing the functions and condition within a watershed where projects are being restored.	x					
2. Share priorities with other organizations involved with wetland protection and restoration						x
<b>Action (d):</b> Provide clear guidance on appropriate restoration and management techniques and success measures.						
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
1. Develop restoration and management guidance specific to wetland types and functions using the WESP tool for values and guidance for restoration projects within each different watershed	x	x				
2. Establish measures for restoration success, e.g., adopt functional and condition indicator and field methods for each project site; include use of RTCER tool			x	x		
3. Verify restoration techniques with site visits and adapt as necessary				x	x	x

**Table 2.** The Stockbridge-Munsee Community’s Voluntary Restoration and Protection planned actions (adapted from their [2022 WPP](#)). Note: EAB = Emerald Ash Borer

<b>Objective: Protect wetlands from degradation or destruction</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Continue pre-harvest wetland delineations for timber sales and post-harvest site assessments	x	x	x	x	x
Maintain involvement in land use reviews and Core Planning meetings as they relate to potential wetland impacts	x	x	x	x	x
Identify potential black ash underplanting sites	x	x	x		
Expand black ash underplanting efforts in high risk wetlands to mitigate the impacts of EAB		x	x	x	x
Work with SMC Forestry and Land Management Departments to improve the logging road maps, classify roads based on condition and use, and identify potential road closures to minimize wetland impacts	x	x			
Implement water quality BMPs to address nonpoint source pollution	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Objective: Restore wetland acres, condition, and function</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Continue control efforts for wetland invasive species and test control techniques on new invasive species	x	x	x	x	x
Improve wetland and stream crossings to restore connectivity and reduce runoff and sedimentation	x	x	x	x	x
Investigate and test alternatives to culverts for wetland crossings		x	x	x	x
Work with SMC Environmental Department to locate, cleanup, and prevent littering and illegal dumping in wetlands	x	x	x	x	x
Establish new partnerships and improve existing partnerships to address off-Reservation wetland restoration and protection	x	x	x	x	x

Additional tribes that address voluntary restoration and protection in their current WPPs include:

[Blackfeet Tribe](#)

[Chicken Ranch Rancheria](#)

[Chippewa Cree Tribe](#)

[Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation](#)

[Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians \(CTCLUSI\)](#)

[Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas](#)

[Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation](#)

[Quinault Indian Nation](#)

[Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community](#)

[Stillaguamish Tribe](#)

[Tulalip Tribes](#)