

Icebreaker:

IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF TREE FOR A DAY, WHAT TREE WOULD YOU BE, AND DURING WHAT SEASON?

Wednesday, February 24th: Monitoring and Assessment

- **Welcome, Writing Check In**
- **EPA: Enhancing State and Tribal Program Initiatives**
- **Wetland Program Plan Example**
- **Penobscot Indian Nation- Benjamin Simpson: Mapping of Vernal Pools: Establishing Partnerships- M&A**
 - Questions for presenter & open discussion

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- **Core Element #1: Monitoring and Assessment: Objective #1: A B C D**
 - **Reaching out to partner organizations**
 - **Level One Landscape Assessments**
 - **Break**
 - **Writing Time Block- Monitoring and Assessment**
 - **Adjourn for the day**

USET: Wetland Program Plans


PT. 1 ENHANCING STATE AND TRIBAL PROGRAM INITIATIVES (ESTP): FEBRUARY 24, 2021



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Topics To Think About for Today:

1. Identifying steps to begin WPP: Monitoring & Assessment
2. How can Traditional Ecological Knowledge be considered and applied into wetland planning?
- 3.. Understanding how these plans fit into Tribal Programs that are already established
4. Brainstorming resources, opportunities and partnership ideas
5. Begin writing Monitoring & Assessment portion of WPP during writing time block



EPA: Enhancing State and Tribal Program (ESTP) Initiatives

Major Components:

- 1) Increasing dialogue between Tribal Nations and EPA staff on Tribal wetland program development
- 2) Articulate program building goals and activities through the CEF
- 3) Aligning the Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) with program development activities in the CEF
- 4) Provide technical assistance to Tribal Nations

Brief Recap: Purpose of Core Elements

- ▶ EPA established the 4 Core Element Framework of a comprehensive wetland program with a workgroup of Tribal Nations and states
- ▶ EPA found these steps helpful in guiding and programmatic development and the ability to measure progress and attain objectives through WPP's
- ▶ What actions would you like to take from these Core Elements as a part of your plan? What would you like to change and personalize?

Tribal Nation WPP Example

Quick Poll

- ▶ Were you inspired by this example in any way?

Quick Writing Exercise: Overall Goal Statement

- ▶ Take 5 minutes to write down an overall goal for **Monitoring and Assessment**.
- ▶ EPA example verbiage: The X Tribal Nation plans to develop its wetland monitoring program over the next five years (2021- 2025). In 2020, the Tribal Nation developed a monitoring goal to assess ambient wetland conditions in 25% of its HUC 8s by 2025. The Tribal Nation will use this information to improve understanding of baseline wetland condition, to develop benchmarks for wetlands restoration, to inform development of wetland-specific water quality standards, and to prioritize wetland restoration and protection activities. The Tribal Nation plans to achieve this goal through implementing the following actions and activities over the next five years:

Steps to think about during the process:

How can we:

- 1) Assign higher priority to actions likely to be most effective
- 2) Create new and stronger partnerships that will benefit wetland resources
- 3) Gain Support from stakeholders and the public

Quick Poll:

- ▶ 1. Can you think of existing Tribal Programs that you could partner with for your long-term goals?
- ▶ 2. Can you think of regional partner organizations to work with for your long-term goals?

Presentation:
Ben Simpson- Wildlife Biologist
Penobscot Indian Nation- Department of Natural
Resources





USET: Wetland Program Plans

PT. 1 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT: FEBRUARY 24,
2021

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Definition

- ▶ Monitoring and assessment is defined as the establishment and operation of appropriate devices, methods, systems and procedures necessary to monitor, compile, and analyze data on the condition of wetlands in a Tribal Nation.

With Monitoring and Assessment, you can:

Establish a baseline in:

- ▶ Wetland extent on Tribal Land
- ▶ Condition and function of these wetlands
- ▶ Detect changes and characterize trends over time
- ▶ Assess value and importance

Monitoring and Assessment Data Can be Used to make decisions in:

- ▶ The Clean Water Act Section 404 Regulatory Program
- ▶ Wetland restoration and watershed planning
- ▶ Integrated reporting- condition of wetland resources
- ▶ Development of WQS for wetlands

EPA: Three Tier Framework For Monitoring and Assessment

- ▶ Level 1- Landscape assessments
- ▶ Level 2- Rapid assessments
- ▶ Level 3- Intensive site assessments

Level 1: Landscape Assessments

- The common first steps of a monitoring and assessment approach is a multiobjective landscape level analysis of lands, watersheds, and wetlands throughout a region
- Involves the overlay of wetland, floodplain, public water, natural hazard, existing use, land ownership maps etc. to understand wetland sites and their surrounding areas
- Useful in planning and regulation because it provides a multifaceted information base for wetland protection, restoration, and use.
- This does not provide detailed site-specific information, and must be followed up with Level 2 and 3 assessments to better understand functions and values

Landscape Level Assessment:

- ▶ Allows interpreter to view multiple dates of aerial imagery, along with other data sources like topography, soils, and land cover to make judgements on the types of resources they are analyzing
- ▶ Applications for this research include: Status and trends reports, targeting restoration and further monitoring, landscape condition assessments, and reporting of Tribal decision making

Monitoring and Assessment Specific Q's:



Is the extent of wetland resources within Tribal boundaries well defined?



Can the current condition and function of Tribal wetlands be described to policy makers and the public?



Do the responsible agencies understand the extent of wetland loss or degradation, causes and consequences?



What are the resource needs to monitor and assess – i.e. sampling equipment, Geographic Information System (GIS) software?



What resources - including staff, funding, and equipment – can your Tribal Nation and their partners bring to the monitoring and assessment effort?

WPP Monitoring and Assessment Goals:

1. Develop a monitoring and assessment strategy consistent with *Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands* (EPA, 2006) that Tribal Nations and states can use to manage wetlands according to their objectives
2. Implement a sustainable monitoring program consistent with the wetlands monitoring strategy
3. Incorporate monitoring data into agency decision-making

Objective 1: Develop monitoring and Assessment strategy

A

▶ Actions

- ▶ Identify program decisions and long-term environmental outcome(s) that will benefit from a wetlands monitoring and assessment program

▶ Activities

- ▶ Document program's long-term environmental goals
- ▶ Identify programs that will ultimately use monitoring data, e.g. track trends, 401 certification, restoration, permitting
- ▶ Collaborate with water quality programs within the Tribal Nation
- ▶ Identify how wetland data can be used to implement watershed planning

B

▶ Actions

- ▶ Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies

▶ Activities

- ▶ Coordinate with most relevant partners, for example: federal, state, and local agencies, universities, regional and national work groups
- ▶ Examine other sources for monitoring information within the state or tribe
- ▶ Define data needs and uses
- ▶ Coordinate with Water Quality Monitoring Program to identify shared goals and activities
- ▶ Examine how to integrate wetlands monitoring strategy into existing water quality monitoring efforts as feasible

C

▶ Actions

Develop monitoring design, or an approach and rationale for site selection that best serves monitoring objectives (e.g., census, probabilistic survey, rotating basin)

▶ Activities

- ▶ Determine classification scheme in order to group the type, class, and size of wetlands
- ▶ Describe site selection process
- ▶ List universe of wetland resources from which sites could be selected if available
- ▶ Determine which data are already available

D

▶ Actions

Select a core set of indicators to represent wetland condition and functions

▶ Activities

- ▶ Identify indicators that are relevant for established monitoring objectives
- ▶ Confirm indicators are scientifically defensible
- ▶ Develop/select field method(s)
- ▶ Add supplemental indicators if needs dictate and as resources allow



Objectives 2 & 3: Brief Overview



Any Questions?

Contact Me

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Writing Block Goals Pt.1: 25 Minutes

- ▶ **1) What would your overall objective be for monitoring and assessment? Determine if any of the examples above resonate with your overall objective:**
- ▶ EPA example verbiage: The X Tribal Nation plans to develop its wetland monitoring program over the next five years (2021- 2025). In 2020, the Tribal Nation developed a monitoring goal to assess ambient wetland conditions in 25% of its HUC 8s by 2025. The Tribal Nation will use this information to improve understanding of baseline wetland condition, to develop benchmarks for wetlands restoration, to inform development of wetland-specific water quality standards, and to prioritize wetland restoration and protection activities. The Tribal Nation plans to achieve this goal through implementing the following actions and activities over the next five years:

Writing Block Goals Pt.2: 25 Minutes

- ▶ **2) Write out any actions and activities supporting overall goal, with an outlined schedule. Think back to actions on program planning, establishing partnerships, Level 1 Landscape Assessments etc.**

Year One (2021):

Action:

Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies.

Activities:

- Tribal Department of Environmental Protection will hold a series of coordination meetings with those partner agencies involved in developing its overall wetlands monitoring goal
- Outline specific monitoring objectives and a strategy for the Tribal wetland monitoring program to help achieve the aforementioned goal

Writing Block Goals Pt.2: 25 Minutes

Year Two (2012):

Action: Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies.

Activities:

- Identify data needs based on agreed upon monitoring objectives and strategy.
- Integrate wetlands monitoring strategy into existing water quality monitoring efforts.

Action: Develop monitoring design.

Activity (fits under both of the listed Actions for Year Two):

-Refine and document monitoring strategy, which includes: a classification scheme in order to group the type, class, and size of wetlands resources; a description of the site selection process; a list of the universe of wetland resources from which sites can be selected, and a schedule for implementation.