



Title: An Update of Water Quality Survey in Tribal Communities in Florida, Montana and Tennessee

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Theme: Pollution Assessment and Prevention

Summary: Recognizing the high level of interest in water quality research and education in Native American communities and the potential for mutual benefit in fostering 1890 institutions and 1994 institutions collaborations, a study was designed to survey tribal communities' water quality awareness and opinions. The project brought together three 1994 land grant institutions (Fort Belknap College, Chief Dull Knife College and Salish Kootenai College) and two 1890 land grant institutions (Florida A&M University and Tennessee State University). The goal was to establish a shared framework for the 1890 and 1994 land grant institutions to develop collaborative research, education and/or extension projects that address high priority water quality issues in the tribal communities they serve. The specific objectives were to: (1) promote mutual understanding and partnership building among 1890 and 1994 water quality scientists; (2) identify and document water quality needs in tribal communities served by 1994 or 1890 institutions; and (3) develop collaborative strategies for addressing the identified needs through research, education and/or extension activities. In order to meet these objectives, project personnel participated in site visits to the Montana campuses; and developed and administered a survey instrument to assess water quality needs in tribal communities in Western and Eastern Montana, Southern Florida, and West and East Tennessee. The questionnaire and its results will serve as a template for other states anticipating surveying Tribes or other underserved communities' water quality issues. The anticipated outcomes for the project will include: (1) enhanced coordination and resource sharing among the 1890 and 1994 institutions; (2) increased collaboration between the 1890, 1994 and 1862 institutions as well as with USDA-CSREES and other agencies; and (3) active participation and contributions to the 406 Regional Projects and National Water Quality Programs



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