

## GREAT LAKES TRIBAL VOLUNTEER MONITORING INQUIRY

In spring and summer 2010, an inquiry was conducted by the College of Menominee Nation's Sustainable Development Institute and the Extension Volunteer Monitoring Network Intern Benjamin White to determine top Great Lakes tribal water resource needs. This was done by contacting tribal water resource personnel and, if applicable, tribal college personnel. Eighty-five people were contacted, resulting in twenty-eight interviews, one of which was with a tribal college staff person. The ten most often expressed issues are listed below. In addition to these issues of concern, the other areas which make it difficult to enforce or establish self-determined water quality standards are, jurisdictional issues, fragmented land bases, and ceded territories. The overall consensus of those interviewed is that funding, staff, community education and outreach are the primary needs in tribal communities to address top water resource issues. Of utmost importance is that many native peoples treat water as a sacred entity because it is essential for life. The desire to harvest healthy animals and vegetation in Native American communities is culturally and economically important. Many families in Native American communities utilize and rely on the natural environment to provide sustenance.

### PRIMARY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES

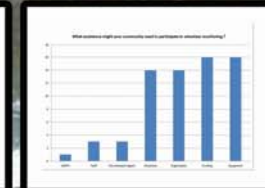
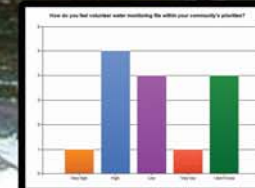
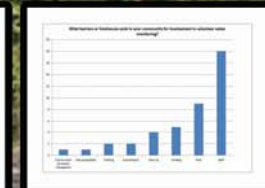
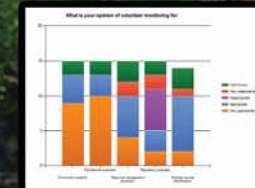
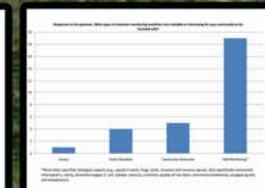
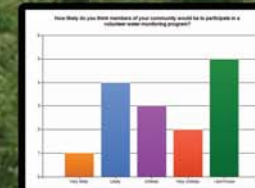
1. Non-point source pollution
2. Invasive species
3. Safe drinking water
4. Habitat for wildlife and nutritional vegetation
5. Urban and agricultural runoff
6. Chemicals, herbicides and pesticides
7. Well drilling/ hydrofracturing for oil and natural gas
8. Bacteria and algae blooms
9. Development along shoreline
10. Agricultural tiling and channelization of streams

### THE ROLE VOLUNTEER MONITORING CAN PLAY IN IMPROVING TRIBAL WATER QUALITY

- Provoke interest and attention of local communities and citizens about water quality issues.
- Assist communities in making informed decisions to improve water quality.
- Obtain long-term data and new data on water bodies that may otherwise go unmonitored.
- Obtain data on water bodies that are inaccessible due to jurisdictional limitations.

### IMPROVING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN TRIBES AND LOCAL ADJOINING COMMUNITIES

Barriers between tribes and their neighboring communities have long been an issue. Communication and collaboration on united issues could facilitate increased understanding of cultural identities and importance of water to all stakeholders.



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This material is based upon work supported in part by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2008-3515-1942. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.