

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Wetland Program Plan

2015 - 2018

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Division of Planning and Environmental Protection

US Environmental Protection Agency- Region VII

Wetland Program Development Grant

Project Period: 2015-2018

January 2015

Introduction

Over 120 acres of wetlands and nearly 2000 acres of potential wetland restoration areas exist within the exterior boundary of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. The wetland areas are linked to the Soldier Creek watershed. The largest wetland on the Reservation is approximately 18-acres in size, and is surrounded by a potential wetland area approximately 396 acres in size. Species inventoried included those of cultural and medicinal significance to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

The Soldier Creek watershed consists of three of the four streams draining the reservation, commonly referred to as Big Soldier Creek, Little Soldier Creek, Elm Creek and South Cedar Creeks. The watershed is an important tribal resource valued for the subsistence, cultural, and recreational attributes. A watershed-based approach is an essential factor to wetland program development, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation will work to establish shared goals within all water programs. Enhancing partnerships with various entities and stakeholders on the Reservation, will also be a key component towards achieving voluntary compliance with the general best management practices for watershed protection.

The **Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) Wetland Program Management Plan** details activities that are necessary to protect, enhance, restore, and manage Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation wetlands. These activities coincide with the Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) and are modeled after the Core Elements Framework developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The core elements that the PBPB will address with the implementation of this Wetland Program Plan are:

1. Monitoring and Assessment
2. Wetland Restoration and Protection
3. Wetland Water Quality Standards
4. Wetland Regulatory

Past activities

In 1996, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Division of Planning and Environmental Protection developed a Wetlands Conservation Plan. The plan was prepared to assess the quantity and quality of wetlands on the Reservation, identify actions to be taken to acquire, restore, and enhance wetland resources, and determine regulatory or non-regulatory approaches needed to protect identified wetlands on the Reservation. The assessment/inventory portion for the Wetlands Conservation Plan was conducted by the Kansas Biological Survey. Five wetlands were identified on the Potawatomi Reservation. Also identified, were numerous potential wetland sites. The inventory was performed using the watershed format that has been consistently used in other projects that have been on-going for the Reservation.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has since taken a holistic, watershed-based approach in the protection of water resources by establishing Clean Water Act programs (CWA 106, CWA 319). Through all water resource programs, it is the intent of the PBPN, to enhance and revitalize capacity for wetlands protection and program management.

Core Element: Monitoring and Assessment

Goal 1- Gain a greater understanding of the functionality and condition of wetland systems within the Reservation boundary by way of monitoring and wetland condition assessment.

Goal 3- Maintain a comprehensive inventory of wetlands.

Action	Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
Identify, monitor and evaluate wetlands as specified in PBP monitoring strategy								
	Track selected monitoring sites	x	x	x	x	x		EPA
	Update wetland inventory to monitor acreage and condition		x		x		KBS, COE, NRCS, HINU	EPA
	Evaluate wetland function for BMP recommendations	x	x	x	x	x	NRCS, HINU	EPA
	Evaluate monitoring and assessment strategies to ensure they meet long term wetland resource goals	x		x				EPA
	Ensure scientific validity of monitoring and laboratory activities through approved quality assurance mechanisms	x	x	x	x	x		
Establish a baseline quantity and quality of Tribal Wetlands								
	Develop appropriate collection/storage process for collected wetland data	x						
	Compare any past data with current monitoring to identify trends and patterns in wetland losses/gains and condition	x					BIA, NRCS	EPA

Core Element: Voluntary Restoration

Goal 2- Promote public awareness and wetlands through education and information distribution.

Goal 4- Improve wetland condition and functionality through coordinating resources and collaborating with landowners and partners.

Action	Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
Coordinate technical assistance for the Tribe and private landowners in the Reservation boundaries								
	Utilize tribal and other agency resources to provide technical assistance	x	x	x	x	x	EPA, NRCS, WRAPS, COE, BIA, KDHE, KBS, KDWPT	
Coordinate financial assistance for the Tribe and private landowners within the reservation boundaries								
	Identify funding sources to assist landowners in wetland restoration and rehabilitation activities	x	x	x	x	x	EPA, EQIP, DU, PF, WRP, NRCS, WRAPS, CD, KAWS, KDWPT	
Maintain a no net loss of remaining wetlands regarding acreage, condition, and function								
	Use a watershed approach to protect and restore wetlands by integrating the tribes CWA 319, 106 and other water resource goals with wetland goals	x	x	x	x	x	PBPN, WRAPS, KWO	PBPN, NRCS, WRAPS
	Coordinate funding and implementation of recommended BMPs						PBPN, WRAPS, KWO	PBPN, NRCS, KDHE, BIA, PF, DU, KBS,

								WRAPS, EQIP, KFS, KAWS, KWO
Maintain an up to date knowledge of wetland topics regarding BMP, funding sources, and other wetland topics								
	Attend trainings, workshops, webinars, etc. to remain up to date on wetland topics	x	x	x	x	x	ASWM, WTI, EPA, Local Agency workshops	
Increase information sharing with involved agencies and Public								
	Compile information on assessment and projects into a GIS system	x	x	x	x	x	KWO	
	Distribute brochures, flyers etc. at community events	x	x	x	x	x	Local community	EPA
	Present at local schools or community events on the importance and functions of wetlands	x	x	x	x	x	Local schools	
	Utilize the PBPN website to share information on wetlands and projects	x	x	x	x	x	PBPN	

Core Element: Wetland Water Quality Standards

Goals 3- Maintain a comprehensive inventory of wetlands to assist with potential development of wetland water quality standards.

Action	Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
Compile wetland data to use as reference should the Tribe decide to develop wetland specific water quality standards								
	Continually search for additional sites that can be used to gather more wetland water quality data		x		x		PBPN	
	Continue to sample selected tribal wetlands	x	x	x	x	X	PBPN	EPA
	Create appropriate wetland water quality standards to better manage the Tribe's wetland resources					X	PBPN, KWO, KDHE	

Core Element: Wetland Regulatory

Goal 5- Develop and enforce wetland definitions, regulations to further protect the land and water resources

Action	Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
Develop definitions and jurisdictional scope in case the Tribe decides to develop wetland specific regulatory program								
	Develop a working definition of what the Tribe considers a wetland				x		KDHE, KWO	
	Develop definitions involving Tribal waters				x		PBPN	

Reference

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Wetlands Conservation Plan. 1996. Potawatomi Planning Department – J. Zoellner, V. King and Kansas Biological Survey – K. Kindscher, L. Kahn, A. Fraser

List of Acronyms

ASWM	Association of State Wetland Managers
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
CD	Conservation Districts
COE	Corps of Engineers
DU	Ducks Unlimited
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program
HINU	Haskell Indian Nation's University
KAWS	Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams
KBS	Kansas Biological Survey
KDHE	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
KDWPT	Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
KFS	Kansas Forest Service
KWO	Kansas Water Office
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
PF	Pheasants Forever
PBPN	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
WTI	Wetland Training Institute Inc.
WRAPS	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy