

Surface Water Quality Protection Program

Water Quality Goals

- ▶ Continue monitoring surface water to ensure the quality of water resources for the next seven generations
- ▶ Continue to be a key stakeholder in making management or water resource related decisions on water bodies within or adjacent to the LTBB reservation using scientific data
- ▶ Create Tribal and EPA-approved water quality legislation
- ▶ Provide comments and participate in tribal, local, state, and federal workgroups and/or meetings pertaining to water resources
- ▶ Provide education/outreach to tribal and non-tribal community
- ▶ Continue to research and apply for water resource funding to increase environmental capacity
- ▶ Complete application for Nonpoint Source Pollution Program



Photo by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Caroline Keson (above - far left) instructs students at the Maple River on how to use the Hydrolab, a device used for water monitoring. The students were part of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Academy and are one of many educational outreach activities the SWPP performs each year.

Wetland Monitoring

Wetlands are monitored and assessed using an FQA. This assessment assigns scores to plants that are used as bio-indicators of wetland quality. Each wetland receives a total score based on plants found. Scores of greater than 35 are attributed to "high quality wetlands" which most LTBB wetlands are, but a few are closer to or just below the score of 35.

Wetlands perform many important ecological functions:

- ▶ Water pollution control
- ▶ Sediment and erosion control
- ▶ Flood protection
- ▶ Water filtration
- ▶ Habitat for threatened, endangered, medicinal, artisan and utilitarian species
- ▶ Opportunities for wildlife viewing and education



Natural Resources Department staff had the opportunity to learn wetland plant identification and Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) from Dr. Phyllis Higman (above - far right).

Tribal Water Uses and Standards

With help from an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant, the SWPP has created LTBB tribal water quality uses and standards for water bodies within the LTBB Reservation and an LTBB Clean Water Act. Establishing Tribal water quality uses and standards asserts Tribal Sovereignty and promotes the protection of waters for Tribal needs for the next seven generations.



Speakers at a 2015 listening session on Spirit/Wycamp Lake included Dan Himon and Lee Sprague (both in the canoe). As traditional manoomin (wild rice) harvesters, they showed how LTBB could protect manoomin with legislation.

For more information please contact the Environmental Services Program at (231) 242-1577

Surface Water Monitoring

Water is analyzed for physical and chemical quality parameters along with habitat assessments, physical characterization, and macroinvertebrate surveys. Since the completion of a baseline assessment on many water bodies in 2010, the SWPP is able to monitor new sites and use additional assessments. Most sites are monitored winter, spring, summer, and fall every other year.



At the Bear River in 2016, presence and abundance of certain macroinvertebrate species are used as an additional water quality indicator because many are sensitive to pollution.