



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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PRESS RELEASE

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St. Regis Mohawk Environment Division to Receive Two Major Grants

Funding to Support Wildlife Study and Sturgeon Restoration

Akwesasne Territory. The United States Environmental Protection agency awarded the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division two grants totaling \$1,952,522. The funding will support a project to study wildlife and another project to restore Lake Sturgeon. The first project will study restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, degradation of fish and wildlife populations, bird and animal deformities or reproductive problems and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Environmental staff will conduct the study in the St. Lawrence River, Massena, New York Area of Concern (AOC).

This project will monitor furbearers, turtles and birds by conducting tissue analyses of wildlife to determine restrictions on wildlife consumption. The grant amount for this project is \$1,229,415.

The work is anticipated to begin October 2010. The Tribe's Environment Division anticipates hiring new staff under the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) to Utilizing Interests Advancement award to conduct furbearer and fish tumor studies. Contractual awards will be bid for scientific studies on fish tumors, freshwater mussels, birds and turtles under this award. "We expect to conduct a tissue analysis for contaminants on all these animals," affirmed Ken Jock, Director of the Environment Division. "All of the awards take into consideration a long-term goal to restore the ecological uses of the environment to the community of Akwesasne. We will use scientific methodologies to monitor and report current conditions and eliminate data gaps."

The second project will advance efforts to restore Lake Sturgeon in the St. Lawrence River, Massena, New York (AOC), by investigating suitable spawning habitat, water quality, and causes of reproductive failure. This restoration project has a very specific Mohawk perspective component for continued fish population enhancement efforts of lake sturgeon (a threatened species) in and around the surrounding river areas of Akwesasne. "The Mohawk Tribe has a long-time relationship with sturgeon," explained Tony David, Water Resources Program Manager for the Environment Division. "Maintaining the sturgeon is important to our culture and traditions in terms of our relationship with the rivers and lakes in and around Akwesasne. Our motivation to address environmental issues such as these shows that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is a good steward of the environment." The grant amount for the project to restore the sturgeon is \$723,107. Both of the two projects are three-year grants.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

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