

Summer Tribal Youth Activities

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe

Background Information:

The success of the Lac du Flambeau Summer Youth Program inspired a similar program that was implemented for youth from the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe in 2009. A 12 week multi-agency program was developed by the DNR, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe Conservation Department, and the United States Forest Service. A crew leader (college intern) and six employees were assigned projects to complete. DNR staff across multiple programs worked together to identify projects that would be completed in a little over three weeks. The projects included:

- Searching for elk calves.
- Removal of an old fence for habitat improvement.
- Construction of erosion mats on lake banks.
- Trail maintenance and construction.
- Stream shocking.
- Trout stream habitat work.
- Relocation of campsites.



Contact: Neal Kephart, Property Manager, Chippewa Flowage, 715-634-9658, Ext. 3513



Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Background Information:

In 2007, Steve Peterson, met with the Lac du Flambeau (LDF) tribal council to discuss the implementation of a summer program that would provide DNR staff mentors for LDF youth. The cost of the youth's wages would be shared between the DNR and the tribe. The program would provide hands on experience in a number of fields of work and possibly generate an interest in attending school to become resource managers or apply for limited term employment within the DNR. The summer program would be supported by DNR staff across multiple programs providing two week sessions in different fields of work.



Summer 2008 – Initial Program Start Up

- Two tribal youth between the junior and senior year in high school began work the Monday after school ended for summer break and continued working until the Friday before school started in fall.
- Work was primarily on the state forest but they also spent time with the fisheries and wildlife program. State forest experiences included boat landing work, customer service, building maintenance, forestry work and riding along with the rangers.
- One of the participants expressed an interest in working for the DNR in 2009.
- Both tribal youth have enrolled in college courses related to natural resources.

Summer 2009

- Steve Peterson worked with the human resources department to determine a funding source for the tribal youth summer program.
- Bruce Maatta was assigned to organize the work and provide guidance to six tribal youth.
- They have been working on erosion control and shoreline stabilization, beach and ski trail maintenance, invasive control, forestry work along with general campsite and building maintenance work.

Contact: Steve Peterson, Superintendent, Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, 715-358-9225

