OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 07/31/2006

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

* 1. Type of Submission:
- ( ) Preapplication
- (●) Application
- ( ) Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:
- (●) New
- ( ) Continuation
- ( ) Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
- [ ] A. Increase Award
- [ ] B. Decrease Award
- [ ] C. Increase Duration
- [ ] D. Decrease Duration
- [ ] E. Other (specify)

* 3. Date Received: Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

* 5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 382316072

* c. Organizational DUNS: 106748833

d. Address:

* Street1: 2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive
Street2:
* City: Peshawbestown
County:
* State: Michigan
Province:
* Country: USA
* Zip / Postal Code: 49682-9275

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name: Katrina

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Milks

Suffix:

Title: OPDE Coordinator

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: (231) 534-7232

Fax Number: (231) 534-7246

* Email: katrina.milks@gtbindians.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

US Department of Agriculture

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

10.932

CFDA Title:

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP

* Title:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Northwestern lower peninsula of Michigan

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

OMB Number: 4040-0004
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16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant: MI-001
* b. Program/Project: MI-001

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 10/01/2014
* b. End Date: 09/30/2019

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	20,000,000
* b. Applicant	510,185
* c. State	0
* d. Local	28,945,061
* e. Other	0
* f. Program Income	0
* g. TOTAL	49,455,246

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- [ ] a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- [ ] b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- [x] c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

( ) Yes (•) No

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

[x] **** I AGREE**

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:	
* First Name:	Dora
Middle Name:	
* Last Name:	Willis
Suffix:	
* Title:	Tribal Manager
* Telephone Number:	(231) 534-7136
Fax Number:	(231) 534-7568
* Email:	tribal.manager@gtbindians.com
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	Dora S. Willis
* Date Signed:	10.01.14

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 07/31/2006

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*** Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.

AFP V.B.1. Application

a. Project title. The Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

b. Project Director/Manager.

DJ Shook, Fish, Wildlife & Soil Conservationist, Tribally-Sponsored NRCS Conservation Planner
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bay Shore Dr.
Peshawbestown, MI 49682
Office - 231-534-7500
Cell - 231-866-0419
donald.shook@gtbindians.com

Alt: Katrina Milks, Dir., Offc. Program Development & Evaluation, katrina.milks@gtbindians.com

c. Lead Partner and Collaborating Partners.

Lead Partner: Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB), an Indian Tribe.

Participating Partners:

Conservation Resource Alliance
Grand Traverse Conservation District
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Grand Traverse County Road Commission
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Leelanau Conservancy
Leelanau Conservation District
Leelanau County Road Commission
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Little Traverse Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network
The Ruffed Grouse Society
The Watershed Center – Grand Traverse Bay

Supporting Partners:

Grand Vision Leadership
Huron-Manistee National Forest Service
Northwest MI Horticultural Research Station
MI Dept. of Natural Resources
MI Dept. of Environmental Quality
MI Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development
Rotary Charities of Traverse City
Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Other County Road Commissions (Expected)
Other Conservation Districts (Expected)

Supporting partners have pledged institutional support and outreach assistance but do not expect to request funding or provide significant non-federal contribution.

d. Mailing Address and Telephone Numbers for Lead Partner Submitting the Application.
Same as Project Director (above).

e. Funding Pool. Great Lakes Region CCA Funding Pool

f. Short General Summary of Project and Description of Resource Issues to be Addressed.
Primary resource concerns: 1) Water Quality Degradation, 2) Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife. Tertiary resource concern: Degraded Plant Condition (invasive species). The foundation of this Proposal is to dramatically accelerate the preservation and enhancement of Michigan's unique and irreplaceable agricultural and natural resources which underpin its economy and provide culturally-significant subsistence opportunities for the region's Tribal people. The LMFCP's efforts will target:

- Clean water - Prevent destructive algal blooms in near-shore Lake Michigan and inland lakes.
- Healthier Natural Communities - Protecting and enhancing wildlife & fish habitat.
- Compatible Food Systems - Connecting indigenous and traditional western farming practices.
- Jobs & Prosperity - Creating a long-term business environment for local food, farming & tourism.
- Resilience - Building ecological and economic resilience to climate impacts.

Shoreline Fruit Company dramatically expanded its capacity and added more jobs because of ongoing commitment to and investments in protecting farmland in the region.

The LMFCP's broad goals are to implement innovative multidisciplinary solutions which combine:

- Permanent protection of lands critical to water quality and wildlife habitat in the watersheds which impact the ecological and economic integrity of Lake Michigan, its tributaries, and inland lakes.
- Technical assistance to ensure best management practices by producers in these watersheds.
- Targeted activities to restore and permanently protect the ecological integrity of these watersheds.

The LMFCP's ability to deliver this innovative suite of conservation practices will result in permanent environmental protections that cannot later be undone through poor land and water management and unwise land use decisions.

g. Geographic Focus
The northern portion of the Michigan Fruitbelt and its associated watersheds, including lands within the 1836 Treaty of Washington Ceded Territory. It is expected that entities representing the remaining portions of the Michigan Fruitbelt will join this effort in subsequent phases.

h. Application form SF-424. See Application Cover, SF-424.

i. Leverage of Federal Funds by Objective.

Objective 1-Regional Conservation Coordination				
	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	
Partner Contribution	$50,000	$0	$50,000	
NRCS Request			$0	
Objective 2-Protect Producer-Owned Land, Water Quality & Habitat				**TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDS $20,000,000**
	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	
Partner Contribution	$2,463,010	$21,424,000	$23,887,010	
NRCS Request			$15,875,000	
Objective 3-Restore Aquatic Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors				**TOTAL NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION $29,455,246**
	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	
Partner Contribution	$2,192,986	$2,175,250	$4,368,236	
NRCS Request			$3,595,000	
Objective 4-Protect Highest Quality Habitat from Invasive Plant Degradation				
	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	
Partner Contribution	$400,000	$750,000	$1,150,000	
NRCS Request			$490,000	

j. Form SF-424A Budget Information. See Attachment 1.

k. Proposed Project Start and End Dates, Funding. Nov. 26, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2019 See NRCS-provided Data Entry Sheet, Tab #3 "Financial" for requested funding information, Attachment 2.

l. Budget Table by Fiscal Year - Activities and Resource Contributions. See "Partners" tab in the worksheet for the LMFCP Activities Table (as per APF p.23.)

m. Intended Producer and Landowner Participants. The participants will be producers and landowners of agricultural and forest lands located within the LMFCP's defined geographic region, including federally-recognized tribes who have retained rights for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, among other usual privileges of occupancy within the 1836 Treaty of Washington Ceded Territory.

The LMFCP proposes to assist producers and landowners with properties having the following characteristics:

- One or more parcels totaling at least 40 acres with no less than 50% in active agriculture or non-commercial forest land, or
- One or more parcels containing, or adjacent to, a water body, riparian corridor or quality habitat.
- All eligible producers/landowners within the LMFCP geographic region will be invited to participate through multiple activities to implement best management practices (BMPs), including Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verification.

n. Lands that Will be the Focus of the Project. This project involves virtually all lands in Michigan's lower peninsula that are subject to the 1836 Treaty of Washington Ceded Territory. Lands of particular focus include cropland, forest land and incidental land uses. High priority conservation areas have been identified throughout. See Section V.B.4.a, LMFCP Map and LMFCP Example Detail Map, Attachments 3 & 4.

V.B.2. Letter of Support from NRCS State Conservationist. See Attachment 5.

V.B.3. Natural Resource Objectives and Actions.

a. Identify Resource Concerns. The two primary resource concerns of equal priority to be addressed by the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP) are: 1) Water Quality Degradation and 2) Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife. A tertiary resource concern to be addressed is Degraded Plant Condition.

The LMFCP geographic region along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan has long been known as one possessing a rich mosaic of producer-owned resources, including groundwater-fed tributaries, high-quality northern mesic forests, significant aquatic & terrestrial wildlife habitat, and agricultural soils in a globally-rare microclimate ideal for growing stone fruit as well as other locally important and commercially viable crops. LMFCP partners utilize a combination of GIS and ground-truthing methods to identify High Priority Conservation Areas for addressing threats to water quality and fish & wildlife habitat, as well as invasive species concerns. This proposal marks the first time key partners have come together to share formerly proprietary methods for analyzing critical parcels for preservation. The following list separates our resource concerns into the NRCS-defined subcategories, provides a brief explanation and describes how the resource concerns were identified. Additional detail can be found in sections V.B.3 and V.B.4 below.

1. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - **Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters**
Explanation: In our region's watersheds, annual nutrient loadings of Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorous increase by 8lbs/acre and 1lb/acre respectively when agricultural land is converted to urban use. Nitrates and Nitrites threaten groundwater, and areas with shallow wells with sandy unconfined aquifers are more vulnerable to nitrate contamination. Sources of Nitrates and Nitrites include wastes from livestock operations and crop fertilizers. One hundred percent of Lake Michigan and inland lake tributaries are derived from groundwater-fed aquifers. Almost half of Michigan residents rely on ground water as their sole source of drinking water. The region's soils are comprised of glacial deposits with a highly-porous content that causes rapid groundwater infiltration. Nearly 100% of the region's inland lakes have phosphorus limited aquatic plant growth, which makes them highly susceptible to water quality degradation from even slight increases in phosphorus loading from stormwater runoff.
How the resource concern was identified: The United States Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-approved watershed protection plans for the region identify conversion of farmland and associated lands to other uses as threats to the region's surface water quality. It has also been identified overwhelmingly by the general population in scientifically verified studies through the Grand Vision, in addition to passage of key millages to support preservation of development rights.
- **Pesticides Transported to surface and ground waters**
Explanation: Our region's fruit growers rely on agrichemicals for pest management in their orchards. Storage facilities large enough to hold chemicals, store application equipment, and mix and load chemicals is an expensive investment that producers often cannot afford. There are an estimated 300-400 producer-owned lands in the region that are in need of 1-2 of these costly facilities in order to gain verification through the innovative Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Again, note that 100% of the region's tributaries are derived from groundwater-fed aquifers, and almost half of state residents rely on groundwater as their sole source of drinking water.
How the resource concern was identified: Long-standing producer relationships through MAEAP technicians at local conservation districts, the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station, land conservancies, and local NRCS District Conservationists.
- **Petroleum, heavy metals transported to receiving waters**
Explanation: Many producers store fuel on their property. Regulations pertaining to fuel storage have changed in order to prevent tanks from leaking and contain spills. Containment facilities are also a costly investment for producers. The problem is exacerbated by road-stream crossings that form road embankments conveying untreated storm water from roads to waterways.

How the resource concern was identified: Long-standing producer relationships with local NRCS District Conservationists, land conservancy staff, and MAEAP technicians at local conservation districts. Road-stream crossing inventory at www.northernmichiganstreams.org.
- **Excessive sediment in surface waters**
Explanation: Road-stream crossings are often too short, incorrectly positioned, and inadequately sized, creating road embankments, stream contact points, and unnatural pools that continually erode into streams. Poor agricultural and forest management practices expose soils to stormwater runoff, which leads to excessive sedimentation of adjacent waterbodies and wetlands.
How the resource concern was identified: Road-stream crossing inventory at www.northernmichiganstreams.org.
- **Elevated water temperatures**
Explanation: Dams in the region's waterways create impoundments that increase temperatures in cold water streams. These streams are classified as cold water streams primarily due to the relatively high importance of ground water to their watershed's hydrologic budget. An increase in a watershed's impervious surface would result in more surface runoff entering streams and elevated water temperatures.
How the resource concern was identified: Regional MDEQ-approved watershed protection plans identify dams as a source of thermal pollution to the region's cold water streams, estimate the percentage of ground water inputs, and identify development as a threat to the cold water stream designated use.
2. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - **Habitat Degradation**
Explanation: Culverts at road-stream crossings are often too narrow to allow upstream passage of native fish species during critical life stages, which fragments their habitat by restricting access to adequate feeding areas, winter/summer refuge, and spawning and rearing areas. Areas of high quality habitat are isolated and disconnected from other high quality habitat. Upland habitat is fragmented when land uses are converted from natural or agricultural uses to residential or commercial uses. This fragmentation prevents movement of many mammals which require large tracts of forest to travel between. Land-use conversion and poor management also threaten the amount of early successional forest habitat for declining bird species such as American Woodcock and golden wing warbler.
Explanation: How the resource concern was identified: Detailed road-stream crossing inventory at www.northernmichiganstreams.org. Habitat corridors needing protection and enhancement identified through the Conservation Resource Alliance's Wild Link program. Staff of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute have identified young forest habitat needs that include the LMFCP geographic region. The innovative effort in northern Michigan to assess and reinstate habitat connectivity is being recognized as a national model, and important adaptation strategy in anticipation of climate change impacts.
3. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - **Excessive Plant Pressure**
Explanation: Invasive plant species are encroaching from developed and disturbed areas into natural habitat. In severe cases, invasive species are threatening rare communities such as costal dunes and wetlands.
How the resource concern was identified: An established network of 30+ partner entities—the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network—has published a list of the top 20 invasive plant species for the region that threaten critical habitat.

As described further in sections V.B.3.b and V.B.4.b., our named resource concerns are vital to the region's economy, quality of life, and cultural heritage. If these threatened resources deteriorate, the costs of remediation and mitigation will be significantly greater than the one-time investment in protecting these resources now. The LMFCP region's water quality and wildlife habitat remains relatively strong despite specific impacts. If water quality and habitat degradation in the LMFCP region continues unchecked it will have a cascading effect on the regional and state economy. These resources underpin two of Michigan's most vital and vibrant industries—agriculture and tourism. These industries are

supported by the LMFCP region's ability to attract visitors desiring to experience its natural splendor and its bourgeoning food & farming culture—including entrepreneurial and value-added agriculture and opportunities for beginning farmers.

b. Proposed Objectives. The LMFCP proposes 4 Objectives to address its two primary and one tertiary resource concerns:

1. Regional Conservation Coordination
2. Protect Producer-owned Land, Water Quality and Habitat
3. Restore Aquatic Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors
4. Protect Highest Quality Habitat from Invasive Plant Degradation

OBJECTIVE 1- REGIONAL CONSERVATION COORDINATION - Resource Concerns Addressed: All Named Resource Concerns
This Objective is a 100% partner-funded initiative designed to utilize the financial resources, both Federal and non-Federal, dedicated to Objectives 2-4 in the most cost-effective manner possible, including information dissemination via electronic media, press releases, direct mail, workshops, and point-of-contact agri-processors and ag-related businesses. Environmental outcomes resulting from this Objective include an increased public awareness of environmental issues, widespread participation in new and existing program opportunities, and conservation program delivery efficiencies. Efficiencies will be gained as the partners understand and integrate each other's expertise, enabling the partners to bolster landowner interest and enhancing overall responsiveness to producers. The LMFCP partners will track the increase in conservation activities reported through the local NRCS field offices through the result of partner-sponsored activities to document efficiencies in conservation delivery. This is a capacity-building Objective and will operate continuously throughout the duration of the partnership.
OBJECTIVE 2 - PROTECT PRODUCER-OWNED LAND, WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT - Resource Concerns Addressed: Water Quality Degradation, Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife
Objective 2 is identified as one of the most cost-effective ways to address the Water Quality Degradation and Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife resource concerns of our region. Producer-owned acreage in the LMFCP region is approximately 50-65% in active agricultural production. The remainder of these lands are comprised of successional field/forest, mature forests, steep slopes, wetlands, and/or riparian corridors. These producer-owned lands incidental to productive agriculture possess high quality habitat with connectivity to similar habitat blocks. Protecting farmland in identified High Priority Conservation Areas with permanent stream and wetland buffers is more cost-effective in the long-term than periodically planting new buffers and managing stormwater from lands converted to residential or commercial development. Protecting upland agricultural acreage as well as the associated buffers and wetlands from development and the associated impervious surfaces maintains their capacity for groundwater recharge. Preserving the LMFCP region's pervious soils further prevent nutrient loadings from entering the region's waterways. Land trust partners will continuously implement conservation easements with appropriate water quality terms throughout the five-year project period. Water quality monitoring data, collected by the project team and others at longstanding monitoring stations, will be assembled and analyzed by the LMFCP team to document protection of water quality.
OBJECTIVE 3 - RESTORE AQUATIC HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS - Resource Concern Addressed: Water Quality Degradation, Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife
Objective 3 Priority road-stream crossing sites targeted for restoration and small dam sites within the project area are inventoried through www.northernmichiganstreams.org (an initiative of 19 federal, state and nonprofit entities).This Objective will be completed incrementally throughout the five-year project period. The highest priority sites are those where permits are obtained and landowners are ready. Least-cost alternatives typically involving a compressed culvert, box culvert, or timber bridge, will be utilized considering scenic beauty, and natural or other special designations of the waterway. Partners will ensure that the least cost alternative addresses the resource concerns and fits the character of the surrounding landscape. As a result, stream connectivity indexes will increase and fish and wildlife populations will

benefit. To measure these outcomes, the LMFCP team will assemble and analyze fish and wildlife population data, collected by the project team and others during the project period. Stream connectivity indexes will be calculated as before-and-after scenarios for representative watersheds.
OBJECTIVE 4 - PROTECT HIGHEST QUALITY HABITAT FROM INVASIVE PLANTS - Resource Concern Addressed: Degraded Plant Condition
As NRCS and partners work to protect and restore critical watershed features, the LMFCP recognizes the threat posed by invasive species. Many invasive plant species are not yet established throughout the LMFCP region, and there is a brief window of opportunity for cost-effective solutions that will protect the condition of the highest quality and rarest native plant communities. These areas are typically sited in the interior of High Priority Conservation Areas, but also will occur on Tribal land where hunting, fishing, trapping, or gathering take place. Delays in addressing this resource concern will increase costs dramatically over time as invasives spread and identification and eradication costs rise. Invasive species surveys and eradication will be conducted on Tribal land and producer-owned land throughout the duration of the five year project period. The interior of High Priority Conservation Areas will be monitored regularly by project partners and others. The outcome of protecting these natural areas will be tracked by the introduction of new invasive plant species, or lack thereof, throughout the duration of the project period.

c. Actions to be Completed for Each Objective. Objectives will be supported by a strong 100% LMFCP partner-funded outreach component. Each objective's outreach component will be tailored to the goals of each specific objective. These actions will stimulate conservation outside of NRCS and partner FA programs. Objectives 2-4 will be supported by a strong TA component which will be virtually all partner-funded at approximately 95%. NRCS EQIP funding will cover the remaining 5%. Further, Objective 3 actions (activities 5-7, see sections V.B.4.d.e.) are extensive watershed restoration actions recognized nationally for their capacity to achieve meaningful fishery outcomes and internationally for incorporating indigenous leadership. Objective 3 partner resources for TA include funding for engineering and design of conservation projects with over $1M already secured for this purpose. TA under Objectives 3 and 4 includes actions that assist in the assimilation of regionally-specific conservation technical expertise from LMFCP partners to NRCS for customized program delivery. These actions, as well as all non-NRCS engineering services are 100% contribution. The implementation actions under Objective 2 (activities 5-6) are ACEP-ALE easements and fee title acquisitions. These actions will ensure permanent protection of lands currently serving to protect watersheds from water quality degradation and providing critical fish and wildlife habitat. ACEP-ALE easements will be 50% partner contribution and 50% NRCS FA. Fee title acquisition will be 100% partner contribution. Objective 3 implementation actions (activities 5-7) will restore fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality degraded by sedimentation and elevated temperatures. NRCS FA will be used to complete these actions with partners contributing additional FA through cash and in-kind. Objective 4 implementation actions will protect high-quality natural vegetation from invasive plant degradation and will include NRCS FA as well as additional partner FA through cash and in-kind. All outputs and environmental outcomes for each Objective will be monitored using 100% partner provided TA. For complete details of partner contribution and NRCS assistance to complete conservation actions, see the attached NRCS-provided Data Entry Sheet, Tab #5 "Activities," Attachment 2.

Tribal drummers celebrate the rebirth of the Boardman River as partners prepare to remove dams that for a century have blocked the river, an important fishery flowing through Michigan's Fruitbelt.

V.B.4. Detailed application requirements

a. Map. Please see the attached map and the accompanying narrative description of the geographic area covered by the application bellow. A shape file for this map is provided as an attachment as well.

i. The proposed LMFCP project area covers 13 counties in the northwest portion of Michigan's lower peninsula, comprising 4,228,135 acres. See LMFCP Map, Attachment 3.

ii. Major land uses of the area includes 40,227 acres of orchard/vineyards, 537,150 acres of farmland, 2,054,775 acres of forest land, and 559,528 acres of wetlands.

iii. Selection of the project area is driven by the confluence of two globally rare and irreplaceable features:

1) The presence of globally important and regionally important agricultural soils that are situated in a complementary globally unique micro-climate made possible by proximity to Lake Michigan and glacial topography which enables the strong stone-fruit production, including the highest percentage of world's red tart cherries. These lands have been identified by the American Farmland Trust (*Farming on the Edge*, 2007) as one of the most highly-threatened agricultural regions due to conversion to residential and commercial development.

2) Hydrologically-stable, clear, and cold groundwater-fed streams and rivers are also unique in the world. These comprise the streams and rivers that occur in the upper Great Lakes region, especially in northwest Lower Michigan. The project area targets numerous National Wild and Scenic Rivers, Blue Ribbon Trout Streams and State Designated Natural Rivers. As documented by leading scientists, high quality, functioning tributaries and wetlands such as those targeted in this project provide essential resiliency against the threats to the Great Lakes system, both current and future (Bails, et al, 2005).

iv. There are four distinct and often overlapping types of specific areas identified by project partners as needing treatment in the project area (See LMFCP Example Detail Map, Attachment 4.):

- Orchard/farmland/forest lands possessing or adjacent to high quality natural areas approximately 7,200 acres targeted for permanent protection
- Barriers, including road stream crossings and dams, which restrict aquatic organism passage upstream and downstream of high priority and public lands (63 barriers to be addressed).
- Critical riparian and wetland corridor lands estimated at 710 acres targeted for improvement specifically through EQIP, with an estimated 15,000-20,000 acres associated with more than 300 miles of corridor lands positively impacted by connectivity improvements via all proposed conservation practices.
- Lands surrounding high quality habitat threatened by invasive plants estimated at 80,000 acres targeted for monitoring and rapid response, if necessary, throughout FY15-19.

b. Cost-Effectiveness of the Proposed Approach. Through RCPP, the LMFCP partners will collaborate to implement innovative solutions through a variety of coordinated watershed and habitat practices designed to amplify and accelerate their combined ecological and economic impact. The LMFCP's cost-effective approaches include:

- Implementing permanent riparian buffers and habitat conservation via easements on producer-owned land in contrast to repeated investments in similar temporary measures.

- Utilizing existing watershed and habitat enhancement programs to identify and restore poorly designed or failing road crossings or dams on a "worst first" basis. Avoidance of structural failures will significantly decreases public costs for remediation and restoration.

- Coordinating restoration with scheduled road resurfacing and other infrastructure projects (e.g., road-stream crossings) for cost-efficiency.

- Incentivizing conservation easement terms that require installation of MAEAP conservation practices regardless of producers' acceptance in the EQIP program.

- Providing detailed information for effective treatment of invasive species and assisting NRCS develop EQIP practice payment scenarios which accurately reflect 75% of the actual costs of protecting high-quality habitat.

c. Collaboration to Achieve Proposal Objectives. Built on four decades of experience conserving natural resources in northwest Michigan, partners have designed a sustainable, streamlined program for working locally with private landowners. It offers a coordinated approach with numerous well-known, trusted partners and the flexibility of using all available conservation tools to restore and protect northern Michigan's world-class land and water resources. There is a narrow window of opportunity to employ a targeted array of conservation techniques in order to ensure that the Lake Michigan Fruit Belt and associated watersheds remain in, or are restored to, a healthy and productive state in perpetuity. Conservation investments here will yield high returns, because priorities are clear, mutually understood by partners with a deep history of collaborative work on the ground, and because this area of the Great Lakes State is blessed with high quality waters, forests, and wildlife, much less expensive to restore and protect than highly degraded areas. For additional information on how the partners will collaborate, see NRCS-provided Data Entry Sheet, Tab #4 "Partners" and Tab #5 "Activities," Attachment 2.

Manoonim (Wild rice) on a conservancy protected property.

Partners collaborating with NRCS to deliver technical assistance.

d. Project Timeline.

	Fiscal Year 2015				Fiscal Year 2016				Fiscal Year 2017				Fiscal Year 2018				Fiscal Year 2019			
ACTIVITIES TIMELINE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Obj. 1: Regional Conservation Coordination - All Named Resource Concerns																				
1. Agreement Negotiation																				
2. Kick-Off Meeting																				
3. Partner Meetings	YR 1 - Bi-Monthly																			
4. Program Ranking Eval.																				
5. Admin. TA Allocation					Continuous – partner cost reimbursement contracts for technical assistance															
6. Track Outputs																				
7. Track Contribution																				
Obj. 2: Protect Producer-Owned Land, Water Quality and Habitat-Water Quality Degradation, Inadequate Habitat for Fish&Wildlife																				
1. Outreach	Continuous - land protection, watershed protection, importance of buffers																			
2. Press Releases																				
3. Workshops																				
4. Technical Assistance	Continuous - four entities contributing over 7,800 hours annually																			
5. ACEP-ALE Easements				5				10				13				14				12
6. Purchase Properties	3							1												
7. Track Outputs																				
8. Track Outcomes																				

d. Project Timeline. (cont.)	Fiscal Year 2015				Fiscal Year 2016				Fiscal Year 2017				Fiscal Year 2018				Fiscal Year 2019			
ACTIVITIES TIMELINE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Obj. 3: Connect & Restore Aquatic Habitat, Wildlife Corridor Components-Water Quality Degradation, Inadequate Habitat for Fish&Wildlife																				
1. Outreach	Continuous - tribal subsistence, high quality habitat value, wildlife corridors, fish passage																			
2. Workshop for Tribes																				
3. Technical Assistance	Continuous - five entities contributing over 9,500 hours annually																			
4. Project Permitting																				
5. Remove Barriers			9		1		17		1		13				13		1		8	
6. In-stream Habitat			700ln-ft				400lnft				900ln-ft									
7. Corridor Enhancements		140 ac				100 ac				220 ac				100 ac				100 ac		
8. Track Outputs																				
9. Track Outcomes																				
Objective 4: Protect Highest Quality Habitat From Invasive Plant Degradation- Resource Concerns: Degraded Plant Condition																				
1. Outreach	Continuous – 1 organization sponsoring a network of over 30 partner entities																			
2. Technical Assistance	Continuous – 3 entities collaborating to provide over 400 hours annually and regionalize NRCS assistance																			
3. Rapid Response Zones					5				5				5				5			
4. Treatment			220 ac				170 ac				300 ac				200 ac				200 ac	
5. Track Outputs																				
6. Track Outcomes																				

e. Listing and Description of Conservation Activities. The following table lists and describes the conservation activity plans, conservation practices, easement acquisition activities and other activities that will be implemented during the project timeframe, describes the order of their implementation relative to other supportive or complementary activities, indicates where NRCS technical assistance is requested by the LMFCP, explains any innovative characteristics, and indicates which activities are intended to measure environmental outcomes. See NRCS-provided Data Entry Sheet, Tab #5 "Activities" for additional detail, Attachment 2.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	
OBJECTIVE 1 - REGIONAL CONSERVATION COORDINATION	
Coordination	**Activity 1-1:** All LMFCP partners execute agreement. See letters of commitment, Attachment 6. **Timeframe:** First activity to be completed in FY15. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Coordinated services not typically provided by NRCS alone. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Coordination	**Activity 1-2:** LMFCP kick-off meeting with all entities supporting environmental and relevant outcomes, including job creation, quality of life, local food, entrepreneurial activities. **Timeframe:** 1st quarter after partnership cooperative agreement signed with NRCS. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Coordination of whole community outcomes and avoidance of conflicting uses of public funds. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Coordination	**Activity 1-3:** Meetings to track and ensure coordination of entities activities. **Timeframe:** FY15 – bi-monthly; FY16-19 once per quarter. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Not applicable. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Coordination	**Activity 1-4:** Evaluate NRCS-approved ranking criteria adjustments. **Timeframe:** 1st & 2nd quarters after partnership cooperative agreement signed w/NRCS then annually. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Allows adaptive management of the project. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Coordination	**Activity 1-5:** Lead partner to administer agreements with partners for LMFCP TA allocation request and set up reimbursement for direct TA costs for applicants for planning invasive species control and in-stream habitat improvement. **Timeframe:** As needed prior to any TA performed by the partner entities. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Enhanced partner service provision with NRCS planning protocols. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Monitoring	**Activities 1-6&7:** Tracking & reporting collaborative meetings, FA & TA provided, and new entities joining the LMFCP. **Timeframe:** When each activity is completed; compiled on a bi-yearly basis and reported to NRCS and LMFCP partner entities FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Not applicable. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	
OBJECTIVE 2 - PROTECT PRODUCER-OWNED LAND, WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT	
Outreach	**Activities 2-1,2&3:** Four land trusts will engage in targeted outreach via newsletters, electronic communication, press releases, and workshops to landowners in LMFCP region for land conservation, watershed protection, riparian buffers for water quality and wildlife habitat, and NRCS assistance. **Timeframe:** Throughout FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Coordinated messaging for multiple permanent and/or long-term activities in High Priority Conservation Areas for all named resource concerns. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
TA - Conservation Easements	**Activity 2-4:** Four land trusts will develop ACEP-ALE applications utilizing regionally-appropriate ranking. Includes appraisals, surveys, Phase 1 assessments, title work, and assistance in developing NRCS Agricultural Land Easement Plans. **Timeframe:** Commencing 1st quarter after partnership cooperative agreement signed with NRCS and continuing through FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Dramatically accelerating the pace of easement applications in LMFCP region; enhanced efficiency of pre-screening tool for prospective projects and ensure LMFCP outcomes in High Priority Conservation Areas. Unprecedented coordination and communication between land trusts resulting in more efficient delivery of services and strengthening partnerships. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Determine permanent non-point source pollutant load reductions for pounds of nitrogen, phosphorus and tons of sediment kept out of the Great Lakes and inland waters in this planning phase.
TA - Conservation	**Activity 2-5:** Four land trusts will implement 54-70 ACEP-ALE easements protecting at least 6,100 acres of producer owned land and critical habitat in approximately 21 High Priority Conservation Areas. **Timeframe:** Easements will be implemented as follows: 5 in FY15, 10 in FY16, 13 in FY17, 14 in FY18, 12 in FY19 **NRCS TA request:** Assistance in development of the NRCS Agricultural Land Easement Plans. **Innovative characteristics:** Dramatically accelerating the pace of easement implementation. Incorporation of easement terms which permanently protect habitat and water quality features and provide fish and wildlife habitat regionally important for tribal subsistence. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Fee Title	**Activity 2-6:** Four land trusts will engage in permanent acquisition and management of 2,100 acres of lands with water quality features and/or unique habitat when conservations easements are not a viable option. **Timeframe:** Four or more projects purchased in FY15-18. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Coordination of permanent conservation for lands with high priority value for watershed and habitat protection that will not otherwise fit into established programs. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not Applicable
Monitoring	**Activity 2-7:** Four land trusts will track the number of landowners assisted, technical assistance acreage, and acres permanently conserved will be compiled annually or as required by NRCS. **Timeframe:** Tracking will occur as soon as a particular activity is complete so compiling of reports gives the most current information possible. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Not applicable. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	
Monitoring	**Activity 2-8:** The Watershed Center, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Surface Water Assessment Division, Leelanau Conservancy and several local lake associations will collect water quality data at fixed locations on periodical intervals to determine water quality status and identify possible long-term trends. LMFCP partners will also utilize bi-annual aquatic insect surveys and regional beach monitoring actions. **Timeframe:** Compiled annually FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Use of volunteers for monitoring engages the public, fosters public support and investment; compiled report of all of the annual water quality monitoring data provided to NRCS, LMFCP partners and interested community and governmental agencies. **Environmental outcome measurement:** This activity will help the LMFCP assess its environmental outcome of protecting water quality.
OBJECTIVE 3 - RESTORE AQUATIC HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS	
Outreach	**Activities 3-1&2:** The Conservation Resource Alliance, Grand Traverse Conservation District, and GTB will provide outreach to landowners covering the LMFCP region stressing the importance of tribal subsistence practices, high quality habitat value, wildlife corridors and fish passage. **Timeframe:** Periodically throughout FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Will inspire conservation activities completed outside of the NRCS or partner entity program purview increasing the stewardship and understating of natural resources by citizens Volunteer projects as outreach engaging teachers and students. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
TA - Planning	**Activity 3-3:** Five partners will contribute over 9,500 hours of TA annually to eligible participants for planning conservation practices at road-stream crossings and other aquatic barrier removal sites, in-stream habitat improvement sites, riparian and wildlife corridor improvement sites. **Timeframe:** TA commences at the start of each FY through May of each FY. **NRCS TA request:** Requesting assistance from NRCS staff with engineering approval authority for each project. LMFCP partners provide staff time alongside NRCS staff to ease NRCS workload. **Innovative characteristics:** NRCS and LMFCP partner TA provided collaboratively; partners will target mutual priorities which will concentrate funding, support and conservation benefits. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Engineering	**Activities 3-3&4:** Certain LMFCP projects will contain conservation practices above local NRCS staff engineering approval authority. Partners will target mutual priorities, which in turn will concentrate funding, support, and conservation benefits. For large projects, engineering firms to provide assistance in developing permit applications and NEPA documents as necessary for federal agency consideration. **Timeframe:** TA commences at the start of each FY through May of each FY. **NRCS TA request:** NRCS functional review of consultant engineering plans. **Innovative characteristics:** Incorporate NRCS assistance in large conservation efforts with national and international prominence. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	
Practice Implementation	**Activities 3-4,5,6,&7:** As needed, LMFCP partners will obtain permits and manage contracts with contractors to ensure conservation practices are installed according the NRCS standards and specifications. LMFCP will assist in project management to replace over 63 problematic road-stream crossings and other barriers to aquatic organism passage, install over 2,100 ln-ft of in-stream habitat, and 710 acres of EQIP wildlife corridor enhancements. **Timeframe:** Commences in May of each FY, concludes at end of each FY, except practices that include tree plantings. **NRCS assistance request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Skilled biologists as project managers for collaborative solutions based on best science and best practices. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Installed BMPs will be analyzed for permanent non-point source pollutant load reductions for pounds of nitrogen, phosphorus and tons of sediment kept out of the Great Lakes and inland waters.
Monitoring	**Activity 3-8:** LMFCP partners will track number of landowners assisted, technical assistance acreage, and amount of conservation installed will be compiled yearly or as required by NRCS reporting. **Timeframe:** Tracking will occur as soon as a particular activity is complete so compiling of reports gives the most current information possible. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Not applicable. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Monitoring	**Activity 3-9:** LMFCP partners collect fish and wildlife data at periodical intervals and environmental output data specific to conservation projects by LMFCP partners and others, including longitudinal profile data, conducting fishery surveys before and after large barrier removal projects, and calculating large woody debris indexes for streams before and after restoration projects. **Timeframe:** For extensive barrier removal and stream restoration projects, data collection and analysis before and after removal/restoration. Environmental output data will be reported yearly or as required by NRCS. Partners will compile fish and wildlife and habitat data collected by others and report annually or as required by NRCS. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Partners familiar with NRCS practice standards provide valuable feedback to NRCS on practice installation scenarios. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Stock assessments of fish populations and wildlife surveys by State managers will be used to determine improved habitat for fish and wildlife.
OBJECTIVE 4 - PROTECT HIGHEST QUALITY HABITAT FROM INVASIVE PLANTS	
Outreach	**Activity 4-1:** Outreach concerning threats posed by invasive plant species by the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (NWMISN) representing over 30 entities. Outreach includes educational programs for nurseries, garden centers, lake associations, and local governments. **Timeframe:** Outreach concerning invasive plant species will occur continuously throughout FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Outreach is directed towards businesses and other resources providing advice to landowners about plants for landscaping; enhances point-of-sale entities' capacities for ecologically-sound recommendations to consumer landowners. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	
TA Planning	**Activities 4-2&3:** LMFCP partners contribute approximately 400 hours per year of TA to landowners for the invasive species component of their conservation plans, assist approximately 10 applicants per year through site visits, invasive species mapping, and treatment alternatives development. **Timeframe:** Technical assistance for invasive species will be focused May through October FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** Additional TA for conservation plans to treat invasive species is requested due to an expected increase in demand for this assistance. Partners primary efforts are focused on outreach and are limited as to the provision of technical assistance for planning at this time. **Innovative characteristics:** Partners will use a pre-screening tool to focus their efforts for rapid response in High Priority Conservation Areas. NWMISN will screen applications and coordinate their priorities within these areas to achieve collective conservation impact. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Practice	**Activity 4-4:** LMFCP partners will contribute funds and staff time to implement invasive species treatments on over 1,090 acres in FY15-19. **Timeframe:** Invasive species treatments will occur during the growing season generally from May through October FY15-19. **NRCS TA request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Efforts targeted in Rapid Response Zones. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Monitoring	**Activity 4-5:** LMFCP partners will track the number of landowners assisted, technical assistance acreage, and extent of conservation installed will be compiled. **Timeframe:** Tracking will be done at the time each specific activity is completed. Reporting compiled results will be provided annually through FY19 or as required by NRCS. **NRCS assistance request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** Not applicable. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Not applicable.
Monitoring	**Activity 4-6:** The four land trusts in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and United States Forest Service manage and/or monitor the vast majority of the region's high-quality conservation areas and annually monitor a high percentage of these areas for introductions of new invasive plant species. **Timeframe:** Introductions of invasive species, or absence of them, will be tracked continuously through FY19. **NRCS assistance request:** None. **Innovative characteristics:** An online invasive species mapping tool available to the public for the purpose of locating and tracking new occurrences of invasive species. **Environmental outcome measurement:** Reduced or absence of invasive plant species introduction into the region's high-quality conservation areas.

f. Plans for Assessing and Evaluating Results.

Objective 1- Regional Conservation Coordination**.** The LMFCP will meet bi-monthly during FY15. A primary objective of the meetings is to gauge the success of the collaboration. The lead partner will require feedback from partners concerning overall project communication, direction given and resources available. Success of the collaboration will be determined by directly surveying the partners at each meeting whether the LMFCP is assisting in completing their respective RCPP goals. The lead partner will incorporate partner evaluations for continuing administration and program delivery. Meetings in FY16-19 will be held quarterly.

Objective 2 - Protect Producer-Owned Land, Water Quality and Habitat. Conservation easement transactions will follow the evaluation, monitoring and reporting processes for ACEP-ALE, including

baseline documentation reports for NRCS review prior to closing. These reports document the important conservation values protected by the easement and the relevant conditions of the property necessary to monitoring and enforcement. Conservation easements will be monitored at least annually in a manner appropriate to the size and restrictions of each property. Documentation (updated photographs and maps) will be obtained, stored and reported from each monitoring activity, including identification of the easement being monitored, date of inspection, certification by the monitor, and observations relative to the restrictions, reserved rights and conservation values recorded during the inspection. The respective land trust will further provide a written procedure detailing how it will enforce violations of any easement. Each land trust will take necessary and consistent steps to see that violations are resolved.

Objective 3 - Restore Aquatic Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors. At each road-stream crossing, barrier removal, and wildlife corridor improvement site, the applicable resource concerns will be identified and described prior to any action. Examples of resource concern descriptions include fish or wildlife species affected, an estimate of the percent impassability, completion of Michigan NRCS' biological tech note 12, or a species specific wildlife habitat assessment. Additional resource concern descriptions may include an estimate of the amount of sediment delivered to the stream on an annual basis, or the amount of direct sun a water body receives due to lack of cover or improper site handling of water resources. Photos of the resource concerns will be filed for each project. After resource concerns are corrected at each site, a report will be completed describing the changes at the site including photos taken from similar vantage points with respect to the resource concerns. For sites receiving NRCS FA, the practices will be completed according to NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications and certified by NRCS upon completion. For projects that do not include NRCS FA, the partnership will be guided by NRCS standards and specifications and assisted by private sector design professionals who will gain proficiency in NRCS design formats.

Objective 4 - Protect Highest Quality Habitat from Invasive Plants. High quality natural areas will be monitored on a regular basis. When new infestations of invasive plant species are identified in these areas, they will be mapped and treatment will occur as soon as possible to prevent further proliferation. The frequency of new occurrences will be used to estimate the total area of Rapid Response Zones established adjacent to natural areas. The total area of the new infestations will be used to determine the frequency of monitoring. If new occurrences are frequent in a particular natural area, the Rapid Response Zone may be reconsidered for expansion. If there areas where new occurrences of invasive species are large and costly to eradicate, monitoring frequencies will be increased. Please also refer to Activity 4-6 in Section V.B.4.e.

g. Consideration of Different Approaches for Evaluating Project Outcomes. The environmental outcomes expected as a result of completing the Objectives of the LMFCP are protection of water quality, benefits to populations of fish and wildlife, and an avoidance of new invasive plant introductions into the region's natural areas. Two approaches for monitoring these outcomes were considered. Option 1 was sampling based on LMFCP-devised water quality parameters, fish and wildlife populations, and invasive species identification in representative watersheds throughout the LMFCP geographic region. Option 2 uses data collected from established monitoring programs for water quality, fish and wildlife populations, and invasive species in order to document environmental outcomes. Option 2 was selected as a more efficient strategy and is strengthened by incorporating monitoring data collection and analysis from partners Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians, the Watershed Center, Leelanau Conservancy, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network.

h. Criteria Used by NRCS to Evaluate and Rank Agricultural Landowners' Program Applications. ACEP-ALE Ranking Criteria Adjustment. In addition to ranking the amount of prime and unique soil contained in any one farm, we request the NRCS allow the determination of additional on-farm soils as unique based on the presence of high-quality habitat features contained on those soils and the proximity of the property to High Priority Conservation Areas. Afford a slight increase in ranking score when a

producer agrees to an easement term that allows public or Tribal member access to their property for subsistence harvest of natural resources.

Local Priority Justification. In addition to significant acreages of prime, unique and locally significant agricultural soils, approximately 35% - 50% of the acreage of working farms in the LMFCP region typically possess high quality watershed features, including non-industrial forest lands, wetlands, riparian zones and wildlife habitat. Under the existing ranking criteria for the ALE and WRE programs, it is typical that such parcels do not score competitively for either program, often necessitating the exclusion of significant acreage in proposed easement boundaries to rank competitively. And, by protecting fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and active farmland in one program under one easement, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality are also protected for the Anishinaabek subsistence producer off the property on neighboring public lands and nearby waters as the active farmland is protected for the traditional producer.

EQIP Ranking Criteria Adjustment. Allow annual input from LMFCP as to the adjustment of ranking criteria to allow applications that propose high priority conservation actions, such as the removal of an impoundment in a stream that is greater than one acre, to score a minimum threshold score that is necessary to approve the application without waiting for the end of a ranking period. Also allow annual input from LMFCP as to the adjustment of ranking criteria to allow applications that propose second priority watershed functions to score just under the minimum threshold score for automatic funding.

Local Priority Justification. This adjustment, combined with the proposed pre-screening tool described later in section V.B.4.k will create a two-tiered project selection system assuring that partner and NRCS staff and financial resources are focused on producer applications that best complete the objectives of the LMFCP and provide the most environmental benefit possible. In addition, by allowing the LMFCP to develop ranking questions such that highest priority conservation actions are funded without waiting for the end of the funding period will improve the implementation of large conservation projects that once completed will best achieve the environmental outcomes desired by the LMFCP and the broader community. These projects generally have multiple funding sources with their own funding period deadlines. Removing one of these deadlines—the EQIP deadline—would facilitate more efficient coordination of each projects' funding strategy.

i. Estimated Percentage of Eligible Producers and Landowners in the Project Area. The LMFCP partners have been conserving natural and agricultural resources in northwest Michigan for the last 4 decades. Local support for land conservation, fish and wildlife restoration, and water quality protection is strong. The community is well-educated concerning the ecological benefits of the region and the economic outcomes derived from them. The LMFCP partners have a diverse array of programs that reach a variety of people with the aim of helping them help the land. For example, two land trusts have collaborated closely with deeply rooted agricultural partners, Michigan State University program (MSU Extension and the NW MI Horticultural Research Station) and conservation districts to create an innovative program—FarmAbility—which has enrolled 6,000 acres of producer-owned lands in 10-year conservation agreements. Further, conservation districts' staff have worked with hundreds of producers with respect to MAEAP, forestry and other activities. In calculating the combined total of the landowners receiving LMFCP partner publications, attendance at LMFCP partner-sponsored events, and participation in partner companion programs, the LMFCP partnership estimates approximately 20% (1,000) of the estimated 5,000 eligible producers and landowners in the LMFCP region will participate in the combined LMFCP programming.

j. Assisting Producers Meet or Avoid the Need for Natural Resource Regulatory Requirements. Conservation Easement Terms. Conservation easements terms will require permanent water quality resource protection without the need for regulatory requirements. Conservation easements can further provide protection for the region's habitat for many threatened and special concern species, promoting best management practices strategically designed to keep species from being listed as endangered species, therefore avoiding regulatory action mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

MAEAP Verification. MAEAP technicians will work with partners to plan best management practices to ensure water quality and other environmentally-sound BMPs on producer-owned lands. MAEAP verification provides growers with the necessary tools to handle a Right to Farm complaint in an efficient manner by assuring growers are actively following Michigan's GAAMPS. No civil fines and penalties in the event of accidental discharge or "act of God" weather event. If MAEAP verified in a TMDL watershed, the producer is considered to have met the required practices. (Public Acts 1 &2 of 2011.)

Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat Practices. Stream restoration for aquatic organism passage will be specifically designed to avoid the need for costly emergency response, enforcement and sanctions, including catastrophic road crossing and dam failures. Such protections are of increasing importance as the Great Lakes Region faces more frequent and intense precipitation events tied to climate change. Restoring and stewarding land and waters will be consistent with Treaties with Anishinaabek Nations.

k. Description of Requested Adjustments of Terms by Program. The following terms, with explanations, are requested to assist the LMFCP effectively achieve its objectives.

ACEP-ALE and EQIP. For all programs, use a partner-determined threshold score to approve applications without waiting for the end of a ranking period. Increased efficiencies in approving applications will generate more interest in partner fundraising efforts for non-federal contributions. Threshold scoring will ease the implementation of high priority conservation projects that protect water quality, aquatic habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors. These projects typically have multiple funding sources with their own funding deadlines and removing the EQIP deadline would facilitate more deliberate and efficient coordination of the projects' funding strategy. Consistent with statutory requirements, incorporate technical assistance provided by partners into the annual adjustment of criteria for determining application priority, ranking questions, and relative ranking question scores. This cooperation between Michigan NRCS State office and the LMFCP will allow the LMFCP to evaluate the performance in completing the proposed objectives and make adjustments as necessary.

EQIP. Consistent with statutory requirements, incorporate technical assistance provided by partners into the annual development of EQIP conservation practice payment scenarios. Part of the innovative contribution that the LMFCP proposes is the merging of the technical expertise of project partners with this annual NRCS task so that NRCS can improve upon the 75% payment rate goal. As a result, more producers will be encouraged to participate with NRCS programs, and once they are enrolled in EQIP they will be more likely to have the resources they need to complete effective conservation.
Create and use a pre-screening tool so that all high priority applications are ranked and funded prior to ranking and funding lower priority applications. High priority applications shall be applications where 90% of the EQIP funds are dedicated to completing LMFCP selected practices such as Aquatic Organism Passage, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, and Riparian Forest Buffer as well as Agrichemical Handling Facility and Fueling Facility practices. An application may be considered high priority if the application is to install conservation practices to complete a conservation system plan on land that is permanently protected from development. This adjustment, combined with the adjusted ranking terms will create a two-tiered project selection system. assuring that partner and NRCS staff and financial resources are focused on producer applications that best complete the objectives of the LMFCP and provide the most environmental benefit possible.

l. Alternative Funding Arrangement. Not Applicable.

m. Activities Not Covered by NRCS Practice Standards. Not Applicable.

n. Certifications: SF-424B Assurances Non-Construction Programs. See Attachment 7.

o. DUNS Number and SAM Registration.

- DUNS Number: 106748833
- SAM Registration has completed by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians.

Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

10/2/2014

Attachment 1 – SF-424A

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No.: 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog and Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non - Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non - Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. RCPP	10.932	$	$	$ 1,840,000.00	$ 5,104,845.00	$ 6,944,845.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 1,840,000.00	$ 5,104,845.00	$ 6,944,845.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATAGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total
	(1) RCPP	(2) Contribution	(3)	(4)	(5)
a. Personnel	$	$ 719,876.00	$	$	$ 719,876.00
b. Fringe Benefits		179,969.00			179,969.00
c. Travel					0.00
d. Equipment					0.00
e. Supplies		1,000.00			1,000.00
f. Contractual	290,000.00	210,000.00			500,000.00
g. Construction					0.00
h. Other	1,550,000.00	3,995,000.00			5,545,000.00
i. Total Direct Charge (sum of 6a-6h)	1,840,000.00	5,105,845.00	0.00	0.00	6,945,845.00
j. Indirect Charges					0.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	$ 1,840,000.00	$ 5,105,845.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 6,945,845.00
7. Program Income	$	$	$	$	$ 0.00

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8. RCPP	$ 510,185.00	$	$ 28,945,061.0	$ 29,455,246.0
9.				0.00
10.				0.00
11.				0.00
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8 - 11)	$ 510,185.00	$ 0.00	$ 28,945,061.0	$ 29,455,246.0

SECTION D - FORCASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	$ 1,840,000.0C	$	$	$ 145,000.00	$ 1,695,000.0C
14. NonFederal	5,104,845.0C	2,669,900.0C	224,900.00	330,145.00	1,879,900.0C
13. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	$ 6,944,845.0C	$ 2,669,900.0C	$ 224,900.00	$ 475,145.00	$ 3,574,900.0C

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(c) Third	(c) Fourth
16. RCPP	$ 3,870,000.00	$ 5,570,000.00	$ 4,885,000.00	$ 3,835,000.00
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	$ 3,870,000.00	$ 5,570,000.00	$ 4,885,000.00	$ 3,835,000.00

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges:
f is EQIP and h is ACEP-ALE	N/A - No Indirect Allowed

23. Remarks:

Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

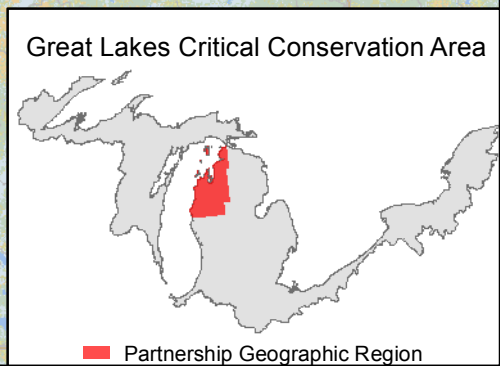
10/2/2014

Attachment 3 – LMFCP Map

Lake Michigan Fruit Belt Conservation Partnership

- Farmland
- Orchards / Vineyards
- Forested
- Dune
- Urban
- Water
- Wetlands
- High Priority Conservation Area Example
- Sub-Watershed Boundaries

Lake Michigan



Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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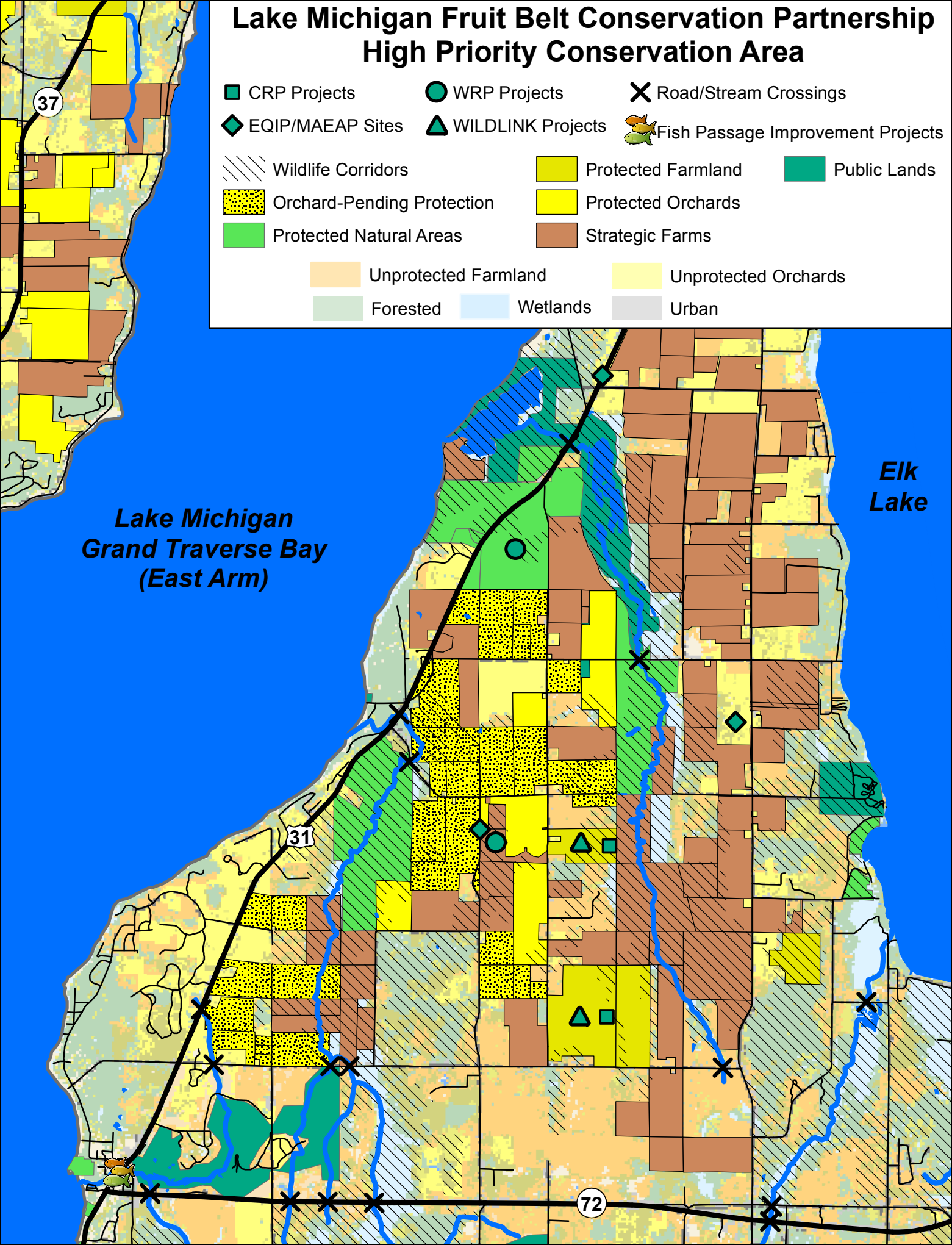
Attachment 4 – LMFCP Example Detail Map

Lake Michigan Fruit Belt Conservation Partnership
High Priority Conservation Area



Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

10/2/2014

Attachment 5 – Letter of Support from Garry Lee

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Michigan State Office

3001 Coolidge Road
Suite 250
East Lansing, MI
48823-6321

Telephone:
(517) 324-5270
Fax:
(855) 701-4363

www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov

September 29, 2014

Mr. D.J. Shook
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive
Peshawbestown, Michigan 49682

Dear Mr. Shook:

Your proposal entitled "The Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership", submitted for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding, will meet the goal of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of improving water quality, thereby preserving unique agricultural and natural resources.

This Critical Conservation Area project, in collaboration with NRCS, other Federal, State and local units of government, will help improve the water quality of Lake Michigan, and indirectly, the Great Lakes Region as a whole.

Sincerely,

GARRY LEE
State Conservationist

cc:
Brian MacMaster, ASTC-Programs, NRCS, East Lansing, MI

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

10/2/2014

Attachment 6 – Letters of Commitment

1. Conservation Resource Alliance
2. Grand Traverse Conservation District
3. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
4. Grand Traverse County Road Commission
5. Land Conservancy of West Michigan
6. Leelanau Conservancy
7. Leelanau Conservation District
8. Leelanau County Road Commission
9. Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
10. Little Traverse Conservancy
11. The Nature Conservancy
12. Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network
13. The Ruffed Grouse Society
14. The Watershed Center – Grand Traverse Bay

Conservation Resource Alliance

September 12, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the support of Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class cold water streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. CRA agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for CRA, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that CRA's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, CRA is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and CRA will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231-946-6817 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Beyer
Director

P 231-946-6817 F 231-947-5441 E info@rivercare.org www.rivercare.org 10850 Traverse Hwy., Suite 1180, Traverse City, MI 49684

Grand Traverse
Conservation District

September 15, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express Grand Traverse Conservation District's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

The Grand Traverse Conservation District agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that the Grand Traverse Conservation District's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained. If the LMFCP proposal is successful, the Grand Traverse Conservation District is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and the Grand Traverse Conservation District will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at (231) 941-0960 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Marsha Barber Clark

Marsha Barber Clark,
Executive Director

GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY

3860 North Long Lake Road, Suite D / Traverse City, MI 49684-9601
tel: 231.929.7911 / fax: 231.929.0433 / toll free: 888.929.3866 / email: info@gtrlc.org / web: www.gtrlc.org

September 30, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's (GTRLC) support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. GTRLC agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for GTRLC, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that GTRLC's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, GTRLC is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and GTRLC will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at (231) 929-7911 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Glen Chown, Executive Director

GRAND TRAVERSE
COUNTY
ROAD
COMMISSION

1881 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, Michigan
49696

Phone (231) 922-4848
Fax (231) 929-1836

September 23, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express Grand Traverse County Road Commission's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. The Grand Traverse County Road Commission agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for Grand Traverse County Road Commission, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that the Grand Traverse County Road Commission's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key

Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and the

Grand Traverse County Road Commission will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231-922-4848 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Jim Cook, Manager
Grand Traverse County Road Commission

LandConservancy
OF WEST MICHIGAN

September 29, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class cold-water streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. The Land Conservancy of West Michigan (LCWM) agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for the Land Conservancy, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal provided that Land Conservancy's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and Land

ACCREDITED LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
Keeping Nature Nearby
400 Ann Street NW, Suite 102 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504
(616) 451-9476 • lcwm@naturenearby.org • www.naturenearby.org

Conservancy of West Michigan will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 616-451-9476 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Maatman
Executive Director
Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

September 15, 2014

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Leelanau Conservancy's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. The Leelanau Conservancy agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for the Leelanau Conservancy, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that the Leelanau Conservancy's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, the Leelanau Conservancy is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and the Leelanau Conservancy will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at (231) 256-9665 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Brian Price
Executive Director

105 North First Street · P.O. Box 1007 · Leland, MI 49654 · (231) 256-9665
www.theconservancy.com

LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT

121 N. St Joseph Street, P. O. Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
Phone: (231) 256-9783 Fax: (231) 256-7851

September 29, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Leelanau Conservation District's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. The Leelanau Conservation District agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for the Leelanau Conservation District, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that the Leelanau Conservation District's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, Leelanau Conservation District is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and the Leelanau Conservation District will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231-256-9783 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Bernard H. Long
Executive Director
Leelanau Conservation District

Leelanau County Road Commission

10550 E. Eckerle Road
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682
Phone (231) 271-3993
FAX (231) 271-5612
e-mail lcrc@leelanauroads.org
http://leelanauroads.org/

COMMISSIONERS
Lee A. Bowen
John Popa

Engineer-Manager – James Johnson
Superintendent – David Priest
Finance Manager – Joel Nedow

September 29, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Leelanau County Road Commission's (LCRC)'s support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. LCRC agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and non-NRCS contribution levels for LCRC, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that LCRC anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, LCRC is prepared to sign an agreement with GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and LCRC will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any. There are a couple of terms in this agreement that are problematic and should be addressed when drafting the MOA:

- Item 6, requiring indemnification: it is our understanding that the Road Commission is not permitted by law to indemnify another party. We do carry sufficient liability insurance through the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool to cover our activities.
- Item 8, dispute resolution: we agree that an equitable method of dispute resolution is important and feel that mediation or a court of competent jurisdiction are the most appropriate means of handling any problem that might occur.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231-271-3993 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

James C. Johnson

James C. Johnson, P.E.
Engineer-Manager

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Natural Resources Department
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
Phone: (231)242-1670
Fax: (231)242-1690

WAGANAKISING ODAWA

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Natural Resource Department (NRD) support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region including the LTBB Reservation is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources. The preservation and enhancement of these resources is essential Tribe's ability to the exercise of treaty rights in addition to supporting Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism economies. The Tribes have fought long and hard to achieve recognition of their treaty reserved hunting/fishing/gathering 1836 Treaty of Washington Article 13 rights. The exercises of those rights form the base of Odawa culture and are essential to Odawa identity.

The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. This approach is consistent with the LTBB NRD's long term management philosophy to protect resources for the use and benefit of the next seven generations. The NRD agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for LTBB NRD, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that our anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, LTBB NRD is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and LTBB NRD will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231 242-1670 if I can provide any further information.

In a good way,

Douglas W. Craven
Director
LTBB Natural Resource Department

Little Traverse Conservancy
Northern Michigan's Land Trust
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469

Phone: 231.347.0991
Fax: 231.347.1276
Email: ltc@landtrust.org
Web: www.landtrust.org

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Caitlin Donnelly
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Jay Neff
Land Stewardship
Melissa Hansen
Sarah Mayhew
Environmental Education

September 24, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Little Traverse Conservancy's support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. The Little Traverse Conservancy agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for the Little Traverse Conservancy, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that the Little Traverse Conservancy's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, the Little Traverse Conservancy is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and the Little Traverse Conservancy will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at 231-344-1015 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Kieran Fleming
Director of Land Protection and Stewardship

printed on recycled paper

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

STATE DIRECTOR
Helen Taylor

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Richard A. Manoogian
James B. Nicholson

September 29, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. TNC agrees to the provisions that involve non-NRCS contribution levels for TNC, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that TNC's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, TNC is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, with terms substantially similar to those which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and TNC will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact Shaun Howard at showard@tnc.org or 989-859-4602 if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Patrick J Doran, PhD
Director of Conservation

September 18, 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685
Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing to express the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN)'s support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We know this partnership can succeed, as ISN operates as a collaborative effort. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will permanently protect thousands of acres of the most vital farmland and water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class cold-water streams, forests, and coastal ecosystems that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will work to restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and native habitats. The Invasive Species Network agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels for ISN, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that ISN's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, ISN is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and ISN will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds. Please feel free to contact me at kgrzesiak@gtcd.org or (231) 941-0960 x29 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Katherine E. Grzesiak

Katie Grzesiak
Coordinator
Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

Robin M Christensen

Robin Christensen
ISN Steering Committee Chairperson
Grand Traverse Conservation District

9-17-2014

Mark A. Rose
Financial Assistance Programs Division
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resource Conservation Services
P.O. Box 2980
Washington D.C. 20013-2890

RE: The Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Dear Mr. Rose,

On behalf of the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society (RGS), I am writing to express our support of "The Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership," as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on behalf of the project team.

Established in 1961, RGS is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to preserving our sporting traditions by creating healthy forest habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock, golden-winged warblers and other young forest dependent wildlife. Our organization, headquartered in Coraopolis, PA, employs a team of wildlife biologists that specialize in young forest ecology and utilize ecologically sound wildlife management practices while working with private and public landowners who are interested in improving young forest habitat. RGS capitalizes on every possible opportunity to build public awareness and public acceptance of the necessity for using active forest management as an essential tool for keeping North America's forests healthy. We are a long time leader in championing young forests and implementing on-the-ground habitat improvement projects to maintain and restore this vital habitat.

After reviewing the proposal, we believe that this project meets the goals of the RCPP to implement effective conservation practices. We believe this project will improve inadequate wildlife habitat while maintaining and enhancing water quality. The partnership will also build community involvement in the conservation and wise use of our natural resources. We are confident that, when completed, the LMFCP initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland as well as the water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal areas that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by partners will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and development that threatens to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat.

We will contribute to the RCCP project with the following specific actions:

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY
Healthy Forests - Abundant Wildlife - Sporting Traditions

National Headquarters
451 McCormick Road ☛ Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108-9377
412-262-4044 ☛ Fax 412-262-9207 ☛ Toll Free 888-564-6747 ☛ www.ruffedgrousesociety.org

1. Project coordination: In-kind support from volunteer and staff time used to coordinate the use of the RGS habitat mulching machine.

2. Producer Technical Assistance: In-kind support from time spent on private land young forest habitat improvement projects by RGS regional staff (Biologist and Regional Director).

3. Lead Outreach and Education: Cash and in-kind RGS staff time on Forester and Wildlife Consultant young forest ecology training sessions, membership outreach, and additional educational projects focused on private landowners.

4. RGS machine use at a reduced costs: The RGS habitat mulching machine works extensively on private lands creating young forest habitat, around 210 acres annually. The fees charged are roughly $25/machine hour less than what a landowner could find on the private market. This difference in costs will be applied as in-kind matching support based on the number of projects associated with this proposal.

In total, RGS will be able to provide up to $50,000 of in-kind and cash matching funds to this partnership. Our contact person for this project is Eric Ellis, Eastern Great Lakes Regional Wildlife Biologist and Grant Writer. Phone: (231) 360-7712, erice@ruffedgrousesociety.org, P.O. Box 43, Traverse City, MI 49684.

The momentum and support for the LMFCP is high, and partners are ready to quickly put Farm Bill funding to work permanently protecting farmland and fish and wildlife habitat.

As part of the regional partnership, RGS appreciates the opportunity presented by this new Farm Bill program and I urge you to give this application every consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

John B Eichinger

John Eichinger
President and CEO
Ruffed Grouse Society

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The Watershed Center
GRAND TRAVERSE BAY

26 September 2014

Katrina Milks, Director
Office of Program Development and Evaluation
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49685

Re: Participation in the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership (LMFCP)

Dear Ms. Milks:

I am writing on behalf of The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (TWC) to express our support for the LMFCP proposal under the auspices of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the 2014 Farm Bill, as submitted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) on behalf of all participants in this collaborative endeavor. We expressly acknowledge that the LMFCP is not, and does not create, a legal partnership or discrete entity under Michigan law.

The proposed LMFCP initiative is built upon a strong history of four decades of collaboration among governmental agencies, producers, non-profit and economic development organizations, and tribal nations. We are confident that once completed, this initiative will have permanently protected thousands of acres of the most important farmland and the vital water resources necessary to sustain a robust agriculture industry.

Additionally, our region is home to world-class coldwater streams, forests, and coastal resources that underpin Michigan's $18 billion recreation and tourism industry. The activities proposed by the LMFCP participants will restore and protect these resources from historical damage and future development that threaten to fragment and degrade water quality and habitat. TWC agrees to the provisions, including targeted funding and nonfederal contribution levels, set forth in the LMFCP Proposal, provided that TWC's anticipated non-NRCS contribution is obtained.

Further, if the LMFCP proposal is successful, TWC is prepared to sign an agreement with the GTB and other project participants, the terms of which are embodied in the attached document entitled "Key Principles for Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding" (MOA/U). We understand the award document from NRCS may require additional and/or modified terms, and TWC will participate in good faith in incorporating the necessary revisions, if any.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in projects of mutual priority within the Lake Michigan Fruitbelt and its watersheds.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Crissman
Executive Director

13272 S. West Bay Shore Drive ·Traverse City, MI 49684
T 231.935.1514 · F 231.935.3829 · www.gtbay.org

Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

10/2/2014

Attachment 7 – SF-424B and AD-1049

OMB Approval No. 0348-0040

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.

10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
Dora L. Wells	Tribal Manager
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians	October 1, 2014

OMB APPROVAL NO. 0991-0002

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS (GRANTS) ALTERNATIVE I - FOR GRANTEES OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Sections 5151-5160, of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), 7 CFR Part 3017, Subpart F, Section 3017.600, Purpose. The January 31, 1989, regulations were amended and published as Part II of the MAY 25, 1990, Federal Register (pages 21681-21691). Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the grant.

(BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION, READ INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE)

Alternative I

A. The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

(a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;

(b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about --

(1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

(2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

(3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and

(4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;

(c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a):

(d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --

(1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and

(2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

(e) Notify the agency in writing, within 10 calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position, title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

(1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or

(2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

B. The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, State, zip code)

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive

Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275

Check ☐ if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians	Lake Michigan Fruitbelt Conservation Partnership
Organization Name	Award Number or Project Name
Dora Willis, Tribal Manager	
Name and Title of Authorized Representative	
Dora S. Willis	10/01/2014
Signature	Date

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this form, the grantee is providing the certification set out on pages 1 and 2.

2. The certification set out on pages 1 and 2 is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

3. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If know, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.

4. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).

5. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph three).

6. Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

   ``Controlled substance'' means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

   ``Conviction'' means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

   ``Criminal drug statute'' means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

   ``Employee'' means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) all ``direct charge'' employees; (ii) all ``indirect charge'' employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if sued to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).